

SANCTUARY REDESIGN UPDATE



Q: I don't like the seating arrangement shown in the preliminary sketches. Can it be changed?

Q: How have we accommodated physical accessibility to the ark and reader's table?

Q: Why are the windows different on the sides of the sanctuary?

You've got questions, and the Sanctuary Redesign Committee has answers.

At a congregational Zoom meeting on April 19, the committee presented sketches of the preliminary conceptual design for the BEKI sanctuary. They explained which parts of the sketches are central to the proposed design (new windows, wall coverings, placement of ark and ramps, movable seating) and which are just placeholders (furniture, seating layout, ornamentation). Our architect, Michael Goldblum of Building Studio Architects, spoke about his goals and the constraints that face this redesign project.

And they answered questions — those above and many others, which BEKI members submitted in advance and at the congregational meeting.

A [compilation of those questions and answers](#) is available on the [Sanctuary Redesign section](#) of the BEKI website. We hope it will be helpful, especially to those who couldn't attend the meeting.

The conceptual design sketches are on display at BEKI and [on the website](#) (password required). Answers to other

frequently asked questions ([FAQs](#)) about the redesign project are also available on the website.

The Sanctuary Redesign Committee is grateful to everyone who sent questions, comments, and suggestions, and to all those who attended the congregational meeting.

Overall, community reaction to the proposed design was very positive. Like the committee, many BEKI members are excited about how the conceptual design meets the project's overarching goals for our sanctuary: warmth, inclusiveness, spiritual intimacy, and true egalitarianism.

Specific priorities for the redesign — as reflected in a congregational survey — include accessibility, more natural light, a different seating arrangement, better acoustics, improved climate control and air quality, and an environment conducive to BEKI's style of participatory, member-led communal prayer.

Upcoming steps include:

- A new lighting design for the sanctuary ceiling
- Engineering work for the sanctuary HVAC upgrade
- A plan for designing the sanctuary's decorative elements
- A schematic design, which will allow us to solicit cost estimates from construction firms

• Continued research into furniture options, especially chairs

As always, the Sanctuary Redesign Committee welcomes your feedback: sanctuaryredesign@beki.org.