

ON OUR SANCTUARY

Adopted by the Session – July 2012

THE BIBLICAL DISTINCTIVE: We have endeavored to design a sanctuary that communicates the priority of the Word and Sacraments and facilitates the congregation's response in worship. "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of God." (Romans 10:17). In worship, *God communicates to us* through the reading and preaching of His Word and through the Sacraments. In worship, *the congregation responds to God* by hearing the Word, by praying, and by singing His praise.

GOD COMMUNICATES TO HIS PEOPLE

The Pulpit represents the Word. The pulpit is placed in the most central and visible location as it is the Word that interprets all things to us. The Bible is visible on top of the pulpit to represent that it is the very Word of God that we are receiving and not the word of man. Also, the Bible is always in front of the minister as a continual reminder to him of his duty to preach God's Word.

The Font represents the Sacrament of Baptism. The font is a permanent element to the left side of the pulpit. The sacrament of baptism is to be interpreted in light of God's Word. Thus, the font stands beside the pulpit as a continuous reminder of the atoning work of Christ.

The Table represents the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The table is a permanent element to the other side of the pulpit. Like Baptism, the Lord's Supper is interpreted in light of God's Word. The table looks like a table representing the meal Christ served his disciples.

The pulpit, font, and table are the focal points of the sanctuary. They are at the front of the sanctuary on a dais to communicate the priority of the Word and Sacraments in our worship. The table may be moved to the floor level when the Lord's Supper is served to communicate that all who are in Christ have access to the table.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN WORSHIP

God's people face the Word and Sacraments. Though we gather together as a body, we face the Word and the Sacraments. We are one body only because we are united in Christ, who is the focus of our worship. Thus, we all direct our worship toward Him.

The choir and musicians respond to God in worship as part of the congregation. As part of the congregation, the choir and musicians are located on the same level as the congregation. Their position is intentionally not on the dais – a statement that neither music nor entertainment is the focus of worship. In their position, they come alongside the congregation leading in singing and giving praise to God.

"Architecture for churches is a matter of gospel. A church that is interested in proclaiming the gospel must also be interested in architecture, for year after year the architecture of the church proclaims a message that either augments the preached word or conflicts with it. ... If the gospel of Christ is worthy of accurate verbal proclamation week by week, it is also worthy of faithful architectural proclamation, where its message speaks year after year." (Christ and Architecture, 1).