

Sanctuary Redesign: Questions and Answers

From: Peggy Hackett (office@beki.org)

To: bekinews@beki.org

Date: Monday, May 9, 2022 at 04:49 PM EDT

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 ... 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. We 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 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 we 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 now 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 in the BEKI lobby 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 us 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 proposed conceptual design meets the redesign project's overarching goals: 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, we welcome your feedback: sanctuaryredesign@beki.org.

Carole Bass, co-chair

John Weiser, co-chair

Eric Dunsker, House Committee chair and board liaison

Lynn Brotman

Howard Gralla

Marga Hirsch

Rick Saltz

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "BEKI News" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to bekinews+unsubscribe@beki.org.

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "BEKI Info" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to

bekiinfo+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/bekiinfo/CAJptdahcKmbymUZ_3vYhkYO-FCN2C4DGoqDmXfQqjO_7nFKaw%40mail.gmail.com.