



# SAINTS A & A A New Church Emerging



Northcote

Aotearoa New Zealand

Birkenhead

Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Advice of Congregational meetings:

This is to advise all Members and Associate Members of;

- Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church Birkenhead (Presbyterian Church of Saint Andrew) and
- Saint Aidans Presbyterian Church Northcote (Community of Saint Aidans)

of the following Congregational meetings.

- First Congregational meeting will be - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March @ 9:30 am in the premises of Saint Aidans Presbyterian Church Northcote.

*The agenda is as follows:*

- Future Church Worship Location and Facilities
- Consolidated Guiding Principles – Governance
- General business
- Second Congregational meeting will be – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March @ 7:00 pm in the premises of Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church Birkenhead.

*The agenda is as follows:*

- Vision, mission, values and name
- General business

The **discussion papers** will be emailed and made available to everyone by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 as approved by the Church Councils.

## The Church Councils agree that:

- both congregations will join for discussions and any proposals put to the meeting.
- The process for voting on any proposals will be by ballot.
- The ballot papers will be marked according to the congregational membership.
  - If there are any objections to this process, could you please make these in writing to Nan Inkson and Rosemary Bold, by 12 midday Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March.
  - If there is any general business for the agenda please send details in writing to Nan Inkson and Rosemary Bold, by 12 midday Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**PLEASE NOTE** – these are two individual meetings with two different agendas

Yours Sincerely

Nan Inkson  
Secretary Saint Aidans  
inksons@kiwilink.co.nz

Rosemary Bold  
Secretary Saint Andrews  
rosemary.bold@gmail.com

# Future Church Worship Location and Facilities

21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 Congregational Meeting

## Background:

1. You might wonder why the Genesis Group is looking at property matters at this stage of the amalgamation process. The early Consultation meetings asked this question and got mixed results, but the Circles of Trust process identified strong support for 'sort out the buildings'. Past experience has demonstrated that amalgamation can be derailed by the property issue even after the final vote, if there is no agreement in principle as to how the new church will proceed. Also, St Andrews has witnessed firsthand what happened between St Philips and the Beach Haven Methodists – they worshipped and worked together for some 10 years until they were jointly unable to afford to maintain two churches. At this point it was evident that only one church property could be supported but the two churches could not agree whose was to be kept – and so the union fell apart.
2. ***Property should be seen first and foremost as resource to be used to achieve the vision and mission of the new church, not as a place to be used once or twice per week for worship.*** We are not the only congregations facing these challenges, many of the established Christian churches in the western world have this same problem. In the USA churches are banding together and often keeping their buildings but repurposing them. What they do depends on location, what is needed in that community, etc.
3. It is strongly suggested that any redevelopment should seek to make the church and its mission self-sustaining, so that congregation size and the amount of offerings become less of a priority. This is entirely consistent with the world around us.
4. Discussions with John Duthie, ex Auckland Council Planner, have confirmed that it is easier to work with the land we have rather than find a new site large enough and suitably located to meet our needs [Please refer to 'Background on existing properties' for details] The St Aidans site holds development potential that other sites are unlikely to offer. The alternative local sites that would be large enough for our use are mostly old warehouses and these are usually located within industrial areas. Such a location is unlikely to meet our criterion. However, do you think the St Aidans site is suitably located to support our new church vision and mission?
5. Comments about our current worship arrangements raise some questions and potentially introduce some opportunities for us. Some find the monthly circuit of worship movements confusing, certainly it is harder for spontaneous drop-in worshippers to know where we are on a Sunday. Consistency of technology and organisation of human resources may also be harder across two sites. Perhaps the St Aidans congregation has/is getting used to parking at St Andrews? It is also a fact that some income opportunities are being lost through continuing to use both churches for worship only two Sundays per month. Are we ready to decide to always worship at one location? thereby enabling us to focus on maximising our income. We can continue to use the other church for special events and mission, as appropriate.  
Would St Andrews be the best choice for worship if St Aidans might be redeveloped. What are the issues around this? – parking? musical instruments? technology? process?
6. Discussion with the Methodists is ongoing and there may be possibilities for a larger combined church. Ministry can be combined but assets cannot be formally combined without the approval of both churches' governing bodies.  
How far down this path do we go before making a decision about our future?
7. The Genesis Property Sub-group has looked at a number of property pathways to the future. One of these options presents itself as the best fit/most logical and staged progression into the future. This is explained below.

