



 **CHRIST CENTRAL**

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024



# ▶ ARE YOU GETTING READY?



Do you remember the week of Cyclone Alfred? There we were, cleaning up our yards, bringing in our outdoor furniture, staying watchful—and then we waited and waited... but the full cyclone never really showed up! That experience reminds us of our recent study of Jesus' parables in Matthew 24-25. In these chapters, Jesus teaches us to be watchful and prepared for what might seem like a long delay. However, one thing is absolutely certain—Savior Jesus will return.

One of these parables tells of a master who goes on a long journey. Before departing, he gives different amounts of money to his servants (Matthew 25:14-30). You're probably familiar with the story, but I want to highlight some key points.

## IT'S ALL A GIFT!

In the parable, the master "entrusts his wealth to them" (v14). Did you notice whose wealth it is? His! This aligns with one of the key lessons in our current growth group series, The Generosity Project. Everything in this world—its beauty, its wonders—is God's gift to us. Our salvation in Jesus is God's gift to us. Our wealth (and yes, we're all wealthy in some way) is God's good gift to us! As we've learned in the series, God is the Giver, and we are the 'takers'. When we recognize that God's very nature is one of lavish love and generosity, we begin to understand the generous life He calls us to.

## WAITING WELL

The parable speaks of a "wicked, lazy servant" who wasted his time (v26), but it also describes those who "wait well" by making good use of all the blessings their master has given them (v21 & v23). Waiting well is

about much more than just money, so let's challenge and encourage one another at Christ Central in a few key areas:

- ▶ Are you 'waiting well' by setting aside time (which is really God's time) to read His Word and pray? It's easy to binge-watch shows, but just a little time in Scripture and prayer strengthens our relationship with Jesus and increases our anticipation for His return. Grab a Christ Central Bible reading plan from the Connect Desk and give it a try!
- ▶ Are you 'waiting well' by serving in our Christ Central ministry teams? Church can sometimes feel like a 'spiritual service station'—a place to fill up for our own needs. But if Jesus is returning, let's be active in serving alongside others! There are so many teams you perhaps don't even know about, including:

- Sunday Set-up Team
- Sunday Pack-away Team
- Sunday Vacuuming Team
- Petrie Mowing Team
- Committee of Management (see page 16)
- Event Caterers
- Growth Group Leaders and Hosts

## THE GENEROSITY PROJECT



LEARN, PRAY AND WORK TOGETHER  
TO BECOME THE BIG-HEARTED PEOPLE  
GOD CALLS US TO BE

And, of course, there are the teams you might notice more on a Sunday morning—Connect, Coffee, and Children's Ministry (and they're just teams beginning with the letter C!). We can easily waste the gifts God has given us, but the world's "look out for yourself" mindset is not what we are called to. If we truly know our loving and generous God, wouldn't we want to serve Him while we wait for His return? Are you currently serving in a team? If not, talk to Kirk Zylstra.

➤ Are you 'waiting well' by being generous with the money God has entrusted to you? Generosity isn't just about money, but it does include it. In the parable, each servant receives a different amount, meaning it's not about how much we have, but what we do with it. Giving financially to gospel ministry at Christ Central is vital, but there are also other areas where generosity can make an impact:

- **Ministry Training Strategy** – This year, our ministry trainees are Jeremy Buchanan and Natalie Zylstra. Your financial support helps equip them for a lifetime of gospel ministry (see page 10).
- **Rachel Kotterer** – Rachel serves with AFES (Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students) at UniSC Moreton Campus, Petrie. Your giving enables evangelism and discipleship among university students (see page 14).
- **Tim Zylstra** – Tim, Ruth, and their family previously lived on Tanna Island, Vanuatu, where Tim pastored a church and worked on translating the New Testament into the Lenakel language. Now under Wycliffe Bible Translators and based in Brisbane, he will continue Old Testament translation work, which requires financial support (see page 14).
- **Jared & Verena Bradley** – Serving in Germany with ECM (European Christian Mission), they seek to reach both Germans and the many Turkish-speaking Muslims who have migrated there. Your generous partnership allows them to continue this mission. They have little Noah and another baby on the way! (see page 15).
- **Compassion** – Christ Central has a special focus on sponsoring children in Indonesia. Compassion is Christ Centred, Child Focused and Church Based. Your generosity can make a big difference in a child's life. (see page 15).

