



Over the last couple of weeks our facilities team has been investigating a potential termite and water damage issue in the Chancel steps and first platform. Last Friday, February 9, the team met with Jamerson Lewis for further investigation of the space due to concerns about the structural integrity of the platform and stairs. Their initial consultation revealed that there is evidence of live termite activity and the presence of water which has compromised the structural integrity of the steps and platform. Due to the extent of the damage revealed from this limited investigation, Jamerson Lewis (JL) suggested moving forward quickly with a more extensive inspection to determine the full scope of the damage and to provide possible solutions. JL will return to the Sanctuary on Monday, February 19 to remove components of the tile to open up the floor and get a good look underneath. Their work next week will help us to better understand the problem, its solutions, and what that impact will be on operations and ministry at the church.

Here's what else we know:

- Dodson Pest Control came by on Monday, February 12 to assess the termite situation. They have confirmed the presence of active termites in the Chancel (lower steps to the platform) and old termite damage in the History Room bathroom all of which needs to be addressed. Their recommendation is to treat the whole building (front to back) to ensure no colonies are forming anywhere else. We are working on a plan to get this completed.
- Because components of the tile and stairs will need to be removed, Cory has been in touch with Foley Baker to determine what protective measures need to be put in place for the organ pipes, chambers, and console. They have suggested completely sealing the organ console as well as covering every individual pipe to prevent dust from getting to places it shouldn't be; small particles can significantly impact the efficiency and operation of the organ. This work will be done Thursday, February 15. As a result, the organ will not be available for worship and other services throughout the duration of this project.

We are still in the investigative phase of this project and need to determine the full extent of the damage and the full scope of what needs to be done to resolve it. Once we have this information, we will better understand how this project will impact worship and programs of the church. After next week, we believe we will have more helpful information to answer questions about these things. We will provide follow-up communication next week. Thanks for your patience, understanding, and prayers as together we adapt to this unforeseen situation!