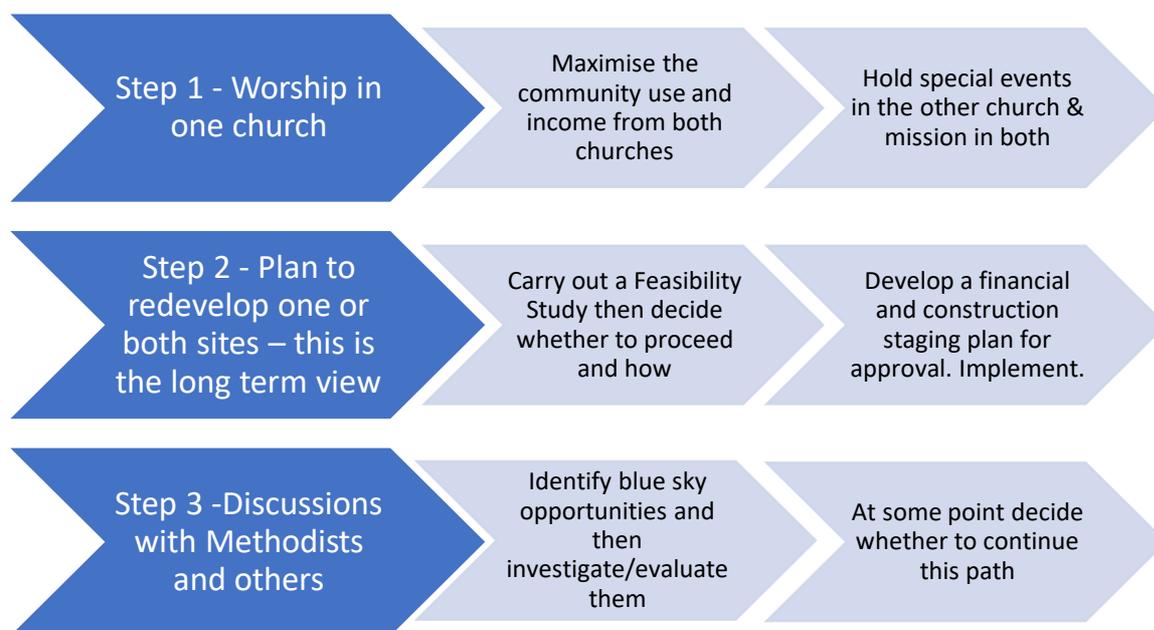
### The Proposition:

That the congregations approve proceeding with Step 1 and Step 2 and Step 3.

**Step 1.** Agree to move all worship to one church and pursue a strategy to maximise the income from both properties, acting in a way that is consistent with the new church's Vision and Mission. The considered view is that the church for worship be St Andrews on the basis that the development site is St Aidans, St Andrews is a larger building, and it has a near compliant earthquake rating. At what stage should we proceed with these changes?

**Step 2.** Carry out a feasibility study into the redevelopment of one site with the intent of developing that site into a multi-use complex that contains a worship centre, community spaces, commercial spaces and residential units.

**Step 3.** Continue discussions with the Methodists to see what opportunities this may open up.



### Background on the existing properties:

- I. St Andrews: The church land is 711 sqm zoned for a single residence [note that Hinemoa St appears to be, becoming more of a commercial strip] Not a good site for redevelopment. Currently the site is over developed compared with current Council zoning rules, but this is very much to our advantage for current usage. The building can stay this way as long as the external walls are not changed. Internal redevelopment including going up appears to be possible. The seismic assessment found the overall building to be somewhere between 33% and 67% NBS [National Building Standard], probably more towards the upper limit as significant repair and strengthening work has been completed since the assessment. The Manse is a 4 bedroom plus study residence located at 155a Hinemoa St.
- II. St Aidans: Land area of 2139 sqm zoned for residential development of unlimited density up to 3 stories high. A Council paper recommends the church building be declared a Category B Heritage building. The old puriri tree on the front of the site is a registered tree – given its' appearance it may be near the end of its' life. A seismic assessment put the auditorium at 20 to 30% of NBS with the newer extensions at the rear of the church at 100% of NBS.
  - a. The Child Care business on the corner of the St Aidans site was originally the Manse [corner of Onewa Rd and Woodside Ave]. If acquired or a deal was done this would add approx. 900 sqm to the St Aidans site. The current owner [who operates the Child Care Centre] is thinking to retire in 1 to 1.5 years and so would most likely sell. There is a window of opportunity here.
  - b. If the land area of Iona Close was part of the considerations this would add a further approx. 2,700 sqm to the St Aidans site. It is likely that even raising this will be controversial, but to truly consider all opportunities, this land cannot be ignored. Any planning would need to factor in ongoing provision of a place of residence for all those currently living in Iona Close.
  - c. The total St Aidans site [Church plus ex manse site plus Iona Close totals some 5,700 sqm] would be large enough to accommodate a worship centre, community spaces, childcare, commercial spaces and a significant number of apartments.

