

March 19, 2014

To: Dan Cummings, Properties Chair

Becky and Sylvia, Decorations

cc: Dale and Greg

Re: Community Room Acoustics Progress Report

We had what I consider very good results with our "Quilt Test" on the weekend and FFF on Monday. Good cooperation from the quilters, we had enough to cover some windows and closet doors too. Greg measured the noise level with and without the quilts and we had a reduction in sound level of about 10dB, but it still needs the ceiling panels to get it to an optimum level. The reverberation problem is still not solved. Several people were quite enthusiastic about the noise level reduction. This suggests to me that we should proceed with ordering the ceiling panels and also see what the ladies are willing to do as far as wall hangings are concerned. Becky and Sylvia should give their expert advice on design, colors, etc. It would take some time for the ladies to decide what they are capable of and to get the work done, but we could do the ceiling panels in the meantime.

The second thing that came through loud and clear is that we need something in the way of drapes over the big high west window to make projected images on the screen easier to see. I again have an initial idea on what might work, but again we need expert help. In any case, I think it should be a soft fabric that would reduce the sound bounce off the glass. (One person also suggested stained glass to minimize the light.)

I do have a quotation for ceiling panels from the fellow we consulted, a little over a \$1000 for the panels and a similar amount for installation, total \$2200, +/- for 28 – 24" by 48" panels.. (I left the quote in town with the exact figures.) I have also made a sketch of a possible orientation of the panels to avoid the light fixtures and loudspeakers that are already in the ceiling. The consultant suggested white to match the ceiling color, but there are a multitude of colors available, so we should get decorating advice on color selection too. Larry Johnson assisted with the hanging and removal of the quilts. (He is very good help, by the way.) When we talked about whether we could hang the panels ourselves and save the \$1000 labor, he volunteered that he has two sections of scaffolding, if we have someone who can move them to church. So we have those questions to deal with.

I will send this report to you, Dan, and copies to Becky, Sylvia, Dale and Greg. I will also make copies of my sketches and put in your respective mailboxes on Sunday. Then perhaps we can talk about it as a group or individually. Everybody seems too busy for committee meetings.

Today I also stopped by St. Peder's Lutheran on 46th Av and 42nd St. to see their community room which does have ceiling panels for sound control. Their room is a little larger than ours but has a flat ceiling, and I think lower than our Fellowship Hall. The lady that I visited with said it is a good improvement but not perfect. (To be expected) Their panels are 2" thick, which our consultant said are available and might do a better job, but he thought 1" thick would be adequate in our case.

Dave S. (Chronic Complainer)