



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FEASIBILITY STUDY CASE STATEMENT

2025

Seeing with our hearts

God sees things differently. When Samuel is sent to anoint a king for the people, God tells him, “The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look upon the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.”

—1 SAMUEL 16:7B

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Worship is at the heart of our community here at St. Mark's. A spirit of openness and a sense of deep belonging permeate our experience with each other in this place week after week, drawing us back time and again to encounter God's presence and be transformed to live as God's people. People of the heart.

We want everyone to be able to share in this experience: to feel seen and heard and loved by God from the moment they approach our building and throughout their time here. From the stirring inspiration of our music to the flow of liturgy, the movement of the message, and the gift of the sacraments, our whole selves are engaged in returning praise to God. We want to remove any barriers that may limit full participation by all those God is calling to be a part of St. Mark's today and in the future.

Unfortunately, our physical spaces as they're configured today don't fully reflect our dedication to relationship and belonging. As is true for many churches, our building limits our ability to extend the widest possible welcome. **As in the rest of life, we work around the barriers that confront us, and find our way through the complications as best we can, unless or until we can't. Or until we see things differently and decide to do something about it.**

PROJECTS

At this moment in our life together, St. Mark's is pausing to look with our hearts at the space we inhabit—to see as best we can as God sees. To see things differently. Asking ourselves, with the gospel as our guide: Who are we leaving out? Whose experience are we inadvertently diminishing and by so doing diminishing everyone's experience? How are our attachments to tradition or familiarity impeding the fullness of God's power from working among us? What do we have the ability to reimagine that will truly widen the welcome and offer true relationality for all?

Centering on worship, welcome and belonging, the projects we're considering in this study seek to open wide the paths that lead to God's presence, looking beyond what we as mortals see, to see as God does, with the heart.

Then, as God's people responded to God's call in the wilderness to build a tabernacle of great beauty and flexibility, and to ensure an approach to worship that is always able to move toward where God is leading, we will look within our hearts and give.

Take from among you an offering to the LORD; let whoever is of a generous heart bring the LORD's offering. —EXODUS 35:5



Project 1: WORSHIP

Everything we do to live out our faith in the world flows from our time in worship together. Surrounded by light, lifted by music, comforted and challenged by God's word, supported by the rhythms of liturgy, the time we spend in worship engages our whole selves. Enhancing the ways in which our worship space opens our pathways to experience God's presence more fully, the improvements included in this project have the potential to create a profound impact at the heart of our life together.

MUSIC

Music transports and connects us in a singularly powerful way. Resonating, quite literally, within us; its vibrations running through and around us, music moves us together into God's presence. Beyond enhancing the music we'll hear and sing each Sunday, replacing our organ has opened up the opportunity to improve many aspects of our worship experience. A new sense of openness and engagement will welcome all who enter for worship from the first step over the threshold.

- Installation of new Létourneau pipe organ*
- Remove choir loft
- Music platform/risers for organ and choir
- New flooring and wall treatment
- Acoustic improvements
- New audio/visual system

*While the organ is fully paid for, we now need to raise funds to reassemble and install it in its new home.

MOVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Greater freedom of movement, more gracious and flexible seating, renewed flooring and furnishings, all come together to allow bodies and spirits to feel unencumbered to approach God in worship and sacrament.

- Moveable nave seating
- Replace existing nave flooring
- New liturgical furnishings (altar, ambo, tabernacle)
- Create accessible ramp path from nave to chancel
- Refresh/resurface north wall and wall behind chancel

LIGHTING

Both for improved visibility and to enhance the natural beauty and creative artistry that fill our worship space, this project will include lighting designed specifically to allow the full flexibility of the redesigned space to shine through.

- Provide new lighting in nave and chancel
- Replace lighting throughout worship
- Spot lighting



As we replace our failing Reuter organ and welcome our beautiful new organ, we open up new possibilities for the whole experience of worship.

Removing the choir loft to accommodate the organ will bring a light and airy sense of welcome from the moment we enter the space.