**[New Church Entity]**  
*21st March 2021 Congregational Meeting*

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

## Consolidated Guiding Principles

### 1 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 The following Consolidated Guiding Principles are based on some of the Procedures for Co-operative Ventures<sup>i</sup> of the Uniting Churches of Aotearoa New Zealand, which enable the congregation to order certain aspects of its life and governance according to those procedures<sup>ii</sup>. In all other respects of the congregation's life and governance, the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand applies. The text is authoritative only to the extent that it is consistent with the Book of Order provisions<sup>iii</sup> and its Supplementary Provisions<sup>iv</sup>. In the event of any inconsistency, the Book of Order or Supplementary Provisions prevails.
- 1.2 [New Church Entity], ordering certain local aspects of its parish life and governance according to some of the Procedures for Co-operative Ventures of the Uniting Churches of Aotearoa New Zealand under Regulation 7.4 (3) of the Book of Order, remains a Charge of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

### 2 MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 Members of [New Church Entity] and Associate Members of [New Church Entity] have two forms of membership.
- 2.2 Members: Any person who chooses to be committed to being active in the worship and vision and life of [New Church Entity] may be received as a Member [New Church Entity] by the Church Council. This membership may be affirmed and recognised by the Church Council on
  - 2.2.1 Communicant membership of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, or the equivalent in another denomination, at the time of this Consolidated Guiding Principle coming into effect
  - 2.2.2 A public commitment such as adult baptism, confirmation or adult profession of faith.
  - 2.2.3 Production of a letter from another congregation certifying membership or
  - 2.2.4 The Church Council, in particular circumstances being satisfied that a person might be considered eligible.
- 2.3 Members can make nominations to or be nominated for and elected to the Church Council and vote in a minister's calling.
- 2.4 A Member of [New Church Entity] may exercise the rights of, and for statistical purposes will be recorded as, a communicant member of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.
- 2.5 The Church Council may receive Associate Members: Any person who wishes to be linked with the vision and the life of [New Church Entity] and who applies to do so as an Associate Member of the [New Church Entity],
- 2.6 Associate Members can participate in the congregation meetings and vote separately in the election of elders or calling of a Minister. They are eligible to make nominations to or be nominated for election to the Church Council, but Members must make up at least 60% and Associate Members no more than 40% of the Church Council<sup>v</sup>
- 2.7 Rolls: The Church Council maintains the Roll of Members and the Roll of Associate Members of [New Church Entity], updating these rolls annually. For practical purposes, the Church Council may maintain a single pastoral Roll recording the names of Members, Associate Members, and any other persons under the pastoral care. Denominational affiliation may be noted if desired by members concerned.
- 2.8 All Members and Associate Members recognise and accept the Church Council's authority and the other courts of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

### 3 MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

- 3.1 Annual Meeting: An Annual Meeting of the congregation is held to review the congregation's full life and elect the Church Council. The Church Council presents reports on all aspects of the congregation's life and work, and the meeting deals with any matters referred to it by the council, committees, members, or by Presbytery or General Assembly. The meeting may make recommendations to the Church Council.
- 3.2 Other meetings: By giving reasonable notice (not less than two clear Sundays), the Church Council may call additional meetings of the congregation ["Congregational Meeting"], and the Church Council may refer to such meetings any matters that are within the responsibility of the Church Council. These meetings will be for the purpose advertised. Such meetings may be called on the Church Council's initiative or at the Presbytery or General Assembly's written request or at least five members of the congregation.
- 3.3 Chair: Normally, the Church Council Convenor/Moderator takes the chair at Annual Meetings and Congregational Meetings.
- 3.4 Voting: Members and Associate Members are eligible to vote on all matters in Congregational Meetings. Members and Associate Members vote separately in the election of elders and the calling of a Minister (see 2.3 and 2.6)

