

From the Desk of:

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My volunteer position within the project is to assist Wesley Theological Seminary in further determining needs, making recommendations and then introductions to a firm(s) that will fulfill those needs. I will also act as a resource for information as to the existing installation. It is expected that I will interface with the integrator and fellow volunteer Charlie Kendall throughout the process.

Regarding the integrator, my recommendation is to align yourself with a vendor who will work with you, at a reasonable rate, who has a background in church integration. My review of the proposals did not give me an overriding confidence in any of the four integrators. As mentioned in the meeting, I felt that Avitecture had the most professional proposal, and had a fairly good grasp on the engineering. I was disappointed that they were unaware that they had done the original project and felt their video production proposal was weak. The other three were not integrators.

I'm proposing that we bring a new integrator to the project. His name is Chris Evans.

We have worked / are working several projects with Chris. Chris comes personally recommended by Polysonics and is a designer and integrator. Chris and I will talk, and I will bring him "up to speed" as necessary, then I will make the introduction.

So much of this is dependent of what Wesley Theological Seminary is trying to accomplish. It appears to me that the #1 goal is to improve the video streaming (on-line) ministry. Everything else is ancillary.

That all being said, here are some general observations and comments based up my site visit and meeting with Sheila George on 17 September 2021.

### **Video Presentation System**

- 1) The existing projector (Mitsubishi FL-7000) is a 5000-lumen lamp-based projector. I have no idea when it was last serviced, or if the lamp has been changed. Projector should be serviced; lamp hours should be checked. If they are close to 1500 hours, replace the lamp. It's cheaper to replace the lamp than the projector. Also, Mitsubishi is not making projectors anymore so the long lens cannot be re-used. Useful life on a lamp-based projector can be as many as 15,000 hours. Sheila, you may to look and see if there is another lamp in storage. I firmly recommended having a spare on site, and I seem to remember Wesley Theological Seminary purchasing a spare.
- 2) The Avitecture proposed projector is 9400 lumens, which will provide almost a 25% increase in brightness. Also, this is an LED powered projector, 20,000 hours life, no lamps to change. Yes, a new projector would certainly improve the image quality.
- 3) Currently, the AV presentation system is analog (VGA). It should be upgraded, mostly because VGA graphics cards/laptops are not being built anymore. At worst, if the current PC dies, you'll

have to run a “portable” cable from the PC directly to the projector. The presentation system should be upgraded, but it’s not imperative.

### **Touch Panel Control System**

- 1) The current touch-panel based control system allows the system to be run without an operator. The programming was written by Avitecture, and any changes to the existing system will require updated programming.
- 2) As there is the desire for remote operation of the AV system, it would be best to enable remote access to the control system.

### **Audio**

- 1) The extra set of speakers in the front of the sanctuary are a bit of a mystery. A separate sound system (the mixer amp sitting on top of the e-snake cabinet) provides a connection for a pair of microphones that then feed the two speakers. Why? I don’t know. The current system provides plenty of connection via the 16 channel Whirlwind e-snake. Best guess? No one knows how to use the snake, or they wanted a sound system independent of the rest of the system. This separate sound system removes those microphones from the rest of the system (control, routing, etc.).
- 2) What is the health of the current system? I’d suggest that whatever integrator is hired be asked to do a “wellness” check, and service the audio system.
- 3) The audio board (an Allen and Heath GL-2800) is a dual function, live sound board. The footprint is large (46” wide) and it provides great functionality. Yes, it’s aging. A similarly feature digital mixer would be under \$2K and about ½ the width. A new digital audio board might offer remote recall, too.
- 4) Ceiling Microphones. These are part of the original installation and were used to support the choir and organ.

The bottom line on the audio is that I’m unsure what is wrong (if anything) with the existing audio system.

### **Video Streaming/Production**

Per the earlier statement, it was this requirement that started the upgrade discussion. This doesn’t have to “break the bank”, as so much of the hardware required for this system has become much more affordable in recent years.

- 1) The video system consists of multiple parts:
  - a. Video Acquisition and Signal Management
    - i. These are the cameras, camera controllers, monitors and switchers. It’s expected that these cameras will be wall mounted, controlled via a remote camera controller, and the cameras switched via a remote video switcher.
    - ii. Cameras must be able to realize a “head and shoulders” shot of the pulpit.
    - iii. Camera must be able to provide a “cover shot” of the front of the chapel.
    - iv. Camera placement should be considered if the piano continues in the same position. With the pianist sitting with his back to the audience, the best shot available is a side shot.
    - v. Four cameras are desired; each with Pan/Tilt/Zoom capability. Minimum camera resolution must be 1920 x 1080.

- vi. Remote operation via Internet has been requested. This feature has its own difficulties, primarily with the delay associated with the internet. Camera control is especially questionable.
- b. Video Library (Recording and recall) – Social media platforms can provide this service, but Wesley Theological Seminary may want a physical recording. This is accomplished through the addition of a video recorder.
- c. Audio – A properly produced audio stream must include excellent audio. Poor video will often be accepted – but never bad audio. A separate audio mix is required. The current audio configuration offers that capability, but it also requires an audio technician who can create an audio-for-video mix which is totally separate from the “house” mix.

In conclusion, my plan is to put Wesley Theological Seminary and Chris Evans together, have the necessary conversations with Chris, and then allow Chris to work directly with Wesley Theological Seminary.