Greater accessibility and freedom to move through the space will enhance the worship experience for all.



Project 2: CHANCEL AND THE CHAPEL

More than a reflection of our belief that all are welcome to experience the fullness of God's presence, providing complete accessibility to the chancel and chapel is a transformative expression of living into that commitment. What more powerful parallel to the incarnation—Christ coming into the world to move among us—than ensuring that the most sacred aspects of worship are available to all without impediment.

- Create single level flooring throughout
- Remove grating at chancel
- Remove curtains at chancel and resurface east wall
- Remove grill work between chancel and the chapel
- Remove metal grating at columbarium



Project 3: ADA COMPLIANT RESTROOM

Providing an accessible, family-friendly restroom close to our worship space means that everyone can feel comfortable joining in-person worship without distraction or concern.

- Remove kitchenette in library
- Provide single-use ADA compliant restroom

Project 4: KITCHEN REFRESH

While worship feeds our souls, the meals that we share with one another and our neighbors are important to our life together as well, feeding bodies and lifting spirits in community. Improving our ability to safely and efficiently prepare, serve, and clean up after meals is another way to extend our welcome and deepen our relationships.

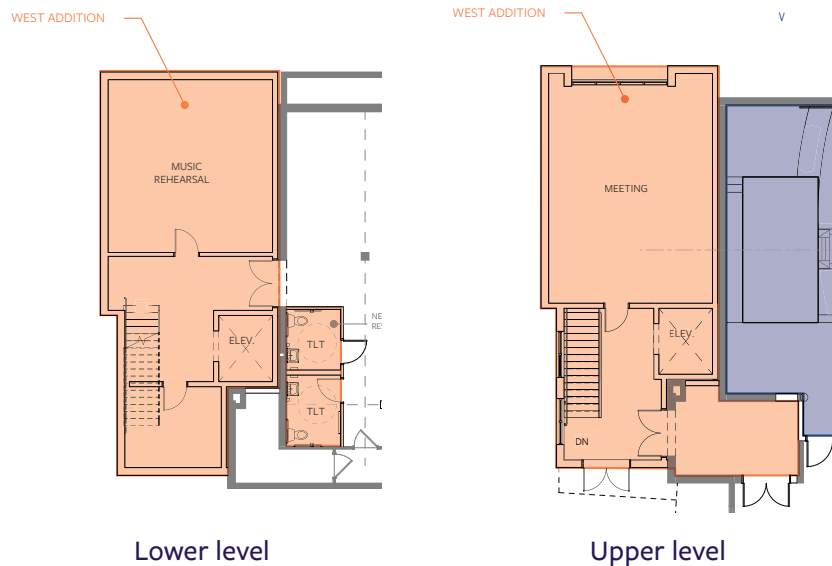
- Update for code compliance
- New commercial grade appliances and cabinetry
- Update lighting and finishes



Project 5: WEST ADDITION

Adding a two-story space to the west end of the existing building with a full-service elevator would open new vistas of opportunity for life to flow throughout both floors, instantly doubling our capacity to use our full space with ease and providing much-needed meeting, gathering, choir rehearsal, and multi-use spaces to accommodate current needs and new possibilities.

