

VOTE ON THE PARKS DOORS
White Paper

At the Annual Meeting in May, the Congregation approved the Capital Improvement Plan with the proviso that votes be held on whether or not to replace Parks' front doors and whether or not to refurbish the existing pews or replace them with flexible seating. Two subcommittees were formed to examine options and this is the report of the Accessibility Team charged with evaluating options for the Parks doors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Whether they remain in place or are moved inside, the Accessibility Team recommends refinishing the wood in Parks' doors while leaving the patina on the castings untouched. Also, in either case, new interior vestibule doors should be installed and mechanized. They should have windows for safety and be compatible in design with the new folding partitions.

If the congregation votes to leave Parks' doors in place they should be retrofitted with mechanical openers and panic bars to make them safer and handicap accessible but they must be rehung because they bind and scrape. The existing spring loaded astragal (fills the gap between doors) will need to be replaced with a brush or other weather seal that doesn't impede the mechanical opener. In order to install panic bars, the existing latch system must be disabled, the inside handles removed, and the inside sliding latch either removed or moved and disabled.

If the congregation votes to replace Parks' doors, the Accessibility Team recommends installing Baut Ecclesiastical Studio powder-coated aluminum and glass doors and mounting Parks' doors in the Parish Hall behind the stairs to the balcony. Estimated costs (not all final yet) are below.

		EITHER OPTION			
		\$ 15,000	mechanize outer & inner doors		
		\$ 1,000	refurbish Parks' doors		
		\$ 1,000	new inner double doors		
		\$ 17,000			
KEEP IN PLACE			RELOCATE		
rehang Parks' doors	\$ 2,500		\$ 10,740	Baut solid color doors	
add panic bar	\$ 1,500		\$ 1,000	relocate	
total	\$ 21,000		\$ 28,740	total	

Donations have been offered to help make up the cost difference so the decision can be made on principle and not on price

BACKGROUND AND EVALUATION PROCESS

Several custom made outer double doors were found that are attractive, durable, low maintenance, architecturally appropriate, see-through, easy to open, and energy efficient. Some also have the panic bar devices hidden inside the doors. A mid-century modern design was chosen because it fits well with the window columns and overall architecture of the building. More elaborate Prairie and other styles look inappropriate and out of place.

Wide angle and close up renderings of Baut Studios doors



Pella aluminum clad wood doors were less attractive and about the same cost as Baut's. Total Door powder-coated steel was too institutional in appearance. The Baut and Total doors can also be coated with realistic looking wood graining. This was not recommended because the wood pattern, if damaged, cannot be readily repaired. The solid color also looks better and costs less.

Numerous interior sites for Parks' doors were rejected. The walls in the Brunner Chapel need to be left uncluttered for yoga classes, exhibits, charts, and other activities. The chapel is the only room with sufficient wall space for the entire yoga group. Importantly, the yoga group is one of our older and most diverse groups and one of the few that draws in non-members. In the Parish Hall, all other spaces are occupied with TV screens or radiators, or need to be left open for food service and events. Parks' doors would be mounted on hinges so they can be opened to see both sides. Other sites were rejected because the doors would have to be mounted apart from one another which would diminish the integrity of Parks' design.



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