

Holy Trinity Town Hall Meeting

Holy Trinity Parish Town Hall meetings were held on 7/23/14, 8/27/14, 9/19/14 & 9/21/14 to discuss a proposed Church Remodel. The presentation was made by Building Committee members and architect Steve Lee. Time was given for comments, questions, and concerns.

At all of the town hall meetings, attendees were asked to complete a comment sheet which solicited responses to the following statements:

- 1) I can support the proposal because:
- 2) I have reservations about the proposal because:
- 3) Other comments, suggestions, concerns:
- 4) I am willing to volunteer to help with:

Summary of attendance and comments:

Date	Attended	Provided Comments
23-Jul	60	21
27-Aug	20	9
19-Sep	39	18
21-Sep	28	18
Total	147	66

Below is a summary of the comments collected for each statement.

1) I can support the proposal because:

Favorable: 62 (95%)
 Not Favorable: 3 (5%)

General Support for the Proposal

- Yes, I can support this proposal. I like the layout plans.
- I'm convinced that much prayer & love for God has & will continue to be the foundation for its success. I am awed and very thankful for the hard work & dedication of the loyal members of your team. Thank you so much for all you have done. With God & for God where can there be doubt.
- Modernization & good!
- It's needed and it's time to update our place of worship. Let's do it!
- I like the proposal as presented tonight.
- I like a lot of what was proposed.
- Yes (9 responses)

- I know that not all will be absolutely in favor of everything but I will support this 110%. Thank you for all you have done so far and what you have planned ahead.
- I liked everything.
- You have taken into consideration every aspect and needs of the parish. Thank you.
- I like the proposal (2 responses)
- I can support renovation in the future.
- I believe in it.
- I have to commend all who have taken so much of their time to work on this all these years. I am leaning towards support.
- I have no objections to any of the proposal and look forward to the changes.
- Yes if the proposal is supported by the community and approved by the Arch Diocese.
- At my age there is nothing that I can't go along with.

Needed for the Future

- I believe this is exactly what we need for our future. The renovation is long overdue and I am excited about the prospect.
- It is time for upgrade. It is needed for the future of the parish.
- Yes, because it would be nice to have an updated church for the future.

Need for Change

- I believe the renovations are way past due.
- It is good to make the change. I support the proposal.
- It's a change that is needed.
- Fresh start.
- After all these years, the facility does need updating.
- I believe in change.
- Fresh start.
- I am interested in the improvements and new outlook of our church, the Holy trinity Parish. Like most of you, we have been members of Holy Trinity since 1977. The church will not only benefit us but more for all of our younger generation and generations to come.
- It's a good idea that our church be improved. I think it is due now for a change.
- With the old concept forever, the church needs renovation this time.
- We need upgrade and update our church.
- It is a much needed change.

- Change is needed for the community.

Attract Younger Families/More Parishioners

- We need to enhance & beautify our place of worship and need to bring younger families to our parish.
- It sounds good to me. We do need a change to encourage the younger people to come.
- We need it. I believe that we will attract more parishioners.
- We need to modernize and lighten up the church to help attract new parishioners and to make it look like a real church.
- The new church will bring more brothers and sisters to worship.
- I believe the building committee has researched the best way to accomplish. I believe the proposal will invite more people in especially the young families.
- This new building will bring in more people. Look to the future.
- Because we need to look to the needs of those who are coming after us. While I will have fond memories of this unusual design, I look forward to the change. Our current design creates difficulty for those who wish to pray in peace and quiet.
- The layout is beautiful. I believe the update is functional and necessary. I know the updated church will attract more parishioners.
- I believe in change, if it will bring people back to the church.
- The church building needs a renovation to accommodate and attract younger families and new technology.

Increased Seating Capacity

- Updating is needed and the few thing I dislike our Archdiocese dictates and are beyond our control. The Narthex and increased seating are positive things.

Need for a Beautiful Church

- It is obvious it is needed. I will willingly help in any way. The layout and beautification is apparently beautiful.
- Yes, I am tired of having my church where I worship called "Ugly".
- We agree with the remodeling that is planned. I'm positive that these changes will come out very beautiful.
- I like the proposed layout based on pleasing looks and better sight lines.