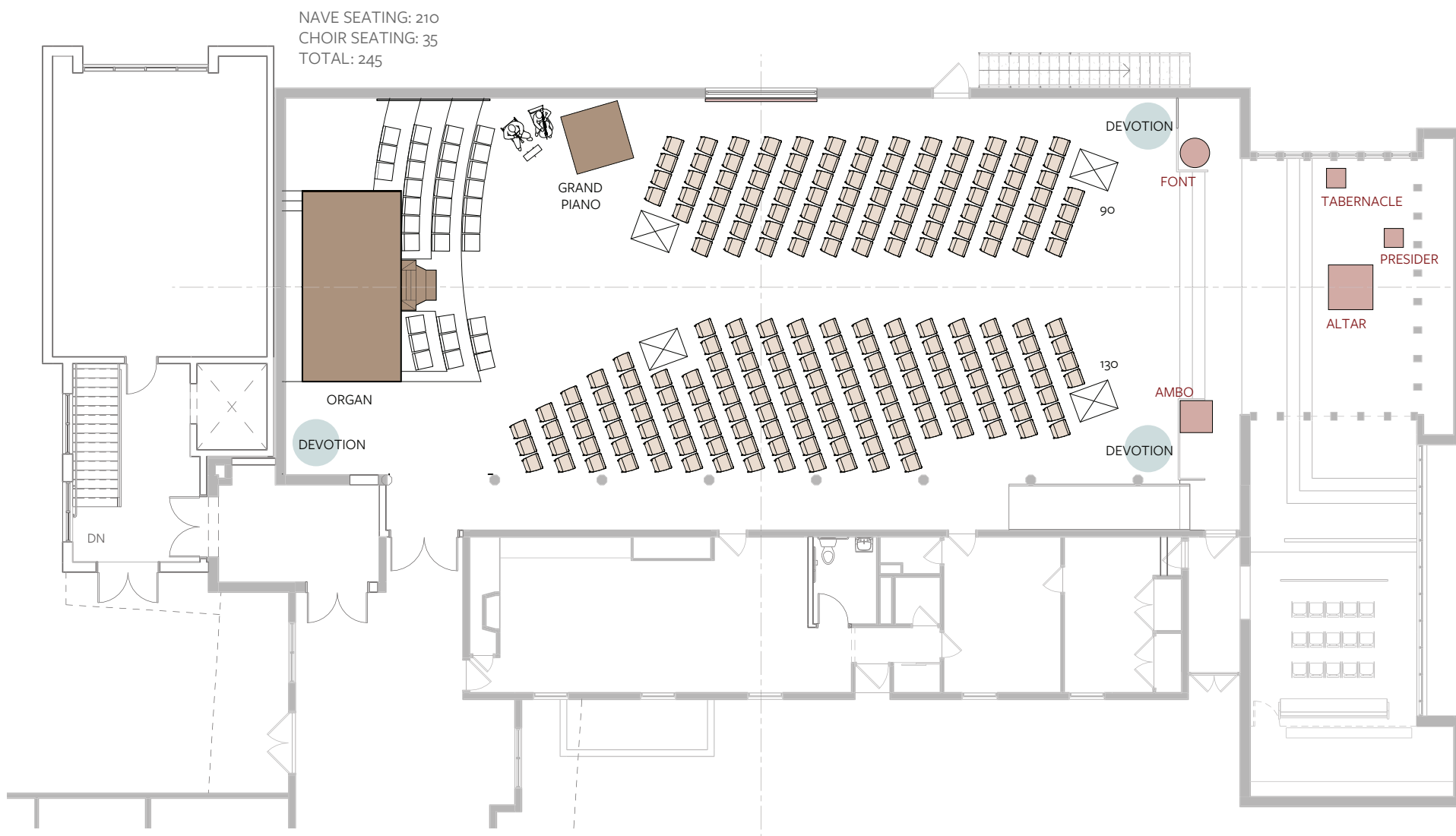
- Two-level addition at roughly 2,200 square feet at each level
- Creation of meeting room on upper level
- Elevator
- Stair between levels
- ADA accessibility to entire undercroft
- Meeting/choir room on lower level
- ADA single use restrooms (where existing basement restrooms are located)



