

Listening Session #3: Historic Church

About 35-40 in attendance

Verbatim notes from each table included for each of these questions. Clear repeats are marked with a tick mark for each of the next tables including the same/similar answer.

1. List reasons for restoring and maintaining the historic church.

Preserving History (IIII)

Honoring our ancestors (II)

Sacred Space for St. Hubert

Great way to welcome people into our faith through history

Could be unifying by all generations as more pass on

Part of the city

Fiduciary responsibility

If we say we restore it, how much can we raise? Specify what \$ is for.

Family/Personal history with building

Education

Don't want to lose roots of our parish (I)

More art or historical items than regular church

Architectural design

Church pre-dates Chanhassen, rich in tradition

Anchors downtown

Being part of something bigger, leave a legacy

Unique frescos

It's a landmark and part of the cemetery

Contains statues that have been there since church was built

Our modern building is beautiful but it is a treasure to have this old historic church for little children and families.

If we don't take it upon ourselves, what will happen to it? We have a responsibility as Catholics.

Focal point of the city "Look for the steeple in Chanhassen"

When it's gone, it's gone!

School is taking up our usable space here, it would be good to add space there.

Beautiful things promote the worship of God

So many ugly churches out there. Maintaining this beautiful one is an example for younger generations.

2. List reasons for not restoring and maintaining the historic church.

Money/Cost (III)

Parking – is there enough if weddings, funerals are held there? (II)

Insurance cost/increased maintenance costs once it is completed (I)

Cost may not be way to achieve goals of our growing Catholic church.

Need for more cemetery space (I)

Alienate some parishioners

Opportunity cost – what are we not able to spend money on? Our church needs a new roof.

Is there an interest in doing this, as parishioners are so young.
Money – No problem for God.
Don't have to do everything at once
Is it worth it to maintain it if we cannot use it?

3. If we were to restore and maintain the historic church, what uses do you see for the church?

More meeting space (III)
Weddings/Funerals (III)
Daily Mass (III)
Small groups (I)
Harvest Festival
Choir Concerts
Tours (I)
Doors open as history-historical cemetery
Classroom fieldtrips
Special Masses
Family Reunions
Baptisms (I)
Faith Formation Classes
Guest Speakers/Education
Concerts (I)
Prayer groups
Special Christmas/Easter celebrations
Devotions
First Fridays
First Saturdays
Rosaries
Knights of Columbus
4th Degree Ceremony
Spread out First Communions
Christmas Caroling
Christmas Plays
Crypt in basement
Youth room
Younger generation is leaning more traditional in the faith and would embrace sacraments there.

4. What ideas do you have to make restoring the church possible?

Grants (III)
Parishioner involvement
Gala
Educating parish & beyond
Go Fund Me
Research historic funding and other churches who have done it
Rent a pew – the old church used to collect amounts of money per pew, most expensive in the front

Gathering outside of historic church
Present through fundraiser (II)
Check w/ Archdiocese to see what they will allow – taking pictures, removing pews
View it as a historic Catholic church – donation boxes
Matching grants
St. Hubert Committee/Historical Society leading/helping
Include community
Restorative activities/architecture from church
Remove/replace add-ons rather than trying to remodel
Define a clear vision of purpose and validate
Contractor offerings/donations (II)
Restore & lease it
Capital campaign
Ask for money from Archdiocese, city, historical society
Make a video of church and show it
Event fee for weddings/funerals
Tours/Open House to gain support (II)
Social Media
Pledges
Don't underestimate young families.
Local and national grants
Feasibility study
What is the cost of not doing it? Cost to tear it down
Check with Eli Lilly Church Restoration Grants
Worry about roofing first
Call Neil Klingelhutz 612-685-5580 for an estimate (labor and materials only)
Other churches do monthly building funds to help maintain their older churches
Special funding/loans
Assign a steering committee to help with decisions/next steps
Prayer. If God wants this to happen, He will make it happen. Get a group of people together to do something like a 54-day for insight on what God wants. The prayer however needs to be God's will be done and be detached from a decision one way or another for guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Notecard responses:

Create options/pathways for moving forward with pros/cons.

Prepare a plan to communicate what was shared tonight. Many of these facts were not known. There were "myth busters".

Look into what other parishes have done across the diocese and the nation.

Budget for repairs to the church. Money donated toward area of the church. What ** to the cemetery. The history of the city and the church go together. Fund to make the repair possible. Ask old parishioners who were born here: If we restored the church, make it possible with a walk with bricks with names of them. Each brick has a donor. Arboretum does this at \$250 a brick.

Summary notes (What the notetaker heard if not clearly identified from their notes above):

Save the church. If we are worried about money, many will donate money and time to do the work. Please have a clear vision and design a plan to get there. We have limited resources so we need to make a reasonable decision to get to where we decide to go.

The church is a part of our town before it was a town. We have a fiduciary responsibility to our ancestors to preserve it. Were there ever funds set aside at the church for it? If we move forward with a plan, there may be more enthusiasm.

It is part of the cemetery. Where does that leave the cemetery if we don't maintain the church?

Use social media with pictures from inside to get the word out to parishioners and the community. The financial burden is not on parishioners alone. Capital campaign with pledges over 3 years.

Chanhassen is becoming generic. The church is the only history left. The Catholic Church is steeped in history. Don't lose this part. A feasibility study is needed – what is the cost of the alternative? Cost of leveling it could be high? What is the property worth today? If we sell, what would go there? We don't want a brewery next to our cemetery.

Sweat equity – The KCs and other volunteers would do some of the work. If we can raise \$500,000 immediately, can we finance the rest over 30 years?

It belongs here. Europe keeps churches that are much older. Why can't we keep a 150 year old church? There is lots of talent in our parish. It's a priority to not let it get more damaged. Members of 30 years haven't been able to go inside. Need open houses. I'm surprised how good it looks. The foundation looks good.

My dad dug out the basement by hand. The historic museum next to the old church includes many historical artifacts of the church.

Communities need more now of how our faith shapes community and the importance of living a biblical life. We have a duty to share this with the community.

Final Question – On a notecard, how important to you is it to restore the historic church as a pillar of St. Hubert and Chanhassen? (1- not important, 7- extremely important)

Results:

7—19 notecards

6 ---7 notecards

2 ---1 notecard

1 ---1 notecard