



Greetings to the East Taieri Church family,

3rd December 2016

Exciting Times Ahead!

Over a period of more than ten years various groups have met to consider God's will and gather input from a wide range of people on our future dreams for our Church site at East Taieri.

The Elders believe the time has come for the next step.

For nearly twelve months a team of people (Elaine Scurr, Martin Macaulay, Leeanne McKinlay, Peter Bylsma, Rob Crosbie, Sarah McDonald and Simon Dalton), the Mission Facilities Work Group (MFWG), have been considering in greater depth how our buildings fit best with our on-going mission and vision. This group has dreamt, pondered, researched, prayed and discussed the facilities needed for God's mission to be fruitful among our Church family and the wider community. We have also addressed issues that confront us such as the historic value of our Church building (it is a Category 2 listed building with Heritage NZ), and it being earthquake prone.

What have the MFWG discerned about God's plan for us? Guided by our church mission and vision, they identified several priorities for developing our East Taieri Site:

- A space that better allows for more flexible, vibrant, creative worship.
- Facilities that serve our mission to all ages, especially the needs of children and families.
- Spaces that are welcoming, hospitable and attractive to people and our community.
- Providing good spaces for the many mid-week activities of our church.
- A focus on growing our church, and being able to cater well for large events.

The Work Group now needs expert help. They have drawn up a brief for an architect to bring together a Concept Plan of what could be achieved if we were to undertake a staged project over a number of years. This does not mean a commitment to build. The Work Group envisages a Concept Plan would include:

| Stage 1 | Stage 2 | Stage 3 |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a larger gathering space to give more options for café style services, meals and EPIC (Sunday Evening Youth Discipleship), • increase size and efficiency of kitchen, • more toilets required to meet building code requirements, along with a baby change room. • more efficient office layout, • small and mid-sized rooms for counselling, children's ministry, break-out groups, small meetings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 seat auditorium that can have flexible use for worship services and large events eg Christmas Eve, funerals, weddings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the best future use for the existing Church building, along with potential seismic upgrade. |

The cost of a Concept Plan is hard to gauge until we have a specific price from an architect. We do realize the need to apply for grants from various avenues within PCANZ although a percentage of the cost will need to be funded through our own Church funds

It is important that we communicate to you that no decision has been made on the most appropriate way forward. We are still in the infancy of this project and will be reporting back to the congregation for feedback and input as we progress.

The Elders agree that this is the best way to proceed and commend this initiative to you. Together we can continue the tradition of bravely beginning a journey as the first settlers did when our congregation was founded in 1853. If you (an individual or group) have comments or questions please put them in writing via post or email to: Elaine Scurr, Convenor of Mission Facilities Work Group, at e.v.scurr@gmail.com or postal address 100 Allanton Road, 1 RD, Outram, 9073, or leave at the office addressed to Elaine. The Work Group will then consider your questions and reply in writing. Closing date for your comments and questions is 15th February 2017.

*We will be a thriving church, responding to God's grace and passionately living out our faith,
wherever we live, work and play.
Together we will work alongside others to develop thriving communities
where people feel connected, known, loved and valued.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Dean". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Michelle Dean
Session Clerk