FLOOR PLANS

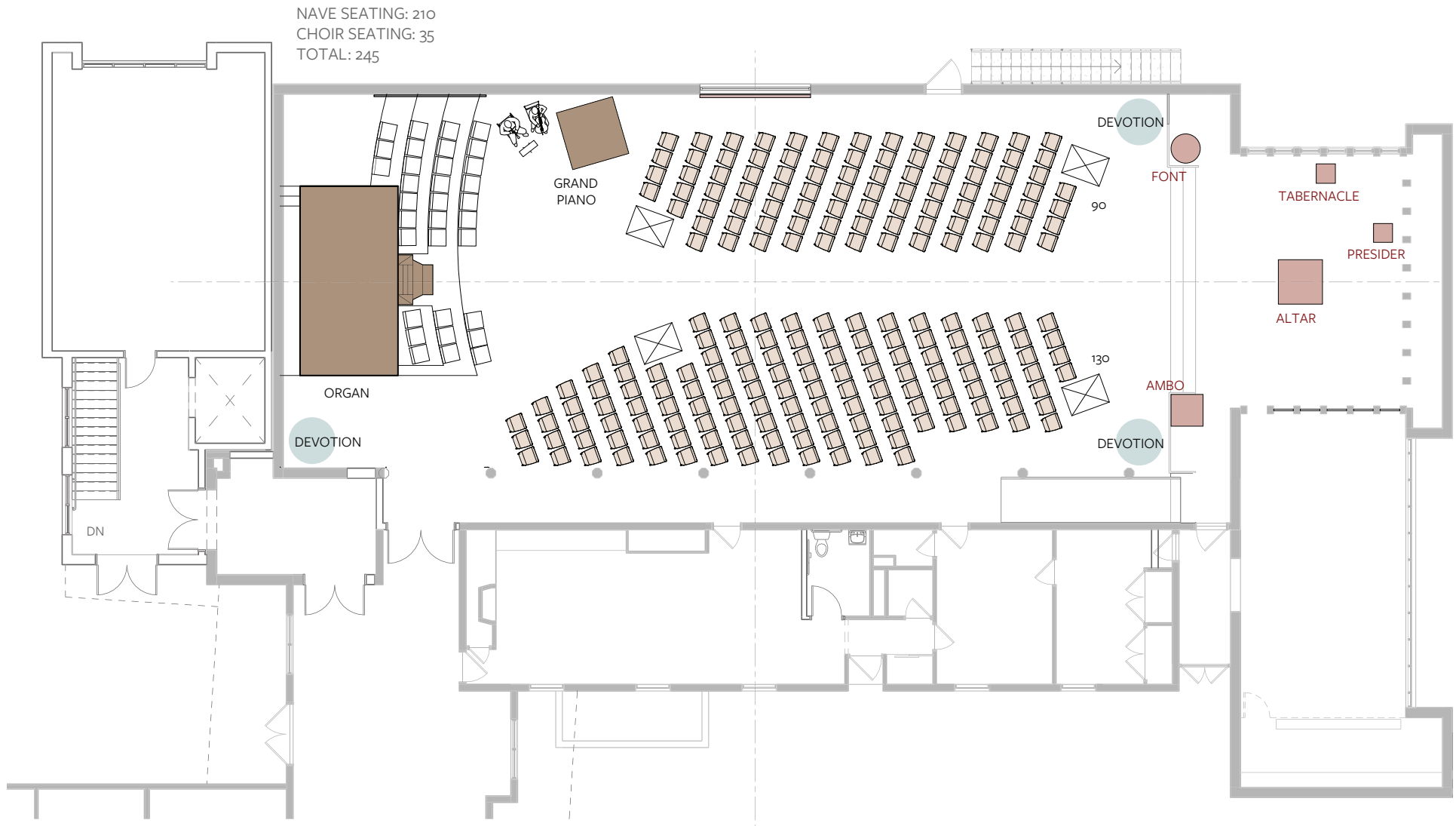
WORSHIP SEATING— EXISTING CHANCEL AND CHAPEL

Our redesigned worship space will preserve the beauty of our liturgy with greater ease of movement and flexibility to explore creative alternatives and respond to changing needs.



