

Proposed GBC Renovation

Faithful Spaces. Future Impact.

Overview

The proposed capital works project seeks to make changes to the office and children's ministry spaces in line with an overall plan to renovate the rest of the original building in the near future. The plans and overall estimate of the cost will be released separately.

The general plan is:

1. To move all our staff offices upstairs, renovating the current upstairs office spaces to accommodate them.
2. To renovate the downstairs office space to house our creche and preschool ministries.

There will also be some minor renovative work to the current creche and preschool rooms to facilitate group use and the removal of the stairs to the old auditorium to expand the atrium.

It is Jesus who changes lives, not our buildings, but welcoming and inviting spaces facilitate ministry. We believe we are called to steward our facilities as best we can in order to see lives changed by Jesus. These renovations are one way to do that.

Rationale for the Project

The rationale for these works is five-fold:

1. It makes us a safer church.

Currently, our creche and preschool children and their leaders are upstairs and, in the case of creche, about as far from an emergency exit as they possibly can be.

Furthermore, the programs that take place in the youth room (the old mezzanine of the old auditorium) are largely out-of-sight (though closer to an exit than the creche or preschoolers). For the sake of our leaders and youth, a more "open" location for their activities would be preferable.

2. It demonstrates the value we place on Next Gen ministry.

Our current buildings and ministry spaces are not fit-for-purpose and are a little worn and shabby. While this project is only the first stage of renovating the original buildings, it is an important one. With new creche and preschool facilities (which could also be used for Playtime) we demonstrate the value these ministries have.

3. It creates more mid-size breakout spaces.

One of the implications of moving our office spaces upstairs and relocating the children's ministry downstairs is that we free up a couple of mid-size spaces: the current creche, the current preschool room, and the current youth room. Each is large enough to hold thirty people. We have few places to comfortably host that many people that isn't in the open (e.g., the foyer or the mezzanine) or much smaller or much larger. These mid-size spaces would also be more easily rented out.

4. It improves the “flow” of our building and ministry space.

From the perspective of our children’s ministry, having all of our ministry spaces all in the same area, rather than on two levels at opposite ends of the building, is a huge win. It will make it easier for parents to both check-in and check-out their children.

While moving the offices upstairs is not without its challenges, the very fact that we would have all staff in one location rather than two improves workflow and will have an impact on team dynamics as well.

5. It is within our current financial capacity.

After the sale of the Grays Point property we invested a significant amount into the ministry of Hopefield and a number of substantial capital projects in our Kirrawee site include the new roof and drainage. We still have over \$500,000 in that fund. This money can only be used for a few things, but capital works is one. The estimation for the project is approximately \$350,000 for all three areas, with some savings to be potentially had if all three go ahead (e.g., if we do all the demolition at once we will save a bit over doing it three times for three separate mini-projects). This means we would not have to do any fundraising to be able to complete the project.

Next Steps

Over the next several weeks we will be making the plans available and inviting congregational feedback. This will take the form of an online portal for questions and an in-person forum (with an on-line option as well).

This will be in preparation for an extraordinary member’s meeting to be held to approve the expenditure and delegate the project to the staff and church council.