### 4 CHURCH COUNCIL AND COUNCILLORS

- 4.1 The Church Council, with the Minister (s) and any lay workers appointed by the Church Council, has responsibility for all aspects of the congregation's life.
- 4.2 Description: Members of the Church Council are known as Church Councillors.
- 4.3 Qualities: Members of the congregation elected as Church Councillors possess gifts and qualities which make them suitable for their work; are faithful in their attendance at public worship, and known in the congregation for their Christian faith and love, their reliability and competence, their discernment and good judgement.
- 4.4 Accountability: Councillors undertake to uphold the "Code of Ethics for Pastoral Care" (attached) from the Procedures for Co-operative Ventures of the Uniting Churches of Aotearoa New Zealand (No. 10 adapted), to respect the doctrine and practice of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and to accept the authority of the Church Council, the Presbytery and the General Assembly.
- 4.5 Membership: The number of members on the Church Council may be revised from time to time as the Annual Meeting may decide. Typically there are 8-10 members of the Church Council who are elected for a three-year term. The Minister (s) and any other ministry staff members and the treasurer, if not an elected member, are ex officio members of the council.
- 4.6 Nominations: Members of [New Church Entity](see 2.2) and Associate Members may be nominated for election to the Church Council, provided Associate Members do not constitute more than 40% of Church Council<sup>vi</sup>.
- 4.7 Election: The election of the Church Council takes place at the Annual Meeting (see 2.3, 2.6, 3.1 and 3.4) using procedures formulated by the council.
- 4.8 Length of service: Church Council members retire at the end of their three-year term but may make themselves available for re-election for a second three-year term. After two consecutive terms (or six years) on the Church Council, there is a stand-down year before any person can be nominated and elected for further service<sup>vii</sup>.
- 4.9 Commissioning: Those elected to serve on the Church Council would be commissioned as elders. Members who become elders at the time of election to the Church Council and choose not to stand for the council again or are not re-elected continue to be recognised as elders within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. Their service of eldership may continue to be exercised through appropriate pastoral and liturgical roles. As elders, they will come under the Church Council's authority and the other courts of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.
- 4.10 Meetings: The Church Council meets typically at least every two months, and having given reasonable notice, at other times as required.
- 4.11 Quorum: A quorum for the Church Council meetings is one quarter plus one elected member, of which three Church Councillors must be elders. For example, a quorum for a Church Council of twelve people will be five people, and three must be full Members.

- 4.12 Voting: All elected and ex officio members (see 4.5) of the Church Council may exercise a vote at Church Council meetings. The Convenor has a deliberative and a casting vote.

#### 4.13 Functions:

- 4.13.1 The members of the Church Council share the responsibility collectively.
- 4.13.2 Oversight of the congregation's well being
- 4.13.3 Guardianship and development of the congregation's ethos
- 4.13.4 Leading the mission and strategies of the congregation
- 4.13.5 Oversight of the worship of the congregation
- 4.13.6 Engaging with theological, church, and social issues
- 4.13.7 Stewardship of the congregation's property and finance
- 4.13.8 Relationships with the wider Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and other bodies
- 4.13.9 It is ensuring compliance with the New Zealand Charities' regulations.
- 4.13.10 Ensuring compliance with relevant New Zealand legislation including, but not limited to, employment, health and safety and privacy legislation.
- 4.13.11 They are ensuring compliance with the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand Book of Order.

#### 4.14 Administration

- 4.14.1 Overseeing effective pastoral care of all persons for whom the congregation is responsible
- 4.14.2 Keeping rolls (see 2.7) and receiving at least annually a report on their revision
- 4.14.3 Seeing that all minutes and records required by the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand are kept, secured and produced when required
- 4.14.4 Arranging for elders to attend Presbytery and General Assembly
- 4.14.5 Arranging the procedure for the nomination and election of members to the Church Council
- 4.14.6 Reporting to the congregation at least annually
- 4.14.7 Ensuring the safe keeping of all archival material

#### 4.15 Officers

The officers of the Church Council<sup>viii</sup> are:

- 4.15.1 Moderator. Usually, the Minister will chair Church Council and Congregational meetings.
- 4.15.2 The Church Council Secretary: Takes the minutes of Church Council meetings and Congregational Meetings, record statistics, and maintains records of the Church Council.
- 4.15.3 The Treasurer. The council appoints a treasurer, who would become an ex officio member of the council.
- 4.15.4 The Presbytery Elder and an Elder to attend General Assembly. The Church Council typically chooses these elders from the members of the Church Council.