WORSHIP SEATING— NEW CHANCEL AND CHAPEL

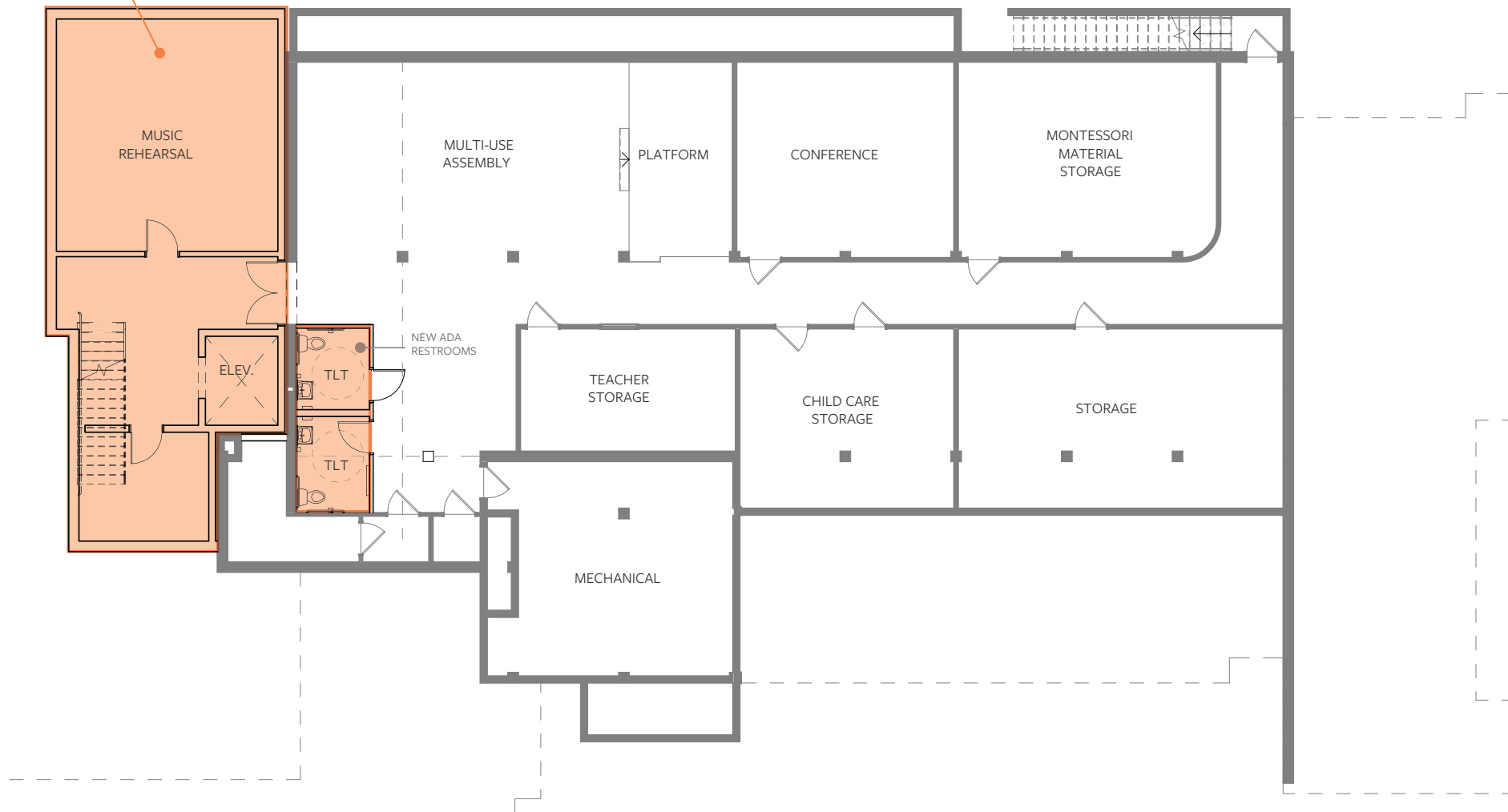
For complete accessibility of all aspects of worship, this configuration of the chancel and chapel removes any and all barriers to movement throughout the space by creating a single level throughout the chancel and eliminating the curtain and gates currently in place.



