

The Carpeting of Fellowship Hall

By Re-modeling Team member – Greg Albright

The remodeling of Fellowship Hall, as proposed by our interior designer Jenn Acus-Smith and our Vision Team, includes carpeting the floor. This suggestion was made after months of research, fact finding, and numerous discussions with industry experts. Here is the information we collected.

The Starting Points:

Fellowship Hall is a multi-use area. Any changes made to this space must not hamper ANY of the current functions of the room.

First, it is a worship area for our current Second Service.

Second, it will always be used for church-wide dinners and social events.

Third, it is being used for our new Feeding Body & Soul Ministry.

Fourth, the room will continue to be used for Wednesday night “Pathways” ministry, which includes running, jumping, dancing, and play activities necessary for effective children’s ministry.

Fifth, the room is used as a gym for Pre-School.

We must also continue to have the ability to subdivide the area using the current movable wall system already in place.

The current floor is nearly 60 year old tile and is in rough shape. It also contains asbestos, a serious health concern in a public-access building. If the old tile is disturbed, the work must be done by an asbestos abatement firm, guaranteeing a cost of tens of thousands of dollars. *Suggestion: Leave floor as is. Lay new floor over old one. This new surface will enhance ALL the functions that use this space.*

Floor choices:

Linoleum/vinyl rolls: Problem – These floorings require a complete layer of wet adhesive to be applied to the old floor. Two different experts told us that the wet adhesive, as it dries, will “pull up” the old tiles, resulting in an unusable floor AND the asbestos problem we were trying to avoid.

Wood/floating wood/sports floors: Problems – Cost, then not only higher maintenance, but also reduced functionality. (Think basketball boards and what one cannot do on them.) Almost all Hall uses involve furniture. We expect accident damage to be more common with this option.

Ceramic tile: Problem – Initial cost and maintenance. There is a concern about durability in a multi-use environment, especially with grout staining.

Carpet rolls: Problem – Same issues as Linoleum.

Carpet tiles/squares: These have numerous advantages.

1. They can be applied with “spot adhesive”, thereby avoiding the wet adhesive problem.

2. Carpet will acoustically “deaden/soften” the sound. This is better for musical presentation and worship. It would lessen the “basement-feel” of the space.
3. If floor abused/cut/stained, individual squares can be replaced, instead of the entire floor.
4. Our own volunteers can probably do the work, thereby reducing costs.

WHAT ABOUT FOOD????

The easiest answer here is “*when were you in a restaurant that DID NOT have carpet?*” The carpet tiles we would use would be commercial-grade and stain resistant. Yes, they would require more clean-up of spills than the current floor, but carpet is routinely maintained in businesses, eateries, hospitals, and public buildings all over the world quite successfully. Carpeted gym-areas we have visited here in Butler County, (for example, Redeemer UCC, Rt.4) are used for Upward basketball and indoor soccer.

Conclusions:

Carpet tiles, applied with spot adhesive, give us the greatest advantages, with fewer disadvantages, at the best cost. This option is also consistent with the experience and advice of Smithacus Art & Design, our contracted design firm. Please see myself or any Remodeling Team member if you have any further questions.

All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!

Greg Albright