## 5 COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

- 5.1 The Church Council may appoint committees, teams, or task groups, including a team that may exercise executive functions.
- 5.2 The Church Council works typically through the teams, committees or task groups appointed by the Church Council. The Church Council and the congregation at a Congregational Meeting may, from time to time, determine the most appropriate and effective form of working through teams and committees.
- 5.3 The Church Council draws up the terms of reference for the teams and may, from time to time, review and amend such terms of reference.

## 6 PASTORAL CARE

- 6.1 All members of Church Council and all other active elders are responsible, under the oversight of Church Council, for the congregation's pastoral care.
- 6.2 The Church Council determines from time to time how Elders will exercise pastoral care.
- 6.3 Pastoral oversight and care include the nomination by the Minister of candidates for baptism and confirmation and the annual revision of rolls as under 2.7.

## 7 AMENDMENTS

Clauses 1 to 8 of the Consolidated Guiding Principles may be amended by a simple majority of members voting at a properly constituted Congregational Meeting or Annual Meeting. The Church Council may amend the appendices at any time.

## 8 OVERSIGHT

The Northern Presbytery resolves questions involving the interpretation or application of these Consolidated Guiding Principles, where resolution cannot be reached within the congregation. An appeal may be made to the General Assembly.

## 9 APPENDICES

Appendices 1 to 4 record information pertaining to aspects of the organisation and administration of [New Church Entity]

### **APPENDIX 1 – [New Church Entity] Code of Ethics UCANZ Code of Ethics (adapted)**

*With God's help,*

1. I will keep spiritually and emotionally healthy by following a regular spiritual growth discipline and good personal recreation and self-care.
2. I will act with integrity, deal openly and honestly with those under pastoral care, maintain a safe environment, and uphold their best interests, rights, and well-being, rather than my own.
3. I will respect the privacy of individuals and the confidentiality of information. The only exception is where there is clear and imminent danger to the person or others, at which time they will be informed of those limits.
4. I will affirm the dignity and worth of each person. I will ensure pastoral care is available for them without discrimination because of their age, gender, race, sexual orientation, religious belief, economic status or physical or mental abilities.
5. I will acknowledge that people come from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds and therefore act with awareness, sensitivity and responsibility.
6. I will recognise that it is my responsibility to maintain personal and professional boundaries in pastoral relationships.
7. I will not abuse my position's relative power by taking advantage of people for personal, financial or institutional or spiritual gain.
8. I will not subject anyone to sexual exploitation, harassment or abuse, and recognise that any sexual intimacy in the pastoral situation is unacceptable.
9. I will recognise that there are limits to my competence and refer people to others better qualified when necessary or desirable. I will not attempt clinical counselling without appropriate training.
10. Ordained Ministers: I will use regular professional supervision, where appropriate, or similar processes ensure accountability, good time management, fair theological reflection and a high standard of pastoral care.  
Volunteers: I will attend, whenever possible, training provided or recommended by the church to ensure accountability, appropriate theological reflection and a high standard of pastoral care.

### **APPENDIX 2 - Executive Team**

The Minister, Church Council Secretary, Treasurer and Facilities Management Group Convenor form an executive who may make decisions implementing the Church Council's policies in response to any matters of urgency that arise in between meetings of the Church Council. The Church Council would ratify these decisions at their next meeting.

### APPENDIX 3 - Employees

The non-ministry employees of [New Church Entity] are accountable to the Church Council. Management and supervision of employees is the responsibility of the Minister (s), but day to day oversight may be delegated.

### APPENDIX 4 - Honorary Associate Ministers

- The congregation may appoint Honorary Associate Ministers. These are Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the PCANZ, or partner churches, who are Members or Associate Members of [New Church Entity] who have been invited by Church Council and whose appointment as an Honorary Associate has been affirmed by the congregation. This title recognises the role of Ministers who serve in ways other than parish ministry and the particular contribution to the congregation.
- Their ways of serving are open and flexible, being at the Minister's request and the Honorary Associate's agreement.
- No remuneration is typically received.
- Honorary Associate Ministers are eligible for election to the Church Council in the same way as any [New Church entity] member.

