



Bertolini Chairs Breathe New Life into a Church

Zero-maintenance stackable seating provides strong ROI for churches

Overview

The New Life Church of Wanamingo in Minnesota was started in 1997 by Pat Phinney, former Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church in West Concord, and a committee formed at First Baptist. Members began meeting on Sunday evenings at the Wanamingo Fire Hall. The first official church meeting was held in April of 1999 at the Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary School with a grand opening held later that year. The church purchased the Family Christian Center in 2003 as its new facility.

Challenge

When the New Life Church purchased their new facility, they inherited some old chairs that had been there since the building first opened in 1986.

The chairs had screws that were falling out and the fabric was an ugly bright red that was stained and gross. The seats had zero padding and were very uncomfortable. In addition, all the chairs had arms and the seats were narrow, which made it difficult for some members of the congregation to sit in the chairs.

When Crystal Renken was elected to the facilities committee, she made it her mission to get new chairs for the church. However, the church leadership had a conservative business approach which led them to avoid taking out loans and acquiring debt. That meant Crystal was unable to purchase new chairs until her committee had raised the necessary funds.

The church needed to find affordable chairs that were also comfortable. In order to accommodate the members, they needed chairs that come in a variety of seat sizes and both with and without arms.



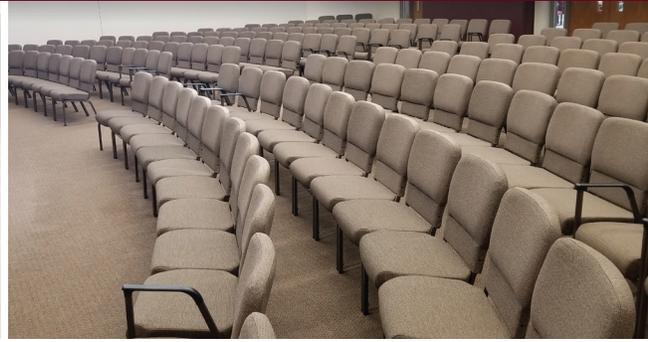
Featured Products:

Impressions Series Chairs with arms and without arms



- Impressions Series 22-inch chairs
- Impressions Series 20-inch chairs
- Impressions Series 20-inch chairs with arms

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Solution

The facilities committee first learned about Bertolini Church Chairs when members at their mother church, Faith Community, ordered some for their facility and shared how impressed they were with the product. Then, some of the church elders went to a conference at a church with Bertolini chairs. When they returned from the conference, they raved about the chairs emphasizing how comfortable they were to sit in with the extra back support and cushioned seat.

Crystal called Bertolini to get a cost estimate quote and begin the process. She worked with a Bertolini sales representative for more than two years while the church worked to raise the money.

Once they were able to place the order, New Life Church received a variety of Impressions Series chairs, in different seat sizes, some with arms and some without. The chairs with 22-inch seats work well for larger members, whereas the 20-inch seats with arms are good for elderly members. The 20-inch seats without arms are a good fit for the balcony and Sunday school rooms.

How Bertolini Made the Process Easy

The Bertolini sales representative was able to provide Crystal and her team with the information she needed to place the best order for her church. The representative helped Crystal understand the many chair options. For example, elderly members prefer chairs with arms, whereas arms can be constricting for some people.



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"I was nervous when I placed the order because the members of our church are typically resistant to change and concerned with expenses. However, I've heard nothing but positive feedback since we got the chairs. They look really nice and they truly make the building look like a church."

—Crystal Renken
Facilities Committee Member at New Life Church