Improve Worship Experience

- The current configuration of the church is really not conducive to enhance a more spiritual worship. Also the church needs & is due for an update.
- I believe the proposal will make our church environment more conducive to a more profound worship experience.

Brighten Interior

- It is time! To make our church not a dark hall, looking at the side of people's head, etc. Give greater glory to God.
- Makes use of the current footprint and makes the building actually look like a church rather than dark and dreary building that we currently have.
- Change will provide more effective use of space. Updating the entrance and layout will invite more people to HT. Lighter wood and skylights will help to overcome the dark tunnel feeling of our present building.
- I believe the sanctuary is in great need of a remodel to fit the needs of the parish today. After attending the first parish meeting I was impressed with the architect, Steve Lee and his work at the numerous parishes throughout the Northwest. Loved the incorporation of natural light.

Raise Money First

- Yes, but take our time & raise the money first.

Improved Main Entrance

- Main entrance upgrade, better flow, working within main structure.
- Main entrance, improved interior & Main Crucifix Yea!!!

Do not support Proposal

- NO
- NO WAY!
- No. Is the process too far gone already to have a democratic vote? I feel it makes no difference how we feel, it's going to go through whether we like it or not.
- No, because there is only an additional 50 person seating; why make a major change for such a small improvement; this is a huge expenditure.
- No, because it doesn't seem to be needed at the present time when the increase will be little in numbers per cost.

2) I have reservations about the proposal because:

No reservations expressed: 34

Some reservations expressed: 33

There were two principle concerns most often voiced and written.

1. Blessed Sacrament Chapel
2. Expense and support of community

Too much Cost

- The cost and debt the parish may be saddled with and only a small portion of the parishioner will be committed to the cause.
- Funding.
- Ability to raise funds timely to start remodeling.
- I like the new Altar arrangement very much but the rest is way too much cost for what we gain. Just change the Altar. Sound proofing the wall is a good idea. I dislike the sloping roof structure in the front of the church. Why not just leave the Altar where it is, money is the big problem.
- I fear the money will be difficult to raise.
- How will it be paid for?
- I am concerned about the cost of the project and how our parish will be able to cover the financial aspects, particularly when it seems we have difficulties with reaching our parish goal for the Annual Catholic appeal, meanwhile covering weekly offering budgets.
- Concerned about the cost per family as it seems that many households give little to no money. Parish may consist of 1400 families but seems only a fraction contribute.
- I just fear that the community might not be able to afford the cost of the proposed plan.
- Too grandiose and expensive. I don't see much enthusiasm by parishioners I'm acquainted with. Could it be that the low turnout for the 1st two meetings is evidence of this?
- I think that our church is great the way it is. It could be lightened up as is. I see the expense hard to accept. We could use our finances to help a poor sister parish either in the US or overseas. I see great devotion in the most humble of churches. Obviously not dependent on the architecture.
- Expense.
- Not much change for a lot of money.

Location of Blessed Sacrament

- I have concerns about the location of the Blessed Sacrament.
- I feel the placement of the Tabernacle should be on the Altar at the focus and center of the church.
- We don't want the Blessed Mother and Blessed Sacrament out of the main body of the church. Perhaps the side so we are facing Christ at all times.
- The Tabernacle should be in a very prominent location and allow for prayer.
- I do have concern with being told that Christ is in the corner. Why is Mary chapel next to the storage unit?
- I understand the Canonical law the GIRM, and the like, but what about the desires of the community that worship here.
- I am not in favor of moving the Tabernacle.
- Blessed Sacrament chapel is new concept. Suggest photos of various chapels so parishioners can see what we are talking about.
- The main objections I've been hearing is the small number of seats near the Blessed Sacrament chapel. If additional seating can be made possible, I think that will satisfy people.
- My only concern as I stated before at both meetings is the separation of the Eucharist from the main body of the church. If as you have stated, the Eucharist chapel will flow into the church, without being walled off, so that from the church at any position you can see the Tabernacle, then my concerns will be answered.
- Blessed Sacrament area sitting would be backwards.
- The Tabernacle will not be in the center of the Altar.
- The music storage room should not be larger than the space for the Tabernacle/Blessed Sacrament. The tabernacle should not be relegated to the corner. Really dislike the façade concept. Looks dated and like an animal face.