## THE MASTER WILL RETURN

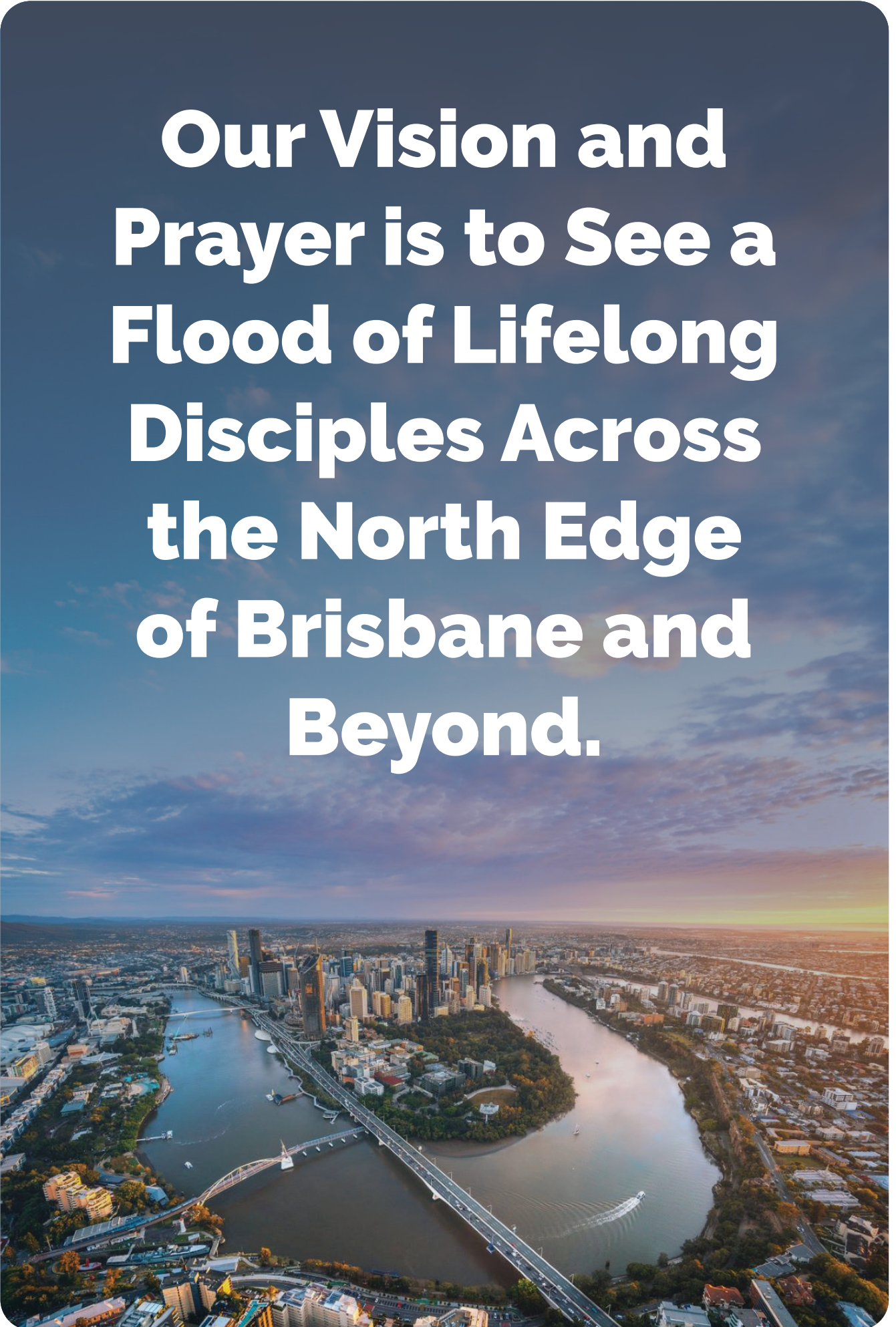
In Jesus' parable, the master is gone "for a long time" (v19), but eventually, he returns. To those who have 'waited well,' he says, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (v21 & 23). Their reward? "Come and share your master's happiness!"(v21 & 23).

As we wait for Jesus' return, our church prays for "a flood of lifelong disciples across the north edge of Brisbane and beyond." This isn't about people getting gold bricks and harp music in heaven—it's about bringing others into a relationship with the infinitely loving and generous God of the universe. How incredible it will be to share in His happiness forever!