---

<sup>i</sup> Procedures for Co-operative Ventures <https://www.ucanz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/PROCEDURES-2018.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> The reference to Co-operative Ventures is for various reasons. 1. General Assembly approved to allow a Presbyterian congregation with the approval of Presbytery to work under the Guide to procedures for CV's. This means a Church Council can appoint members of the Negotiating Churches but did not want to become Presbyterian yet be accounted as elders without requiring them to change their denomination. The Book of Order (BOO) now been revised to include the provision of ordering the Church Council with Presbytery's approval BOO 7.4(3). However, having the CV provision written into the Consolidated Guiding Principles gives intention in this instance to our Methodist neighbours of working collaboratively.

<sup>iii</sup> The Book of Order [2018 Book of Order](#) does not seek to replicate legislation and other legal requirements of Aotearoa New Zealand. The Book of Order aims to set out the Presbyterian rules and how we operate as a church. It should be consistent with the law of Aotearoa New Zealand.

<sup>iv</sup> Other publications, [Church Management Support](#) guide that contains guidance on health and safety. Other guides, such as the Child Protection Policy and Code of Ethics, are available here on the PCANZ Website.

<sup>v</sup> Book of Order 7.1.1 (1)

<sup>vi</sup> *ibid* 7.1.1 (1)

<sup>vii</sup> At the end of the first three years of the New Entity's operation, one-third of the Church Council will stand down. After that, a regular rotation, as stated, continues.

<sup>viii</sup> Officers of the Church [Charities Officer Resource](#) kit contains guidance for charities officers

# Vision, mission, values, name

## 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Congregational Meeting

### Our origins

Our new church arises from a positive and forward-looking decision by the Community of St Aidans founded 1888 and St Andrews Presbyterian Church founded 1914 to create a new and innovative church that the community knows is open and active.

### Vision

**We aspire to be an active and innovative Christian community that provides leadership and builds partnerships in our fast-changing world.**

### Mission

**We will:**

- **be innovative in our approach to life and worship**
- **demonstrate our willingness to share life experiences and spiritual awareness**
- **seek out opportunities to promote inclusiveness, interfaith awareness and collaboration, especially through partnerships with local community organisations**
- **be visible in the community as we live our values**

### Values

<b>Community</b>	We focus on people, personal connection and treating everyone with respect in practical ways ('manaakitanga').
<b>Diversity and inclusion</b>	We want to reflect and support the community around us through diversity and inclusion
<b>Open mind / open heart</b>	We make space for personal and spiritual growth. We promote real and meaningful connection with others.
<b>A living faith</b>	Active faith begins at the point where certainty ends. A living faith involves faith in oneself, faith in others, faith in the future and faith in God.

## Name

A couple of suggestions:

<b>Onewa Presbyterian Church</b>		
<b>Like (flowers)</b>	<b>Watch outs (petals)</b>	<b>Missing (thorns)</b>
Local name	Have to ensure we tell the story of what is meant by 'Onewa'; might suggest the road	Community dimension
Clear what it is		Is it exciting enough?
Familiar word 'church'	What's new?	Will it appeal to diverse people?
Familiar word 'Presbyterian'	Might sound 'for Presbyterians only'	
Short		
Could connect with Māori identity of place		

<b>Onewa Christian Community</b>		
<b>Like (flowers)</b>	<b>Watch outs (petals)</b>	<b>Missing (thorns)</b>
Local name		
Spiritual values in nature	Have to ensure we tell the story of what it is – 'more than a community' / 'not just a Christian'	
'Community' suggests open, gathering, the heart	Does 'community' suggest something else?	'church' / 'Presbyterian'
This is clear about our tradition	Might sound exclusive	
Open to new integrations and partnerships		

<b>Uru Tapu Christian Community</b>		
<b>Like (flowers)</b>	<b>Watch outs (petals)</b>	<b>Missing (thorns)</b>

<b>Something else?</b>		
<b>Like (flowers)</b>	<b>Watch outs (petals)</b>	<b>Missing (thorns)</b>