

ASUUC Congregational Survey (10/2015)

As the architecture firm, GastingerWalker, prepares concept designs, the Building Renovation and Capital Campaign Steering Committee sought additional input from the congregation regarding places/spaces, art, artifacts and symbols valued by the congregation. The survey was completed by 123 congregants, an outstanding participation rate. The following is a summary of the responses, but all the responses are available.

1) **My favorite place/space at All Souls is:**

Nearly half the respondents indicated Bragg is their favorite space, with Grace Hill Library, Conover and Simpson House sharing most of the rest of the responses. The Lobby/Art Gallery and the Memorial Garden behind Simpson House were the only other spaces mentioned more than once.

2) **The following describes my feelings about this space:**

24.5% I would not like to see anything about the space changed

41.8% I would like to see updating in this space, such as wall color, carpeting, lighting, etc.

33.6% I believe this space would benefit from a more major renovation (please specify):

While many suggestions were given, including adding more space, soundproofing and adding natural light, more indicated a preference for updating rather than major renovation, reflecting a concern for cost.

3) **Other spaces that I value at All Souls are :**

Not surprisingly, the other valued spaces listed were a duplication of the most valued spaces in Question 1, with Conover, Bragg, the lobby, library and Simpson House topping the list. Also mentioned were the lower level RE classrooms and the kitchen.

4) **The following describes my feelings about other spaces:**

11.4% I would not like to see anything about the space changed.

40.9% I would like to see updating in this space, such as wall color, carpeting, lighting, etc.

47.7% I believe this space would benefit from a more major renovation:

The responses to this question tipped more toward major renovation; however, the most frequently suggested changes were again more space, soundproofing and natural light. Significantly, some mentioned an elevator, the music room and the minister's office as items needing attention

5) **The following describes my feelings about the Chrysalis, the textile art hanging in the front of Bragg Auditorium:**

12.1% (13) I love this work of art and would not want to see it moved/removed.

27.1% (29) I appreciate this work of art but would be fine with hanging it in a different (prominent) location.

27.1% (29) I appreciate the Chrysalis but don't have strong feelings one way or another about what happens to it.

14.0% (15) The Chrysalis is not a meaningful symbol for All Souls and should not hang in its current, prominent location.

19.6% (21) We should explore other options for the Chrysalis (please specify)

Among the suggestions for other options, 6 people mentioned relocating the Chrysalis to another location at All Souls; 5 observed that the Chrysalis is outdated, odd and/or appears dusty; 4 indicated a preference for other art work at the front of Bragg, perhaps a chalice; and 3 suggested selling the Chrysalis.

6) **Other (if any) art, artifacts or symbols that I value at All Souls are:**

Among the 43 responses, the most common were the chalice in Bragg Auditorium and the bust of Dr. Bragg in the lobby. Other items mentioned included photos of the ministers, paintings,

sculpture, banners and flags, the water feature at the front of Bragg, the grand piano and artifacts from our partner church.

7) Within the context of our building renovations, I am most excited about:

The most prevalent excitement among the 82 who responded arose at the prospects of an elevator and improved accessibility; a more welcoming and inspiring building; more space; updating; improved safety; more light; and solutions for our parking.

8) Within the context of our building renovations, I am most concerned about:

By far, the biggest concern is funding the building renovations through the capital campaign. Other concerns included attention to required maintenance issues for our building; specific design issues; civil discourse and healthy process as we proceed; fear that parking will not be addressed; disturbance of our usual activities during construction; and uneasiness that comes inevitably from change. A couple of people questioned the value of putting our money into the building instead of social programs, and a couple of people are concerned we will be able to spend enough to make significant change.