Garnet Swann  
Lead Pastor



**Our Vision and  
Prayer is to See a  
Flood of Lifelong  
Disciples Across  
the North Edge  
of Brisbane and  
Beyond.**



## Purpose & Vision

How can we keep the news of salvation in Jesus Christ to ourselves?! Having experienced God's love, we want others to know Him too. So we pray, build relationships, invite friends and family to opportunities where they can hear the gospel, and, with love and boldness, we share the good news of Jesus.

## 2024 Program and Highlights

- ▶ **Hope Explored** – The three-week Hope Explored series remains our primary evangelistic program. Over the past year, 25 visitors attended at least one session. We also trialed a daytime Hope Explored series for retirees, and our recent January 2025 series was our largest ever, with five guests attending regularly.
- ▶ **Night of Carols** – Our Christmas Carols event is a generous gift to our community. It was encouraging to see many guests, reaffirming that Christmas remains a significant opportunity to share the message of Jesus. For the first time, we promoted the January Hope Explored series at Carols, which led to strong engagement.
- ▶ **Retirees Group** – This group exists for fellowship and community, but there is mission intent too. This group continues to develop as an avenue for sharing the good news of Jesus.

## Working as a Team

We have a fantastic Hope Explored team, committed to sharing God's grace with clarity and compassion. We can be confident that this team engages well with the friends and family who join us with their questions and doubts.

Last year, we also formed the new 'Beyond Missions' Team, consisting of Andrew and Noelene Mercer, along with Holly Castle (Compassion). Though small, this team had an encouraging start as we seek to support missionary work beyond Christ Central.

## Thankful for Last Year!

Last year, a couple of people came to faith in Jesus, and we rejoice in God's mercy and goodness! Our church's prayer is to 'see a flood of lifelong disciples across the north edge of Brisbane and beyond.' It's a bold prayer, but let's keep asking God to bring salvation to many, transform lives, and glorify His name!



# MAGNIFICATION

## Purpose & Vision

Our desire is to see people moved by the knowledge of God's grace in Jesus, filled with praise and thanks to our gracious God. Before the Christian life is about 'doing,' it is first and foremost about 'being'—understanding ourselves as sinners who have found forgiveness. We are now those who worship the One who has saved us. The entirety of the Christian life is about worship, and when we gather on Sundays, we experience the 'togetherness' of being in the Word, praying, and singing with gratitude in our hearts!

## 2024 Program and Highlights

- ▶ **Sundays Together** – Every Sunday is a highlight! Each Sunday, something of eternal significance takes place in the Eatons Hill School Hall. God's Word comes to us, and we also speak and sing to Him. As we gather, we rejoice together for all the blessings we have in Christ.
- ▶ **Word in Song** – A number of musicians participated in the 'Word In Song' conference to sharpen their skills and deepen their understanding of working as a team to encourage heart-felt congregational singing.
- ▶ **Youth Singing** – At the end of last year, we launched a modified Youth program, where, on certain Friday nights, they gathered to sing. This is part of our discipleship of teenagers, showing them that knowing Christ means loving and praising Him

## Working as a Team

Those who arrive the earliest on Sundays are often members of our Production Team. They open up the hall and set up all the gear and cables, preparing for the musicians. They also perform much of this work for Friday Night Youth. This incredible team of servants, along with our talented musicians, make it possible for us to sing to the Lord and encourage one another through song.

## Thankful for Last Year!

Last year, we introduced new songs like *'The Battle & the Blessing'* and *'His Glory & My Good'*. We are grateful for these songs, which give voice to the struggles and suffering we face as we look ahead to our eternal home in Christ. God deserves our praise—not because He gives us health and prosperity, but because He is our awesome Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer. He is worthy of our worship!

## Purpose & Vision

We want to see people deeply immersed in the Word. Disciples of Jesus are bible people —not just so that we can gain knowledge, but so that we might know and love our Savior, understand His calling on our lives, and live radically for Christ. At Christ Central, we are passionate about preaching, Bible study, personal Bible reading and mutual encouragement, because we can't get enough of the experience - the God of the universe personally speaks to us!