WEST ADDITION— LOWER LEVEL

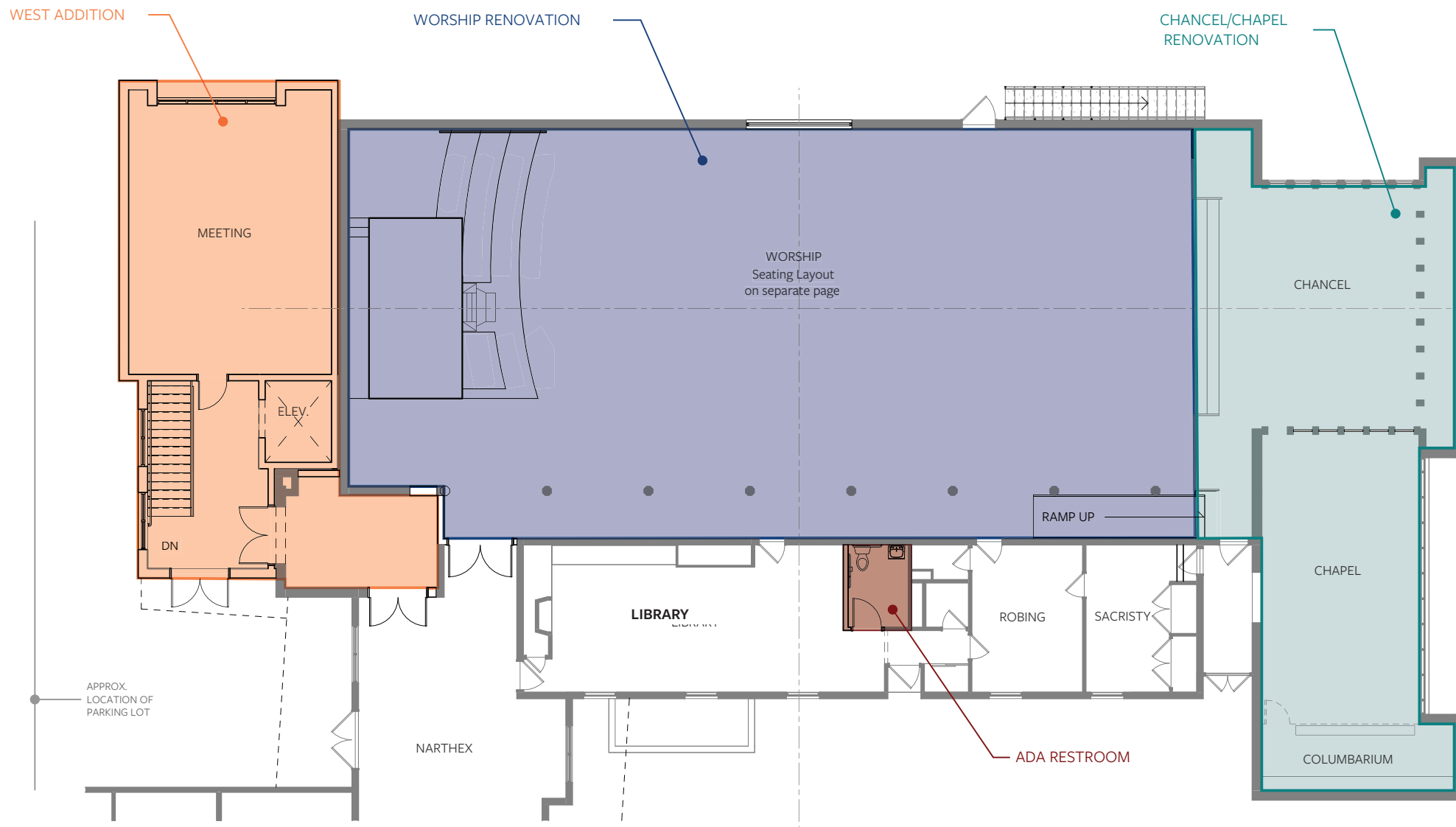
The undercroft below the nave is a largely untapped potential resource for gathering, programming, and service. Because there is limited access to the 2,200 square feet on the lower level, it's mainly used for storage. These renovations would make the space fully accessible throughout the addition and existing lower level.

