

# Interior Design Subcommittee Response Template

Subcommittee: Music

Subcommittee Point of Contact: Sandy Mathiesen

Date of last subcommittee meeting: 2/26/12

1. What's on your subcommittee's "wish list?" Please briefly summarize key findings.

- Adequate committee work space.

Fold-down, built-in table

Copier, scanner, laptop for paperless music library

Storage space

- Technology support

Wireless/DSL capability to send/share music

Stress-free amplification/audio for musicians and singers

Ability to have music piped in everywhere in the church

Acoustics that allow for flexibility with music and instruments

2. What areas may need more discussion among the membership?

Whether the church should purchase a piano or organ or both for the services.

(see last page for more detailed information on options)

3. Who are the constituencies who will use this space? (inside and outside the immediate church community)

Church members and visitors attending services, meetings, lectures

Musicians practicing and performing

Guests attending community concerts/recitals

Music Committee members

4. What are the various functions of the space? Describe *how it should work* not how it should look.

- Performing space for a soloist – preferably in the front of the auditorium and visible to the audience, perhaps on a small balcony which could also accommodate smaller instruments.
- Performing space for musical instruments and musicians – space should have the flexibility of accommodating a variety of instruments (piano, organ, guitar, etc.) A similar space should be part of the Sunday School. If the Sunday School is on two levels, there may be the need for performing space on both levels.

- Acoustics that enable musicians to hear themselves clearly and to see and hear other musicians.
- Committee work space for selecting solos.
- Space for the musicians before the service – space would ideally be 2 private rooms with separate bathroom for the soloist and accompanist.
- Display space for carillon.

5. What new ideas from other churches or buildings would you like to see incorporated?

Large video screens in the auditorium which would be hidden during the services

Networking ability between the Reading Room and all areas inside the church

Maximum flexibility with acoustics and within the space to support the music

6. How will the uses of this space change? Throughout the week, throughout the year or over the long term? How will it adapt for other purposes like holding a regional summit?

The use of the space would change based on the specific musicians/instruments in use.

A flexible space with a pipe organ or piano would attract performers for recitals and concerts for the community.

## ORGAN

### Pipe organ.

Chuck Linderman looked up several examples on the web, a few listed below, that seemed to be in the church's price range. He will contact Foley-Baker, a company that installs and handles organs, as well as John Bishop from the Organ Clearing House – both dealt with the church's organ sale and were very satisfactory.

Some examples:

- 16" 8' H, 75 W, 31 D for \$22,500; 2 stops, 2 ranks/small organ
- 90", 60W, 48D for \$17,500

Plans for a pipe organ must factor in purchase price, size, costs of transportation, installation, voicing, maintenance, etc. If we are seriously considering a pipe organ, the architect has to allow space for the instrument.

The committee thinks an organ is preferable if possible.

### Electric organ

An organ with weighted action, like that of a piano, could be played like a piano. It could sound like a piano, as well as like an organ. The newer electric organs can also transpose: the organist can play the music as written, but can make the sound produced lower or higher to meet the needs of the vocalist.

An electric organ would be cheaper than a pipe organ and must be considered if the overall finances of development demand it. An electronic keyboard also provides flexibility with music in the Sunday School.

## PIANO

If a piano is considered it should probably be at least a grand piano for quality and sound, although it was felt that a piano does not produce the same quality of sound as an organ.

Accompanying the solo with a piano gives a change in texture that some soloists prefer. The piano is also less likely to drown out the soloist than an organ would.

## COMMENTS

A pipe organ, a piano, or both could serve the community by attracting performers. Third Church could sponsor, for example, a series of noon recitals. A project like this would require the time and energy of one or more members of the music committee to identify performers, schedule and publish the concerts.

Our church currently has talented musicians among its members and attendees. They could perform on other instruments: winds, strings, etcetera.

Meeting of Music Committee, church members and attendees  
Topic: Music in the new building  
Sunday, March 4, 2012

The membership and church attendees were invited by the music committee to share ideas on music in the new building. A short meeting was held after the March 4 service.

The following issues were addressed:

The consensus was that the architect should include space for a small pipe organ in his preliminary plan. At a later time, the membership will need to vote on whether to purchase a pipe organ, given the costs involved.

The group discussed the pros and cons of three types of organs: pipe, tracker, and electric. The tracker organ has pipes and takes up less space, but does not have the majestic sound offered by a pipe organ.

The group also supported having a piano in addition to an organ, for variety, flexibility, and because some solos work better with piano accompaniment. The readers' desk could be located between the two instruments.

It was felt by some that an upright piano would not fill the space acoustically as well as a grand piano would.

Local universities often sell used grand pianos at reduced prices.

There was discussion about the kind of musicians that would be needed: organists charge more but can often play both organ and piano, while pianists often cannot play the organ.

Other observations:

If platforms are used for the musicians or instruments, they should be movable, portable.

The soloist should be able to see and be close to the accompanist.

The congregation should be able to see musicians, instruments.

The organist needs to be able to hear the sound coming from the organ (unlike the situation in the old building).

The readers should be able to have eye contact with the musicians.

The group was open to the use of a variety of other instruments in the services.