

PASTORATE PROPOSAL FOR THE FUTURE USE OF CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

As we are all aware, there has been an enormous amount of prayer, hard work and careful thought put into the future use of Christ Church Centre. It comes as the outworking of a longer process of shared deliberation and imagination stretching back through our meetings in November 2017. Earlier this year we invited people to submit succinct ideas and more detailed proposals and over the past six months or so the Working Group under the chairmanship of Geoff Everingham has helped proposers to shape and polish their suggestions according to a common template. We owe Geoff and his team our sincere thanks.

At the end of that process they had two very good proposals. Because there were considerable merits to each of these proposals, they presented Pastorate with both, while, at the same time indicating their preference. Pastorate has, in turn, felt it is important for the wider church to be informed about the two proposals, hence our information meeting two weeks ago. It has been really hard making the choice, but the intention always was that Pastorate would give thorough consideration to all suggestions and bring to this Church Meeting the one they felt would be the best option for CCK.

The task of Pastorate as the leadership team of Christ Church is to ensure responsible stewardship of our money and buildings on the one hand, and, on the other hand, to pay heed to the Lord's vision for CCK and to call this church into a bold commitment to grasp the potentials of that future. We are assured that we have kept faith with both these tasks and come to a true consensus of what we believe is an exciting way forward.

Firstly, the clear majority of the Pastorate stands in favour of keeping the building, rather than selling it, with a commitment to using it in such a way that it gives powerful expression to the presence of the Kingdom of God in our suburb.

The two proposals both accord with the vision and values that we articulated through the four weeks of November 2017 and our desire is to hold the best of both as far as possible.

We are really excited by the prospect of an active partnership with U-Turn with its proven systems and infrastructure, its plans for the use of the building and its expertise in helping people move from life on the streets to restoration through gainful and productive employment. We resonate with the stated Christian

convictions of U-Turn and we can see great possibilities in developing this partnership. We are against any notion of simple outsourcing of this task to U-Turn and acting merely as landlords. The value we see in this proposal lies in intentionally finding ways for members of our congregation to be engaged with the lives of those in the U-Turn programme. With that proviso, we recommend the housing of the U-Turn project at 16 Summerley Road.

At the same time, we are fully committed to exploring the establishment of community living, with an intentional redemptive theme gathering together a mixed group of people from various sectors of our congregation and with a close connection to both the WOTS ministry and our refugee community. We also resonate with a vision that combines worship, ministry, community, discipleship and mission into society. We believe we can still pursue this vision through the development of projects making use of other buildings and land on our campus. The proposal built around this focus excited us, but we feel that there is still work to be done in this regard and are committed to undertaking it. Just as building close links with U-Turn will involve purposeful action on our part, so will the pursuit of this model of redemptive community.

We believe this combination of initiatives best accords with the picture that emerged from our prior visioning process and opens really exciting and stretching horizons for Christ Church as we step into the future with the Lord. We commit ourselves to keeping the CCK congregation informed on plans we make to pursue this vision on all fronts so that it continues to be a shared pursuit.