

# Mark the Evangelist

## Futures Workshop, Outcome Summary and Next Steps

### The Workshop

- The “Treasures-Horizons-Homing” and “Workshop Three Scenarios” papers were in effect affirmed by the congregation as appropriate and well-targeted expressions of MtE thinking as we progress along the journey of our relocation.
- Participants took the opportunity to express their point of view about one or another aspect of a scenario, and some new insights emerged. The ‘Curious Questions’ identified areas to be given special consideration as scenarios are developed into practical opportunities.
- While the purpose of the Workshop was not to choose a particular scenario, the participants favoured almost equally the ‘sharing’ and ‘leasing’ scenarios as against that for ‘merging’.
- We need to test the assumptions which might affect those preferences and weigh those assumptions against each other in view of the resources, freedoms, and responsibilities the congregation has.

### Characteristics

To choose a future home, we need a set of characteristics against which to test each option. We need to start with the characteristics (treasures) identified in our “Treasures, Horizons Homing” paper. Those characteristics have been refined by taking into account those highlighted in the Workshop group discussions plus additional insights that were added on the day. Following is a list of characteristics resulting from this process. It is a broad expression of the major needs and wants of the congregation for their future home. These are not listed in order of importance.

1. As a congregation we value:
  - Community: Maintaining and growing the present fellowship and engagement
  - Worship: A weekly Sunday Eucharist, co-central with preaching, in the principal service
  - Worship: An ecumenically rich liturgy incorporating the best of church hymnody and music
  - Ordained Ministry
  - Opportunities to grow in faith and understanding (study groups, etc.)
  - Use of our financial and human resources principally for mission and for ministry resources to the wider church
  - Architecture – space appropriate to the needs and style of worship and other activities
  - Location – central, accessible and strategic in terms of future church/mission needs
2. In seeking to maintain Hotham Mission, we value:
  - The Mission as an expression of the faith of a worshipping community
  - The congregation and the location of the Mission’s work being geographically close to each other, and the co-location of the administrative centres of the Mission and the congregation
  - The work which the Mission does in the community
  - The ecumenical involvement in the Mission

Some of these characteristics might need to be teased out. For example, “ministry resources” could include such things as children’s/family ministry (perhaps regionally, ecumenically), student ministry (MelbUni, chaplaincy), online ministry (worship, study groups) or other forms of evangelism. Some of these characteristics have broader implications. For example, “using our financial and human resources principally for mission . . .” implies an option that does not lock us into high initial or ongoing cost of accommodation. It is also critical that we identify unacknowledged risks. For example, a risk in the “rent and renovate” option is the time and cost of realisation, and the possibility that the congregation cannot sustain itself long-term in terms of membership, even if it still could do so financially.

We may choose to add characteristics, for example, the potential for numerical congregational growth or our ability to make unilateral decisions about our worship and activities, and other possibilities raised at the 13 February workshop and elsewhere.

## **Next Steps**

Looking over the characteristics and asking, “How might we achieve this?”, may suggest accommodation options not previously considered. Equally this might allow us to easily eliminate some current options. To evaluate the options that remain, we need to indicate the *relative* importance of the various possibilities and so indicate why we think it better to prioritise some over others.

Church Council have endorsed the broad outline of this process and affirms the above set of characteristics. The FPC will propose priorities, considering the long list of options previously developed, adding new ones, and eliminating options that are clearly not viable or which exclude other more important possibilities. FPC will then do a kind of weighted analysis on the remainder to get a short list, which Church Council and FPC can then analyse in more detail.

**Finance and Property Committee,  
16 March 2022**