Christ Presbyterian Church is a 1980’s Contemporary Style building situated on the shore of Lake Mendota in the state’s Capitol City. Both traditional and contemporary music styles, along with a variety of theatrical and musical productions are all presented in the room. The worship space’s original acoustic challenges included a too low reverberation period that did not enhance music or support congregational sung and spoken participation in the service. Carpeted floor areas, along with the presence of flutter echoes and excessive HVAC background noise, further diminished the acoustic environment.

The church’s heritage Möller organ is located in the rear gallery, with an Antiphonal division at the front of the space, above and behind the Chancel. The tone of the Antiphonal division was severely obstructed by dense tone grille fabrics and other sound trapping building features.

Acoustic renovation design elements include increasing the amount of hard surface floor areas, the use of sound reflective/diffusing nave side-wall profiles, and the application of sound absorbing material to the rear balcony face. The front Reredos wall of the Chancel has been reconfigured to allow Antiphonal organ tone to project to the nave without obstruction, and the carefully angled and partially sound absorbing flanking walls of the chancel serve to project and balance contemporary and traditional music. The HVAC system was altered to reduce air speed and attenuate noise.

The new digital audio system allows easy transition from contemporary to traditional service styles, and employs a line array speaker system with a hidden subwoofer. An indicative loop hearing assistance system and video projection onto Chancel walls complete the A/V package.

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