No or Few Reservations

- None at this time.
- No reservations
- Very little.
- I have no reservations. (5 responses)

180 Degree Rotation of Altar

- The altar should stay where it is. Most of the other major updates (i.e. solar light, separating social hall, etc.) could still be incorporated at a much lower cost & less disruption to the community during constructions. Only major thing I see that would be left out is the front entrance – no big deal as far as I'm concerned.

Also, I hope the present backdrop to Altar would be kept. We don't need it. I don't want it as proposed.

- Moving or turning the Altar completely from present area is hard for me to get my head around.

Choir Area

- Choir area.
- Too much space is being set aside for choir on special days when attendances of congregation attending Mass will also be high.

Wood Wall behind Altar

- We have no reservation about the proposal except the wood framework wall behind the Altar. Based on my thoughts regarding the wooden framework behind the Altar, I am just worried if this will be reconstructed or abolished.

Maintain Current Features / Stained Glass

- I would support the remodel if some of the current features are maintained. I would like to see the stained glass windows incorporated in windows around the upper parts of the walls – like the windows on the west side. Maybe mix clear and stained glass so we achieve our objective of lightening the environment.

Lack of Parishioner Support

- Parishioner support.

Consider New Church

- Considering growth and population increase north of Bremerton, is the right decision to renovate or consolidate with Star of the Sea and consider a new church in Silverdale area. Are we being too self-centered for the greater good?

Windows

- With the money that was spent putting in our windows on the west side of the church, why replace them? Could colored glass be incorporated into them (stained glass)?

3) Other comments, suggestions, concerns:

Cost Concerns

- Funds are tight for many.
- What is the hurry? What about saving money?
- Money will be tight, this is not Seattle.

Altar

- Existing Altar – notice the step down must be wider.
- The existing Altar and sanctuary take up a lot of space; will the new location be the same size?
- I like the Altar arrangement.
- Also the Altar may be moved to east a little to make room for one or two rows of pews. Then at a later time we expand toward the road, we have a cross shape.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

- We already have a reserved chapel where there can be a private place for adorations to the Lord.
- If the Diocese states this is to be the way, I will follow and support.
- I think the chapel area could be a little bigger. Please give us a Tabernacle that looks beautiful, not like a dark bread box and a large Crucifix (as many have mentioned). Thank you for your consideration of these issues. I must say I feel greatly eased by attending this 2nd meeting as misconceptions and clarification of issues have been achieved.
- Tabernacle if possible is in the main Altar but if there needs to be a private chapel fine.
- [I understand the changes for the] area for the Blessed Sacrament.

Mary Statue

- Please give us an image of the Blessed Mother in any format in the main part of the church so that she is not out of site in her chapel only.

Sacristy

- Where will the Eucharistic ministers perform cleanup after Mass?

Pews and Seating Options

- Please really consider having curved pews, to that all may face the Altar.

- Based on drawing in June 14th hand out being reduced to 2/3 scale and 18" of pew space (I would prefer 22") a row by row total of seating of permanent seats is 585. What is the actual lineal footage of existing layout versus proposed layout?
- Seating proposal is an improvement.
- Concerned about adequate spacing of curved pews. I have been in another church with curved pews that were hard to get into.
- I like the arrangement of the pews to allow better line of sight.
- I can't visualize our current pews being recycled because the plan calls for curved pews. Also, I have seen curved pews in other churches that are too close and very uncomfortable and also limit easy access unless they can be spaced sufficiently far apart.
- Consideration should be given to add a balcony on the inside facing the Altar for additional seating options.

Bathrooms / Drinking Fountain

- Gathering area in front needs bathrooms. Gathering area needs source of water/small kitchen if you are going to be serving coffee/snacks sometimes.
- It would be nice to have restrooms near entrance as well as drinking water.
- Why move the bathroom to the other side of the main entrance. This creates added expense with plumbing requirements.

Lighting and Decor

- Lighting, sound & color of rug (not red).
- Lighten the dark woodwork to make the interior lighter and more modern.
- Suggest the glass not be so dark to allow more light inside.
- Should have functional skylights. I would like to see more windows to lighten up the church. I would like to see more stained glass windows if possible.
- See what is important to the people (blocks of wood at the Altar etc.) and see if it can be used in the new building.
- I understand the idea of need for updating and lightening up the surroundings.

