

## PROJECT PROFILE: CHURCH SANCTUARY



**PROJECT:** NEW COVENANT FELLOWSHIP CHURCH  
Kalispell, Montana

**CLIENT:** Mark T. Johnson Architect, Ltd.

As the first building on the new church campus, this “gymatorium” had to be designed to balance the acoustical needs of the **existing and future uses**. In addition to being the church’s **temporary sanctuary**, the space **will eventually become a multi-purpose gymnasium**. Big Sky Acoustics was retained to develop a **cost-effective acoustical design to satisfy the room’s many uses**.

### BSA’s SERVICES and SOLUTIONS:

- Determined the **optimum reverberation time goal** that would be needed in the new sanctuary to enhance the spoken word and musical portions of services, and to control noise in the future gymnasium.
- Developed several acoustical treatment options that would meet the reverberation time goal, and were **durable enough to withstand the future abuse of the gymnasium, yet still be aesthetically appealing in the sanctuary**. Included an option for the church to construct its own acoustical panels.
- Summarized the acoustical design recommendations in a clear and concise report, **explaining the benefits and limitations of each option** based on the use of the room.
- **As a cost-saving measure**, the church built the acoustical wall panels, using metal framing, fiberglass and acoustical fabric. Acoustical ceiling tiles were installed to cover the entire ceiling surface.
- **Despite its transitional status, the Church has indicated that the acoustics in the newly constructed gymatorium are as good as many dedicated sanctuaries because spoken words are clearly understood throughout the room, and the music and congregational singing is lively.**

