

Churches 1970-1971

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Soquel congregation is building itself a church

"We'll build it by faith."

Reaching that decision members of Soquel Assembly of God church recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for their new \$60,000 sanctuary, and are now spending all of their free moments at the construction site.

Church members plan a do-it-yourself building for the hard physical labor, employing subcontractors when the work gets too complicated for laymen. They hope to complete the project without having to ask for outside financing.

The two-story sanctuary will adjoin the present church building, which was planned for an education building.

The sanctuary is so designed that none of the 200 people seated on the first floor of the building will be farther than 35 feet from the pulpit, to "foster an intimate feeling between pastor and

congregation," a church spokesman explained.

A planned balcony, to seat an additional 234 people, will be completed in the second phase of the construction.

A baptistry and men's and women's dressing rooms and restrooms will be included in the present phase of the building. Several classrooms also will be a part of this stage of the construction.

The architectural design is "contemporary but with a Spanish influence," the spokesman explained, to harmonize with the existing buildings on the site. Decorative stone veneer will be used on the front of the new building and at the entrances which will connect it with the existing buildings.

The need for the new sanctuary is already at hand. The present education building, now used as a sanctuary, seats only 202 persons

and there are from 180 to 200 persons attending Sunday services now.

Guests at the recent groundbreaking ceremony were the Rev. Joseph Gerhart, district superintendent of the Assemblies of God churches in northern California; Santa Cruz County supervisor Dan Forbus; the Rev. James Argue, a church district official from Santa Cruz; and department heads of the Soquel church, who participated in the groundbreaking ceremony with the pastor.

The church choir and a women's trio provided the background music for the ceremony.

The Rev. Lloyd Reece is pastor of Soquel Assembly of God church, which is at 5630 Soquel Drive.