



February 22, 2024

As you know our facilities team has been investigating a potential termite and water damage issue underneath the Chancel steps and first platform. The team from Jamerson Lewis has been here all week removing tile, steps/step treads, and all non-concrete components associated with the front of the Chancel area including the front stairs, middle platform, the two steps into the Choir section, and part of the tile floor that the communion table typically sits on. In their investigation, Jamerson Lewis confirmed the presence of extensive wood rot, active termites, and mold. The concrete block and slab appear to be intact and without major damage.

We now enter the stage of determining the next steps for resolving the water, mold, and termite issues:

- **Next week**, our Director of Facilities, Jody Sprinkle, and the Facilities team will work with Jamerson Lewis to determine the best plan of action for waterproofing and treating the space to prevent future damage and issues.
- **After that**, the team will work towards a plan to rebuild the Chancel space from a design and layout perspective.
- **Dodson Pest Control will return to the church on Monday, February 26** to eliminate the active termites in the Chancel area and protect the rest of the building. The perimeter work will include drilling small holes in the foundation of the building at specified distances, inserting the chemicals, and filling the holes with concrete. All of the work will just take a few days.
 - Please use caution when entering and exiting the building if the Dodson team is in that area.
 - Dodson will be using chemicals that are water-based and non-toxic to humans, animals, and plants.
- **Until the space is treated, the water-proofing issues are resolved, and the mold is removed**, we are concerned about safety in the Sanctuary from the standpoint of air quality and as the space being a construction zone. As a result,
 - The Session has voted to move worship to the Fellowship Hall for the Sundays of February 25 and March 3, 10, & 17. A secondary email with more information about this move (that may answer some of your questions) will be sent in additional communication.
 - You are also asked to refrain from going into the Sanctuary to check things out. We will put signs on the doors to the Sanctuary as it is an active construction zone and your safety is of importance to us.

As more details reveal themselves, we will keep you informed as best we can. Again, we are grateful for your patience, understanding, and prayers as together we adapt to this unforeseen situation!