

## **CHURCH COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE**

### **17<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Monday evening, 13<sup>th</sup> December, the Church Council engaged in a thorough and wide-ranging discussion regarding the Congregation growing together and worshipping together. The members of the Church Council prayerfully sought God's direction and respectfully participated in a robust conversation which led to an important agreement for the life and mission of the Ipswich Uniting Church.

It was discerned and determined "*That the Church Council recommends to locate the worshipping communities of the Ipswich Uniting Church Congregation to the Glebe Road site from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022, with the Church Council to review readiness at the beginning of May.*"

This will be a strategic step towards purchasing a new site, or redeveloping one of our existing sites, for the construction of a new purpose-built facility within the next 3 to 5 years.

This recommendation will be brought to a Congregational Meeting. If passed, it means that all four locations of worship will be closed at the end of June; and the new Congregation will be established on the Glebe Road site from the beginning of July.

We acknowledge this has been a long journey with conversations beginning approximately fifteen years ago. We also acknowledge that it was only six months ago that we determined to become one congregation.

While change is often difficult we recognise that many of us will be experiencing a profound sense of grief, loss, dislocation, and perhaps anger, in hearing of this recommendation. Let us be prayerful for one another at this time.

If you have any questions, or comments, please speak to one of the Ministers or members of the Church Council. This decision opens the way for prayerful and respectful dialogue across the life of our Church regarding our future together.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Barry Westphal  
Chairperson

Christine Howden  
Secretary

Peter Arnett  
Lead Minister