Sunlight

- The glare caused by sunshine coming in from the overhead windows.
- Install remote controls shades on west windows. The majority of seats will face west into afternoon sun. (Saturday 5:00 pm Mass).

Access

- 1 pair of doors leading in by baptismal fount seems too narrow. Social hall seems hard to get to. Single door on one side only? Very isolated and long distance to walk for handicap people from south end of church. But love the concept and scope of the project.
- While I love the one main east entrance, it seems like 1 set of double doors from the narthex to the sanctuary is too small for 682 people all arriving about the same time. Same thing with only one set of double doors into the social hall, too limited.

Like Baptismal Pool

- It is a nice idea for the Baptismal area for all to be able to see.
- The Baptismal fount is good.

Cry Room Concept

- Can there be an area for families with children that can be sound proofed?
- I adore children; however, many parents in our parish do not help to keep their children respectful of their surroundings. It is often most distracting. Our present environment is not conducive to great acoustics. A designated "Crying Room" as is found in many churches would be most beneficial.

Sound System Improvements

- It would be helpful if we could hear the people speaking. We need a better sound system.

Social Hall / Faith Formation Wing

- Remodel of religious wing and social hall is much less priority than the church. Cut those remodels completely before reducing remodel of the church if the estimated come in too high.
- I think classes should be a separate building to keep children safer. Then adults can use the other buildings at the same time.

Nursery

- I would like to see a nursery.

More Storage

- I would like to see an area for the ushers to stow emergency kits, stretchers, wheelchairs and clean up gear.

Sidewalks

- Will we have to install sidewalks on Pine Rd. like city/count wanted us to do when the rectory was remodeled?
- Start with the sidewalk out front then depending on amount saved, readdress a totally new church. A side walk is a friendly way to be part of the neighborhood.

Need More Parking

- Need for future expansion of parking.

Number of Masses

- One or two Masses would bring us all closer as a parish. It would also be better for our priest.

New Priest

- The plan maybe great, but not the #1 priority with many parishioners. The timing is hard to sell when facing getting a new priest.

Parishioner Behavior

- Once new church is finished, new expectations for appropriate behavior in church (e.g. genuflecting, bowing etc) start now!
- I am not a cradle catholic. It was interesting to listen to ladies about churches they had once worshipped in.

Support for youth

- The parish is aging and the youth do not seem to support the plan because their needs are not being addressed now. They don't see themselves here in the future without staffing and program changes. The building is not what brought us here. A new one without the other improvements will not keep us here.

Drawing Improvements

- Suggest adding visual scale to the sketch for better visualization so when drawing is printed at reduced size the true dimensions can still be determined.

Hard to Understand Proposal

- I understand you have rules but maybe a little more visual demonstrations of the changes. 4 pictures do not show all of the types of changes.

Like the Plan

- Let's do this.
- The basic idea is sound. The interior décor can help a lot when we reach that stage.
- The plans and goals look wonderful for a new church.

Thank Building Committee

- Thanks for the great effort and commitment to this point in time.
- Thank you building committee for all your hard work.
- Many thanks to the building committee and the diligent and hard work everyone has put into getting the parish to this point.
- Thank you all for your hard work and expertise.
- Thank you so much for your great work.
- To the building committee – Thank you for all the work you have been doing! God bless you all!!
- Thank you for hearing my concerns. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Trust Building Committee

- I trust the building committee decisions and I am not sure I have enough knowledge to yet understand what concerns I might have.
- Make it good.

4) I am willing to volunteer to help with:

Fund Raising

- Fund raise;
- Fund raising projects.
- Fund raising and where I can be of help.
- Capital campaign.

Not Fund Raising

- Anything but fund raising.
- Anything but calling people. I will do all I can to help.

Decorating

- Painting & decorating ideas.
- Art, and not sure what else.

Prayers

- Prayers, I think at 93 I'm past help.

Food and Cleanup

- Cleanup and food serving if there is a need.

Other

- I will be willing to volunteer for something.
- I am will when I am certain I know which direction this project is going and once the finances have been secured.
- Any area that I am capable of doing.
- What are the options? What are the needs?
- Where ever my time and talent is needed.
- Anything I can fit into my schedule.
- If this idea works, I will be there as always.
- Will help where needed.
- Whatever I am able to contribute my time and effort.
- Free labor.