

The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection is nearing completion of a new sanctuary at the church's Leawood location (13720 Roe Ave.) The building is expected to officially open for worship in April 2017. The following information is provided as background.

Media representatives who are interested tours or interviews should contact:

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PROJECT SCOPE AND BACKGROUND

Resurrection's current sanctuary was designed in 2002 to be a temporary worship space that would become fellowship space. At that time, we began developing a master plan that would include a permanent sanctuary on the church's 76-acre campus in Leawood. In 2012, following

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an 18-month feasibility study, our membership elected a Building Committee and hired architects to guide the design process which included building a permanent sanctuary and remodeling the existing space for fellowship and classrooms. A capital campaign was conducted in 2014 and we broke ground in February 2015.

The driving reason for a permanent sanctuary is the role it will play in helping fulfill our mission and vision as a church. We believe buildings are tools for ministry, and this project will help us have right tools for reaching future generations and continuing to fulfill the church's vision.

- **A sanctuary with more intimate and sacred worship space** –Our current sanctuary was designed to become a fellowship hall, and to serve only as a temporary worship space. In the new sanctuary, the architecture and art will create a sacred space, drawing people to God. At the same time seats will be in smaller sections and a wraparound balcony, bringing people closer and creating a sense of community.
- **Worship services and classrooms for children and adults under one roof** – Adults will be able to worship and attend classes in the same building. Parents will be able to drop their children off in KiDS COR and worship or attend a week night class in the same building.
- **Fellowship space, a common gathering area and kitchen facilities to build community** – We will be able to expand current ministries and offer fellowship meals, conferences and programs throughout the week.
- **Expanded missions and ministries beyond our walls** –By removing barriers and creating the right spaces for the future, Resurrection will continue to be a vital, growing congregation. This means that over the next 50 years we will give \$1.2 billion to missions and ministries beyond our walls, ten times what we spend on the building. Over the next 100 years that number rises to \$5.6 billion.

Resurrection members have contributed millions of dollars and tens of thousands of hours to serving locally and globally. This would not have been possible without a commitment to constructing spaces that draw and engage people in worship.

SANCTUARY DESIGN

The 3,500 seat sanctuary is designed to be a sacred space that tells the story of our faith through architecture and art. Every element was thoughtfully designed with theological significance. The tall ceilings inspire the majesty of God, but at the same time the seating is more intimate, creating a sense of community. The majority of seats will be less than 100 feet from the chancel and the maximum number of seats in a section will be 117.

Our hope and prayer is that thousands of people will worship in this sanctuary and experience the love of Jesus Christ over the next hundred years, and they in turn will continue to share that love, transforming our community and world.

BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

The simple limestone base of the new sanctuary, thirty-five feet high, is constructed of local limestone. Seven stainless steel panels rise above the limestone base and represent each day of creation, the wholeness of life, and the seven days of Holy Week. The eighth panel is The Resurrection Window, telling the story of Easter. It features a 3,400 square foot stained glass installation that contains three scenes – each set in a garden and telling an overarching scriptural narrative of creation, redemption and hope. When complete, this will be one of the largest and most meaningful and noteworthy stained glass installations in the Midwest.

Construction is on schedule and we plan to move in to the new space before Easter of 2017. The remodeling of the current sanctuary will begin immediately after we move in.

PROJECT BASICS

Lead Architectural Firm: Hammel, Green and Abrahamson (HGA)

Local Architectural Firm: Gould Evans

Construction Manager: McCown Gordon Construction

Financing Through: Commerce Bank, along with Intrust Bank and Bank of Blue Valley

Sanctuary Seats: 3500

Square Footage:

26,501 Narthex, children's entrance

28,146 Sanctuary main level

12,120 Sanctuary balcony level

16,855 Sanctuary back of house

2,591 Parlor and kitchenette

8,683 Office suite in lower level

9,578 Missions engagement space

40,486 Other, e.g., restrooms, mechanical, circulation

144,960 Total Area

PROJECT COSTS AND FUNDING

The cost of the Sanctuary, mission space, Narthex and parking lots now under construction will be \$81.3 million. The three-year capital campaign commitment to the project included an allocation of \$11.7 million for renovations to the existing Sanctuary building into a fellowship hall/worship space, classrooms, kitchen, "Commons" with bookstore and café, and Matthew's Ministry space.

Funding for the project to build a new sanctuary and renovate the current worship space comes from the sacrificial gifts of our congregation. These are gifts above and beyond what they regularly give to mission and ministry. The congregation has fulfilled three-year commitments totally \$60 million to fund the project, with the remainder financed through local banks. An additional capital campaign in 2017 will pay down the debt and allow the church to complete the renovation of existing spaces.

The scale of the church does cause the sanctuary to be a large and costly construction endeavor, but in proportion to the size of our congregation, the cost of this project is smaller than many churches and public buildings in our community. Every element of the new sanctuary has been carefully designed, not to be ostentatious, but to help all who enter connect with God and with one another.