

Summary of Possible Changes

St. Mark's Church Worship Space Proposed Changes

The intent of these proposed changes when completed is to: promote a more pleasant, intimate and accessible worship experience. This includes making all aspects of the worship service closer to all for better vision and hearing, to be able to worship as a closer community, and make it easier and safer to bring forward the communion elements and the offering and for everyone to receive communion.

The first group of changes planned to start as a trial for 2 months beginning in August involve setting up a baptismal area in the back of the nave (using the baptismal font, the paschal candle and a baptismal icon); moving out the two modesty screens in front of the pews in the nave; and moving the lectern down into the nave nearer the people. None of these items have a cost involved, although a baptismal icon/picture could be purchased for the baptismal area to help identify it as such and add some interest to the space.

The next set of changes (may be not permanent changes, but are not all easily replaceable either) would be implemented as part of other chancel/sanctuary area changes. These involve removing the present pulpit; making a new altar rail where the chancel rail now resides; moving the altar down into the chancel area closer to the people; setting up a small credence table for the elements near the altar; obtaining a couple of plant stands to place near the altar; and moving the organ all the way up to the front left of the worship space. There could be some small cost involved, to rebuild the altar rail, to purchase stands, and to move the organ (electrical outlet).

The final set of changes (permanent changes, if the earlier changes work well with the congregation) include removing the old altar rail; make the entire chancel/sanctuary area one level (16" above the nave) and setting up the new altar and altar

rail on top of this new single floor space; using the present altar or obtain or build a new smaller one; finalize placing the new credence table near the altar or use a shelf on the wall nearby; removing the 2 candelabrum or buying candelabrum stands to place near the altar. Also, the aumbry where the reserve blessed sacrament has been stored in the sacristy would be returned into the sanctuary where it used to be 30+ years ago. The costs here would involve the floor leveling work, and possible purchase of a new altar and candle stands.

Other Changes to Consider: the wall behind the large sanctuary cross—how to paint or otherwise do something to better highlight the cross (a wonderful piece of religious art); improving our sound system, including some portable mikes for the presider, preachers and placed on the altar; repairing the walls and ceiling and repainting the worship space; and dealing with the chairs in the sanctuary (including getting a more comfortable bishop chair).