

Former bowling alley transformed to worship center

From bowling alley to church isn't the typical progression for a building, but it has proven to be a good solution for CrossPoint Church in Hutchinson.

The church had grown to the point that the congregation was holding multiple services at two Hutchinson locations – a traditional church facility and an auditorium-style facility located several miles away -- as well as a growing multi-site, satellite church ministry in several other communities. The congregation began looking for an existing building that could be remodeled to suit their requirements for worship and educational programs in one building for its Hutchinson-area members and allow for additional growth.

After considering several options, the church learned the bowling alley site was for sale. It offered a convenient location, a large existing building and room for expansion. The transformation from 18-lane, '50s-style bowling alley to 21st century, state-of-the-art community worship center was ac-



Original profile of building above. Renovated main entrance, CrossPoint Church, below. Eave height over the sanctuary portion was raised from 14' to 25' and exterior was completely redone.



PROJECT PROFILE CrossPoint Church

Owner: CrossPoint Church
Location: Hutchinson, Kansas
Project Scope: Remodel of retail space, plus addition
Square footage: 36,990 Sq. Ft.
Design Build Team: Fuqua Construction, Landmark Architects

complished through a partnership of congregation leaders and staff and the Design Build team of Fuqua Construction and Landmark Architects, with Kelly McMurphy serving as architect for the project.

The choice to remodel the bowling alley puzzled some members of the community McMurphy said.

"Early on people said 'really?' when we announced what we were going to do. People had a hard time seeing what it could be. But I could envision how we could transform the ugly old inside into something that was going to be what the church wanted -- a community center look and feel," McMurphy said. "I knew from experience that Max (Fuqua) could see what I could see (in the building)."

After the building committee had interviewed several contractors, Fuqua Construction had been the unanimous choice for the project and had been part of the process even prior to site selection, McMurphy and CrossPoint Executive Pastor Rod Sims said. The church also hired a consultant from Oklahoma to address the audio/visual and sound requirements of the church. Fuqua Construction worked with the consultant but was not directly responsible for selecting or installing the audio/visual and broadcasting equipment for the building. Having the design-build team assembled from the beginning of the project proved to be invaluable.

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“Max (Fuqua) is someone you can trust with a project of this scope,” Sims said. “He listened to us and gave us ideas as we discussed what we wanted to accomplish with the project. And, he’s been willing to say ‘guys you can’t do it that way,’ explains to us why not, and then gives us an alternative. He’s also let us know exactly what everything is going to cost and gives us options to help us stay on track with our budget.”

Joe Fangman, who served as finance chairman during the project, agreed with Sims that there were no financial surprises on the construction side of the project. The project budget was revised up from the initial plan due to some unforeseen problems with the original building, but Fangman said the revised construction costs have been on target.

“It is almost amazing that on a \$7 million project (\$4 million of actual construction costs) costs have come in just as expected,” Fangman said. “Max is extremely organized. At every meeting he came in, told us what had been done, what was coming up next and any potential change orders and their cost. He gave us options to consider and vote on at the next meeting. It was extremely easy to plan for bank draws.”

Fangman said project updates were explained in a way that was very understandable and that, from his perspective, the process with Fuqua Construction had been flawless. McMurphy, who is a CrossPoint member, noted that everything on the project was “an open book” and that church leaders developed a real trust level with Fuqua with not only costs of the project, but also trust that he understood their mission.

Understanding the needs of the church was important because CrossPoint is not a traditional church in which design considerations center primarily on the atmosphere for people sitting in the audience. Because the church broadcasts services to multiple sites, much of the design and construction revolved around video and sound where quality is a critical component. Acoustics were a big driver in the design and construction elements used. Lighting was also a key component as, unlike a traditional church where lighting is stationary, there needed to be an ability to change out and move lighting easily. Sound proofing of the sanctuary was important. But, CrossPoint is more than a broadcast studio. Church members wanted the building to be a welcoming community worship center with the needs of young families a priority.

The completed project has 33,000 square feet and features a 1,000-plus seat auditorium/sanctuary with a mix of theater and moveable seating. A children’s education area including classrooms, a large gathering area and state-of-the-art security system is located in the other half of the building. Joining the two spaces is a large foyer/gathering area that includes



The CrossPoint Church floorplan includes a sanctuary/ auditorium capable of seating 1,000+ people, a children’s area featuring state-of-art security, monitoring equipment and several more intimate gathering spaces, including a coffee bar and stage in the central foyer.



a coffee bar, informal seating for casual conversation, another stage and the baptistry. The building also has staff offices and several meeting rooms.

There were a number of challenges along the way. The original building -- which is incorporated into about 20 percent of the completed building -- proved to be in much worse shape than anticipated. A decision to increase the eave height of the sanctuary to accommodate raised seating also meant that part of the original structure had to be taken down to allow for the roof line change. Even with those and other challenges, the project stayed on schedule for completion.

“There is a wisdom that Max brings to the table about costs, construction, working with people and leading a group that is very unusual. He brings the perspective of what’s best for the owner, not what’s easiest for the contractor,” McMurphy said. “You don’t always find that in a contractor.”

Sims also credited Fuqua Construction crew members Ric Ratzlaff, Bob Griffin and Doug Deeds, who had been onsite during the project, for always being on top of things and able to explain what was happening with the project. The coordination between Fuqua Construction and the subcontractors who worked on the project was excellent and church staff found the crew very easy to work with during the project. Sims added that throughout the project there had been an excellent rapport between Fuqua Construction, Landmark and the church as they planned and solved challenges together -- which is what the Design-Build model hopes to achieve.

As the finishing touches were made to the building, church representatives eagerly anticipated the move.

“Max listened to us, gave us ideas and did quality work,” Sims said. “It’s all come together just as we hoped.”

written by Cindy Baldwin, Baldwin Creative Services