WEST ADDITION



WORSHIP SPACE— MAIN LEVEL, INCLUDING WEST ADDITION

Taken together, the reconfiguration of our main worship space, addition of an ADA restroom, renovation of the chancel and chapel, addition of a west wing providing elevator access to the undercroft, and kitchen upgrade would bring transformative possibilities to every aspect of our life together.



WAYS TO GIVE

If St. Mark’s Episcopal Church begins a capital campaign, there are many ways for individuals to fulfill pledges over a four year period, including:

- Cash gifts
- Credit card payments
- Stock transfers
- Planned giving

For a proposed campaign to be successful, gifts of all sizes are important and necessary.



BUDGET

Project 1:	
Worship: Music, Movement and Participation, Lighting:	\$2,300,000
Project 2:	
Chancel and the Chapel:	\$350,000
Project 3:	
ADA Compliant Restroom:	\$90,000
Project 4:	
Kitchen Refresh:	\$300,000
Project 5:	
West Addition:	\$2,140,000
Total:	\$5,180,000*

*Over \$527,000 has already been given to cover the early costs of exploring the feasibility of the capital campaign and to cover \$420,000 of initial expenses for the organ. (The estimated overall cost to acquire the organ is \$660,000, which includes the purchase price; organ disassembly, moving, and storage; and reassembly and installation at St. Mark’s; as well as the organ consultant’s fees.)

ESSENTIAL GIFTS CHART

NUMBER OF GIFTS	GIFT AMOUNT	MONTHLY OVER 4 YEARS
1	\$1,000,000	\$ 20,833
2	\$500,000	\$10,417
4	\$250,000	\$ 5,208
8	\$100,000	\$ 2,083
8	\$50,000	\$ 1,042
13	\$25,000	\$ 521
14	\$15,000	\$313
20	\$10,000	\$208
20	\$5,000	\$104
40	\$2,500	\$52
45	\$1,000	\$21
Many	Less than \$500	Variable

This chart can be helpful in determining how a potential gift from you may support a campaign, as well as how this gift would impact your monthly expenses. The first column indicates how many gifts of each dollar amount are needed to complete the goal. The second column indicates the level of gifts needed. The third column shows what a monthly payment would be for each gift broken out by month over four years.



WHO WE ARE

St. Mark's is a progressive faith community centered in worship, inclusive to all, active in loving service and generous with the gifts that God has given us. Through our practices of worship, welcome, nurture, service and giving we are becoming a community and growing in intimacy with God. The things we really desire cannot be bought but must be lovingly crafted through relationships. Together we are blessed to be making something beautiful for God in our neighborhood.



ST. MARK'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

MINISTRY STAFF

Rev. Christopher McLaren,
Rector

Rev. Sylvia Miller-Mutia,
Associate Rector

Rev. David Martin,
Deacon

Patrick Dill, DMA,
Choir Director

Jeremy Wirth, JD MBA DMA,
Principal Organist

John Garlisch,
Assistant Organist

OFFICE STAFF

Jennifer Lind,
Parish Administrator

Laura Blum,
Business Manager

Chris Montgomery,
Facilities

Oris Salazar,
Communications

VESTRY MEMBERS

Meg Adams-Cameron

Dave Aley

Deb Bluestone
(Senior Warden)

David Duncan

Darcie Farrow

Steve Hayden

Laurel Leisher-Cabral
(Junior Warden)

Sherry Reeder

Amanda Wright

Peter Pierotti
(Clerk to the Vestry)

Ken Reese
(Treasurer)

