

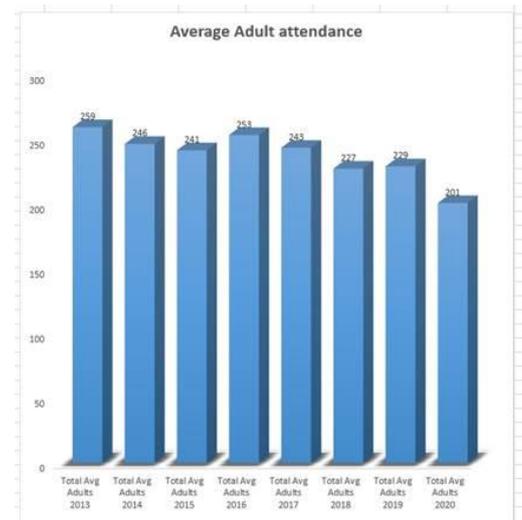
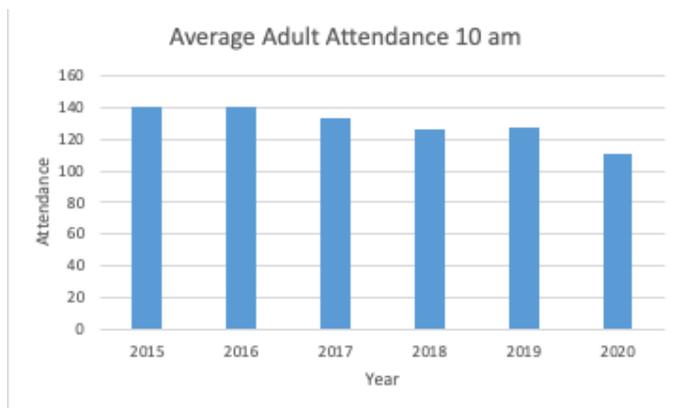
Future Mission Facilities at East Taieri Church – Frequently Asked Questions

February 2021

1. Do we need a larger auditorium? Is our congregation growing?

Our 10am congregation is not currently growing and Covid-19 has led to less people at worship (although overall giving is up slightly due to automatic payments). This suggests we could delay building a larger auditorium.

However there are times like Christmas Eve, Ministry Conference, and large funerals we could use extra capacity.



2. What development is needed for our worship space?

The current (2019) concept plan shows redevelopment of the historic church to make a more flexible space with a larger welcoming foyer and better overflow capacity by removing pews, flattening the floor, turning the interior orientation around 180 degrees and opening a new entrance way through the existing vestry. This would facilitate more creative worship services now, as well as other uses of that space, even if a new auditorium is not built for some years. It would also allow strengthening and maintenance issues in the church to be addressed.

3. What is the earthquake strengthening situation for the historic church?

The Initial Evaluation Procedure (IEP) for the seismic strength of the church carried out in 2013 classified the church as 'Earthquake Prone' (less than 33% of New Building Standard, NBS). Consequently \$1,000,000 was allowed in the initial concept plan cost estimate for strengthening work.

However, as the project progressed, we commissioned a Detailed Seismic Assessment (DSA) in 2020 which concluded that the church was not in fact earthquake prone and would perform at 80% of NBS. This means expensive strengthening work is not required.

We are currently employing a heritage architect to conduct a condition assessment of the church to give us further confidence in the strength of the building and to identify issues to be addressed during redevelopment.

4. What other facilities need to be improved?

We value hospitality and want to attract community people to our facilities so we aim to expand and upgrade the existing toilets and kitchen. In order to make the best use of the spaces we have we aim to create more storage. (For example, a place for the chairs and tables in Oak, and for items currently stored in the vestry – since it would become the new entrance to the church).

Providing alternative accessways to some existing offices and to kitchen and toilets would prevent meetings in Oak and Fellowship being disturbed by people walking through.

5. Should we keep our newest buildings: Oak Lounge and Fellowship Centre?

The 2019 concept plan shows these spaces being largely demolished as the most cost-effective way of achieving the overall project.

The mission facilities group is asking our architects to produce a more modest first stage which largely retains these buildings for the medium term. The challenge will be finding a way to achieve this and expand and upgrade the toilets and kitchen, without compromising the overall vision for the future.

6. Do we need to sell church assets like the East Taieri Manse and unused land to fund a more modest first stage?

We will know more when we have a cost estimate, but some asset sales will probably still be needed along with seeking grants, gifts and other fundraising.

The concept plan has enabled us to identify what land is not needed for facilities or carparking.

7. What is happening about the idea of the church building some affordable housing as a contribution to solving the housing crisis?

Some possible options have been identified and will soon be reported to elders. If elders believe God could be leading us to address this, more work will be done to quantify a project which could be presented to the church members for consideration.

8. When will we be able to get started?

The architects plan 3 months for their rescoping work on the concept plan. Approvals through elders, congregation, Presbytery and Synod will take some months also. Then quotes or tenders would be sought. It might be possible to be signing a contract this year (2021).

9. How can I help?

Please pray. Fill out the survey on our website to make your views known. Let the office know if you would like to join one of the new teams as they are needed: Building Team, Asset Sales Team, Funding Team, Affordable Housing Team. If you want to give money to the project, you can do so into the church bank account 02-0938-0018236-000 with the reference "Building Fund."