

Harvest Renovation Project: An Overview

Harvest is a diverse community of faith; a place for families; a place for people of all ages. A call from God to the church is to pass the faith, to partner with parents and grandparents as we together raise up the next generation of faith-filled adults who love God, love others, and make a difference for good in the world. We are called by God to go out of our way to welcome and invite all people into a life of following Jesus, a life filled with hope. Harvest was awarded a \$500,000 grant to transform some of the spaces on our campus in order to continue to fuel our vision of welcome, grow, and serve.

We are excited to share with you the first round of conceptual drawings for the space. Know that these renderings are conceptual: exact flooring, paint colors, furniture has not yet been chosen. You will notice that the space has been redesigned to fulfill some specific purposes:

...to encourage conversation and the building of relationships, to include places where people can gather information for deeper engagement, and to symbolize the values and beliefs of our church

In the lobby space you see two new hubs created for people to gather information about the church and ways in which they can connect – to a group, or a class, or a way to serve in the community. These hubs are designed to have friendly hosts who see it as their mission to help people connect to our church.

The overall concept of the design is to bring the outside indoors. You will notice the wood accents echo the wood on the outside of our building and the refaced columns echo the stone. Wood pergolas warm the space. The large wall in the lobby will be used for future artwork that reflects God's next big vision for Harvest. You will notice that the name tag boxes have been removed. We will have a new mobile storage system for name tags. Also, a beautiful wood cross has been created for the wall that currently holds the water feature. The water feature has been difficult to maintain and there is water damage to the wall – so the wall will be fixed in this process.

Our redesigned lobby leads to a new hospitality area to be used all week long as people come and go from our campus, providing a comfortable place, wifi, and coffee to do work or to meet for conversation. This space will also be used by the Harvest Youth Group and for special events, receptions, and meetings, just as the space has been frequently been used in the past.

The west wing will continue to be used by persons of all ages during the week. The classroom space will be used as it is now with one exception. Our adult Sunday School will move to the East Wing, adjacent to the worship center. Classrooms will be more easily accessible and a shorter walk.

Moving down the hallway to the west wing, our dream is to provide safe, fun, and meaningful programming on Sunday mornings for hundreds of children, infants – 5th grade. We can visualize these children having fun and learning about Jesus and his love for them. The space is designed to be a place that kids want to come to and once they get here, to church, they don't want to leave.

You will notice that the “bringing of the outside indoors” concept really comes to life in the west wing. The downstairs concept is a town center and a park that sits on a lake, it features a play area for preschool aged children and a huge twisty slide for our elementary friends. In addition to Sunday mornings, we envision this space being used by the families who attend our school – currently they like to gather together after school to talk while their children play. The children currently play outdoors; but this space gives them a safe, indoor place to play and allows parents to form friendships with one another. Our dream is that the downstairs of the west wing, during the week, becomes a place where our community is welcome to gather.

On Sunday mornings, preschool aged children will fill the rooms and use the common area for their large group worship. During the week, most of these spaces can all be used as meeting spaces for adults and youth.

On Sunday mornings, the second floor, becomes a treehouse, the ultimate hangout for elementary aged children. The second floor is a hallway ready for adventure, inviting kids to stay, play, make friends, and learn just how much God loves them.

The large room on the second floor will serve, on Sunday mornings, as the large group space for children to laugh and learn about God, and our goal is to provide a Vacation Bible School quality experience each and every Sunday.

Anyone who comes to our campus will know that we are a church who welcomes all persons, from infants to adults. All are welcome in God's family.

We move now to the East Wing of our campus. The east wing will house our entire preschool, Sprouts Child Development Center. Sprouts will gain a new, accessible, and professional office space as well as beautiful and age appropriate art treatments to the columns and the walls. Our school continues to grow both in size and quality. Most exciting for us is that in this beautiful newly designed space, Sprouts will now be able to care for 160 students (up from 120 two years ago). To give you a frame of reference, we welcomed 200 children to our campus for Vacation Bible School. Sprouts will welcome 160 children every week of the school year.

Concluding words:

The hearts of the pastors, leadership, and staff beat a bit faster each time that we see these designs because we can envision people using the space and the life change that God will work. The Harvest leadership and staff have been significant conversation partners and feedback loops, and the teams who have brought the project this far are eager to bring this project to completion. It is our hope that you will be interested in and excited about the project. Maybe

you'll even respond in the same way as some of our adults who are kids at heart by very seriously asking: "Can I test out the slide?" The answer: Yes, of course you can test out the slide.

As we have information on timeline and other updates, we will pass those along through our weekly email newsletter and social media. You can also find information on our website: welcometoharvest.org/plans

The bottom line of this project is that it will fuel mission; the mission of communicating to people: "You are loved deeply and profoundly by God and you are capable of loving." That kind of a mission changes lives, homes, and the community around us. That kind of a mission leaves the world better than we found it.