BUILDING RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Stretch Cole

Heather Gaume

David Hardy

Laurel Leisher-Cabral

Tim McIntire

Maribelle Ogilvie

Elizabeth Reardon

Lucy Sinkular

Stephanie Varoz

Marcel Varoz

Jeremy Wirth

Rev. Christopher McLaren

Rev. David Martin

FEASIBILITY TEAM

Deb Bluestone

Kristina Czuchlewski

Heather Gaume

Harrison Higgins

Ken Reese, Treasurer

Lucy Sinkular

Rev. Christopher McLaren

ST. MARK'S MONTESSORI SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Caitlin McGuire,
Director

Rocio Espino Martinez,
Operations Manager

ST. MARK'S MONTESSORI SCHOOL BOARD

Robin Hammer

Nancy Hilton

Maren McLaren

Dinah Pierotti, Chair

Ken Reese

LeeAnna Sacoman

Frances Chaves & Bryan Kaiser,
Parent Representatives

Rev. Christopher McLaren

AFFILIATED PROFESSIONALS

Paul Barribeau,
Architect

Robert Habiger,
Liturgical Design Consultant

Scott R. Riedel,
Acoustics and Sound Design

FEASIBILITY STUDY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the capital campaign a foregone conclusion?

The only type of capital campaign we want to have is a successful one. By success, we mean one in which there is a shared vision for the projects by the congregation and both capacity and a desire to fund this vision. St. Mark's will not proceed with solicitation for a capital campaign if this vision is not shared. The purpose of the feasibility study is for our leadership to hear from the congregation whether a capital campaign is possible or not.

When will we find out the results of the feasibility study?

Vandersall Collective will provide our Vestry with a comprehensive feasibility study report in April 2025. We plan to provide a full report of those findings soon after.

What if there is support for the campaign but the potential total raised isn't \$5,180,000?

A successful feasibility study is one that accurately reflects the capacity and desire of those that participated. If the amount that is determined that can feasibly be raised is either greater or less than \$5,180,000, we will utilize the feedback in the feasibility study to determine the prioritization of projects and how the vision of this campaign resonated with participants' willingness to give.

Has Vandersall Collective ever not recommended moving forward with a capital campaign?

Yes, as a consulting firm it is their desire to see clients and partners move forward in their ministries in healthy, lifegiving, joyful ways. If a feasibility study indicates lack of support for a capital campaign, they have and will communicate these results to our congregation. We will only move forward with a capital campaign if the feasibility study indicates both a shared vision and an ability to support a campaign.

If the feasibility study indicates moving forward with a campaign, when would solicitation begin?

Depending on the results of the feasibility study, planning for a capital campaign could begin as early as this summer with a public launch sometime in the fall. If the results indicate that we need to alter our plans, we would adjust our timeline accordingly. We are committed to communicating all information pertaining to the campaign consistently and transparently.

The Essential Gifts Chart indicates a pay-in period of campaign pledges of 4 years. Could I potentially pay in for a longer period of time?

Yes, if you are considering a potential pledge that would extend that 4-5 years, please indicate this in your survey.

Would a capital campaign pledge count the same as an annual campaign pledge? Aren't they going to the same place?

Each year, St. Mark's invites members of its community to give an annual pledge to fund the mission of the congregation. These funds pay for personnel, programs, outreach ministries, and the regular upkeep of the space. These funds typically come from an individual's regular monthly income.

Pledges to the capital campaign will be used to fund specific one-time projects to the physical space. This gift is an extraordinary gift that would likely be above and beyond one's annual gift. Individuals can give in a variety of ways and all gifts, regardless of size, are needed for the campaign to be successful.

Which is a priority?

While we embrace gifts given to both the annual fund and the capital campaign, we ask that individuals maintain their regular giving to the annual campaign before considering a capital campaign pledge. Annual gifts fund our church operating budget, which supports our mission and ministry.

It is important that the annual fund remains at the same level—or increases—while capital improvements are being made.

Making something
beautiful for God in
our neighborhood.





PHOTO CREDITS

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church
431 Richmond Place NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
505-262-2484
www.stmarksabq.org

