

## Navarre UMC Meeting – March 27, 2016 - 12:00 PM

Attendees: Matt Dailey, Worship Director  
Gene Garthwait, SFUMC

I attended the 11:00 am Easter service at Navarre UMC. After the service I spoke with Matt for about 35 minutes. He graciously answered my questions concerning their engagement with Media Merge. Matt has been serving at Navarre for 3 years.

### Structure:

Sanctuary is an octagon structure with wood ceilings, beams and dry wall treatments. Seats 320 members at maximum capacity. The seating is divided into 4 sections similar to SFUMC.

A small balcony surrounds the sanctuary but is not functional. Never constructed to hold the congregation.

Sound board/lighting are controlled from a raised platform at the back of the sanctuary. 16 hollow baffles were placed on the walls – from the original construction plans.

These baffles do not add/enhance the sound coverage.

Thin fabric baffles cover about 40% of the wall space (ground floor and balcony) from the original construction plans.



### **Media Merge efforts:**

Completed the sound analysis.

Installed additional thicker baffles on 25% of the wall space – similar in construction to the existing baffles at SFUMC.

Replaced a central speaker set-up (located high up at the front of the sanctuary with seven speakers (across the front of the sanctuary).

Installed baffling covering 50% of the wood ceilings.

Decided to use a mono set-up because of the structure design.

Additional notes from the visit:

The project was paid with one payment.

During the final sound checks after installation MM discovered that 14 seats (immediately parallel to the pulpit) were not covered – MM added two small speakers (at no additional expense) to remedy this oversight.

Lighting infrastructure is installed and wired – they will add the lighting when funds are available.

They have installed a glass drum cage to control the volume level.

The sound coverage is centric – no matter where the speaker is located the sound origination point moves with the speaker.

The sanctuary was built with windows at the peak (about 60 feet above the floor). These windows were covered up shortly after dedication because people were blinded by the sun. I guess SFUMC doesn't have exclusive rights to building issues!

The original speaker set-up was moved after construction to try to resolve the sound discrepancies. Similar to SFUMC efforts. They have had sound system issues since dedication.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Garthwait

## **Perdido Bay UMC Meeting – March 25, 2016 - 9:00 AM**

Attendees: Bill Brown, Church Administrator  
Ben Drennan, Worship Leader  
Les Cunningham, Future Administrator  
Al Jacobi, SFUMC  
Gene Garthwait, SFUMC

The meeting was held in the Contemporary Worship area with the focus of Media Merge's efforts. The structure is actually a gymnasium with hard surfaces on the floors, ceiling and walls. They seat about 280 members on folding chairs for their Contemporary Service. The sound board is located on the floor at the back of the space. Media Merge has completed the sound coverage analysis (Ben shared the coverage analysis image), projector and screen placements and the acoustic treatments.

They are doing this upgrade in three phases due to budgetary constraints.

1. Sound analysis, acoustic treatments projector and screens (Completed)
2. Speaker – Sound Board upgrades
3. Lighting
- 4.

Bill and Ben have previously worked with Media Merge at other churches in Florida. Bill has worked with MM at four different churches.

Their experience with the prior consulting and sound company was less than what they had hoped for.

1. Phone calls and e-mails not returned
2. Request for a quote in September was returned in January.
3. Up front money for sound analysis.

MM added floor to ceiling retractable curtains on the side and front walls, they installed a backer board behind the front curtain and installed baffles between the tracking railings above the curtains.

PB UMC removed the front speakers from shelves (right and left) at the front of the space and replaced them with newer used speakers (on the floor) until more money is appropriated.

Additional notes from the visit:

1. PB UMC handled the contract with MM on a 30/30/30 basis.
  - a. 30% at initial engagement
  - b. 30% to obtain equipment
  - c. 30% at completion
2. When the job was completed there wasn't an item on the punch list to review. Everything was complete.
3. During the installation of the curtains – PB UMC noticed that one of the curtain tracking bars was not level. When they informed the MM work crew of this condition – they immediately stopped work and corrected the item (without complaint).
4. Prior to this first phase the head of the trustees who attends the contemporary service had a hard time with the music and/or the spoken word from his seat. After this first phase he reported that he can hear clearly from the same seat.
5. I requested that Ben play something on the piano while I walked around the entire space. There wasn't a dead spot. Al has some additional information on the piano microphone set-up.
6. The time frame for completion was 2 weeks. The work crew was prompt, professional and courteous with an emphasis on workmanship.
7. Although we limited our discussion to the effort at PBUMC by MM – I have the impression that their overall satisfaction with the effort was superior.
  - a. Because the PBUMC gentlemen have worked with MM at other churches – they knew what to expect.
8. I tried to steer any conversation about the prior company to a dead-end. I was not concerned with any prior work.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Garthwait