## 2024 Program and Highlights

- **Sunday Preaching and Growth Group Bible Study** - We focused on Matthew, Acts, and Leviticus. It was particularly in Leviticus that we received such encouraging feedback—what many once thought of as a book filled only with sacrifices and priests, in fact, shows us how to understand the good news of Jesus.
- **Women in the Word (Christ Central event) & GROW (SE Qld Conference)** - Both of these teaching events continue to grow as significant moments of encouragement for Christ Central women, helping them engage with the Word in deeper ways.
- **Personal Bible Reading** - 70% of our church members reported having a personal habit of Bible reading and prayer. This is incredibly encouraging! We continue to offer our church's Bible reading plans, which have seen significant uptake.

## Working as a Team

While teamwork isn't always required, we want to express our thanks to those who serve in the important ministry of Sunday public Bible reading (see 1 Timothy 4:13). It's unfortunate that, in many churches today, the reading of Scripture isn't a regular practice. Yet, well-prepared, expressive, and clear Bible reading is vital as we come to God's Word each week.

## Thankful for Last Year!

It's so encouraging to see a culture of people who are hungry to know God through His Word. One expression of this is our Growth Group ministry. Last year, 80% of adults participated in a group, a slight increase from the previous year, with 90% of our Young Adults involved. Being a Bible-teaching church means not only Sunday preaching, but also teaching one another. It's wonderful to see the mutual learning, encouragement, and teaching taking place in our Growth Groups.



# MEMBERSHIP

## Purpose & Vision

No Christian is an island. God saves us for relationship with Him, but also for relationship with others. That's why Jesus is the head, and his people are the body - it's all connected! And so, we look out for one another, as one part of the body attends to another. That means looking out for newcomers – each one has value no matter how long they've been around. It means building community, so we can bring encouragement. And it means caring through the highs and lows of our walk with Jesus.

## 2024 Program and Highlights

- ▶ **Connect Resources** - We've widened the range of books available at the connect desk, especially for those wanting to find out more about Jesus. In fact, there's been a much larger uptake of those resources.
- ▶ **Community Breakfast** - For the first time, we complemented our 1030 Lunch, with an 830 Brekkie! It was great to have good numbers come for bacon and bonding.
- ▶ **Marriage-Engagement Packs** - Offered as a gift to newly engaged couples in our church, this is a thoughtful initiative from the Care Team. Together we can rejoice with those who rejoice.

## Working as a Team

So thankful for the way our teams work together. And we want to acknowledge new leadership too – our two Care teams have combined into one, with Catriona Dogger leading; Jeremy Buchanan now leads 1030 Connect; and, Madeleine Marais has taken on the considerable role of Community Area Leader, seeking to build community and looking out for those teams (Morning Tea, Coffee, Lunch, Brekkie, Guess Who, Weekend Away).

## Thankful for Last Year!

Last year, 80% of our church members said that they had developed genuine friendships at Christ Central. We think that's encouraging and pray for that to continue and grow. As Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35).



## Purpose & Vision

"Ministry" is a word used in various ways in the New Testament. Sometimes it's about practical service, such as the church's food "ministry" to widows (Acts 6:1, CSB). Other times it's about the "ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4). But it's all about serving, as we follow the example of our great Leader (Luke 22:26-27).

## 2024 Program and Highlights

- ▶ **Traineeship** – It was such a joy to see six Trainees growing, getting their hands dirty in ministry, and responding to feedback. Pray for great fruit to God's Kingdom through them (and this year's cohort!).
- ▶ **A Second MTS** – God graciously raised up one of our trainees, Natalie Zylstra, as a second MTS Apprentice.
- ▶ **Caring for team needs** – We have been refining systems to keep better track of, and assist with, needs within serving teams.

## Working as a Team

The Ministry M Team (Grant Crosthwaite, Kirsty Swann, Jono Powell, Tahlia Jardine, Dave McCulloch, Kirk Zylstra) met regularly last year to assist God's people to serve, as well as to resource and equip teams and their leaders. Particular thanks to Grant Crosthwaite and Jo Gurren for spreadsheet assistance!

The traineeship was a significant new undertaking in 2025 involving development of resources and new structures. We are particularly thankful for the mentors and trainers who invested sacrificially into the lives of the trainees.

## Thankful for Last Year!

In 2024, 86% of our members said that there was a clear path for them to get involved in a serving team and 93% said that they were passionate about the area that they are serving in. We are thankful for the many ways people serve in church and the value placed on that, knowing that as each part does its work, the body is built up (Ephesians 4:16).

