

Church of St Andrew



Tuesday, 15th June 2021

Information Memorandum: for the congregational meetings of St Andrews and St Aidans 20th June 2021

THE PROPOSAL:

Merging of St Aidans Church Northcote with Church of St Andrew Birkenhead to form Onewa Christian Community (OCC), a church of the Presbyterian Church Aotearoa New Zealand

St Andrews Presbyterian Church was birthed from St Aidans more than ten decades ago. Since then, both parishes have served their communities faithfully. However in November 2019, an appointed workgroup progressed the consideration of joining these two parishes. Recommendations led to congregational meetings being held in December 2019 to decide whether or not to proceed further.

Congregational meetings on 19th July 2020 agreed that: *"The merger of St Andrews and St Aidans is approved in principle."*

The Congregational meeting on 20th June 2021 will put the following resolution to Saint Andrews congregation.

THAT:

- The congregation of St Andrews recommends to the Church Council the dissolution of the St Andrews Parish Birkenhead to form **Onewa Christian Community** with St Aidans Northcote. These churches are members of the PCANZ.

A similar resolution will be made to Saint Aidans congregation.

Once these resolutions have the approval of greater than 67% of the membership present, the respective Church Councils will apply to the Northern Presbytery to dissolve the Parishes to form **Onewa Christian Community**.

A commission of Presbytery will be present on 20th June 2021 to discuss the consequences of dissolution and provide congregational members with an opportunity to express their concerns and hopes should a decision to be dissolved be finalised. To conclude this meeting, a vote to make a final congregational decision to dissolve will be put. Such a decision must gain the approval of at least two-thirds of the members of the congregation present.

The New Emerging Church, Onewa Christian Community (OCC).

Mission Vision

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

Values

We will:

- be innovative in our approach to life and worship
- demonstrate our willingness to share life experiences and spiritual awareness, promoting the teaching and practice of Jesus
- 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

Naming – Onewa Christian Community

Future Church Worship Location and Facilities: The OCC Church Council will appoint this workgroup to see that a feasibility study regarding the future utilisation of all properties and resources in the best possible way to realise the Mission and Vision of OCC into the future.

Onewa Christian Community brings together.

1. The history, theology and characteristics of two unique but similar congregations
2. A shared Values statement as outlined above
3. The gifts, skills, knowledge and experience of all church members and connections with the broader community.

Matters of Membership

1. Membership of OCC will consist of the current members and associates of the two merged congregations.

Matters of Governance

1. Initially, the Church Councils of St Aidans and St Andrews will ask for nominations from their respective congregations to form a new Church Council for OCC. Church Councils will consult with each other to discern the people nominated to create the new Church Council. A combined recommendation will be brought to a congregational meeting.
2. In all respects of the congregation's life and governance, the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand applies. The Consolidated Guiding Principles is authoritative only to the extent that it is consistent with the Book of Order provisionsⁱ and its Supplementary Provisionsⁱⁱ. In the event of any inconsistency, the Book of Order or Supplementary Provisions prevails.
3. OCC, in ordering certain local aspects of its parish life and governance according to Regulation 7.4 (3) of the Book of Order, remains a Charge of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand (PCANZ).

Matters of finance

1. The property, finances, and resources held or invested by St. Aidans Presbyterian Church, Northcote and the Church of St Andrew, Birkenhead, will merge into the property, finances, and resources of the new entity held in trust through the officers of OCC and PCANZ.
2. Church Council will present a budget to the congregation for the year beginning 1st July 2021 at the first available opportunity (the Resource and Risk Committee are currently working on a budget)

Matters of Ministry

1. The MSB has met once, and further meetings scheduled to bring recommendations to OCC Church Council regarding the structure, role and responsibilities of a Ministry Team leading into the future.
2. In the meantime, all current and intended forms of ministry will continue through:
 - A. Rev. Colin Gordon agreeing to continue as Minister of Word and Sacrament, including the role of encouraging momentum with Community Engagements, until a new appointment has been made or another mutually agreed time is reached.
 - B. Pastoral Committees
 - C. Resource and Risk Committee
 - D. Worship
 1. Minister
 2. Music director – Rev. Robyn Allen-Goudge
 3. Musicians
 4. Singers
 5. Sunday School – resourced by a dynamic and growing team
 6. Come to quiet contemplative prayer group
 7. The new initiative - Soul Fuel
 - E. Community Engagements
 1. Mainly Music
 2. Floral Affair
 3. Mother's Day Concert
 4. The new initiative – Matariki Craft Day
 5. The new initiative – With those differently-abled

Any further questions or queries please direct them to Rosemary Bold, Secretary St Andrews Church Council

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ⁱ 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.

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