

## Governing Board Meeting on Robing Room Access

February 6, 2026 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Governing Board met via Zoom on Friday Feb. 6 to vote on whether to keep or remove access to the robing room from the chancel. The board tried to resolve the issue via an email vote to remove access, but the vote was split 3 to 3 with the final voter declining to break the tie without a more in-depth discussion of the issue. The meeting was called the day before to get a decision to the contractor so that work would not be delayed.

The issue: Lowering the chancel floor exposed pipes under the robing room door that were not feasible to move. Options were to cover the pipes and close off the door and access to the robing room, or to cover the pipes with steps leading to a 3-foot landing and a new, code-compliant door set back. The email motion was “to remove the robing room door, replacing it with a wall, and removing all access to the robing room from the chancel. Projected savings is \$2,000.” Unable to reach a decision via email, the board met on Zoom.

Five board members were in favor of installing stairs and keeping access: keeping a historic connection between the chancel and robing room; having another exit; performers using the robing room; support from MUUsic 4UU. This option could be changed in the future if necessary. The \$2000 cost can be covered by the project’s contingency fee.

Two board members were in favor of walling off access to the robing room: lack of symmetry; the robing room is not a real exit; architect thought access to a rarely used room not worth the extra money; cost savings of \$2000. Other concerns were that the steps and opening could be distracting to attendees; the steps would take up too much room and come too close to the ramp opening. It was also noted that the robing room could be used for storage, as it has been; the opening might disrupt acoustics; and the robing room does not contribute to making the chancel accessible.

Seth noted that the removal of the columns makes any opening to the robing room visible. The board briefly discussed movable steps, but they were deemed infeasible. Rev. Lane was open to either option.

Having heard all pros and cons, the secretary made the motion to renovate chancel access to the robing room by adding two steps up to a landing, and moving back and installing a new code-compliant door opening into the robing room. Approximate cost is \$2000. The motion carried with five board members in favor and two against.

Sarah Dengler, Secretary