# ▶ TRAINEESHIPS AND MTS

## TRAINEESHIPS

In 2025 we've continued our Traineeship program! A traineeship is 1 day a week for 6 months to a year. And it's all about growing as godly and effective volunteers in church – through mentoring, training and hands on experience. What a thrill to have three people serving in this way! Please pray for them and all involved. And that God would, by his grace, bring great gospel fruit through these Trainees, and grow the work into the future!



**Holly Castle**



**Mischa Powell**



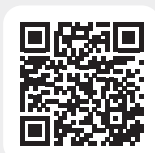
**LJ Robertson**

## MINISTRY TRAINING STRATEGY

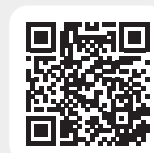
MTS seeks to raise up the next generation of gospel workers and equip them for a lifetime of sharing Jesus. The model is one of full-time apprenticeship – testing yourself as you develop in a range of core ministry competencies. In 2025 Jeremy Buchanan will complete his second and final year of MTS and Natalie Zylstra has just started her first year. It's such an encouragement to have two Ministry Apprentices at the same time and we would love to see this continue next year. We would love your prayerful, relational and financial support (see the QR codes for Jeremy and Natalie). And, would you join us in praying for God to even raise up a second MTS apprentice for 2026?



**Jeremy Buchanan**  
2024-2025



**Natalie Zylstra**  
2025-2026



**?**  
2026-2027

## Purpose & Vision

Our vision is to see a flood of kids introduced to Jesus. This may happen on a Sunday, but our hope and prayer is that kids are also growing to know Jesus in their homes, through RI lessons, and even through their own peers. As kids are introduced to Jesus, we pray they will grow to love Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour — the one who gave His life for them so they might know God and have eternal life in Him. We also pray they will grow to love the Bible, recognising its life-giving power as the living and active Word of God that fully equips them for every good work. Finally, we pray they will grow to love the church, understanding their place in the body of Christ as one of God's precious, adopted children, seeking to build up the church and see it ready for Christ's return.

## 2024 Program and Highlights

- ▶ In **March**, the Kids Ministry Coordinator role transitioned smoothly from Luke J to Rebecca Scott.
- ▶ By **May**, growing numbers at the 10:30am service led to expanding from **two groups to four** — Kindy, Lower, Middle, and Upper Primary — with **four new leaders** joining the team.
- ▶ Our **Leaders Vision & Training Day** in July helped leaders connect with our vision, pray for kids and families, receive practical training, and build relationships.
- ▶ We introduced a **Kids 'All In' Service** once a term, focusing on fun, connection, and gospel community among the kids and leaders.
- ▶ In Term 2, the **Leaders in Training (LiT) Program** began, with younger high school students serving monthly across all age groups, building relationships and gaining valuable ministry experience.

## Working as a Team

Kids Ministry could not happen without our **incredible team** of leaders, who faithfully serve each week. They arrive prepared with curriculum, crafts, and creative ideas, all with the goal of helping kids encounter Jesus and understand how the gospel relates to their lives.

## Thankful for Last Year!

We are thankful for **spiritual and numerical growth** this year. Kids are growing in their knowledge of Jesus, learning to pray, navigating the Bible with confidence, asking thoughtful questions, and engaging deeply with the gospel. We praise God for the work of the **Holy Spirit** and the **faithfulness of our team** — and we look forward to all that God will do in the year ahead!



## Purpose & Vision

At Christ Central, our desire is to see youth grow as lifelong disciples of Jesus—deepening both in their maturity and their love for Him. Christ Central Youth aims to be missional: a place where teenagers can invite their friends to hear the gospel. It's also a place where they're encouraged to walk with Jesus not alone, but in community with others.

## 2024 Program and Highlights

- **Y@C** - Y@C Camp took place during the Easter holidays, with the teaching theme, 'Jesus: Light in a Dark World'. From Bible talks and praising God through song and prayer, to extended squad times and CRAZY activities, Y@C was an incredible and life-changing week.
- **Youth Bonfire & Parent Night** - The youth bonfire and parent night offered a wonderful opportunity for youth, leaders, and parents to connect. It was fantastic to see so many parents come out and meet other families and leaders involved in Christ Central Youth.
- **Combo Night** - Combo Night in Term 3 was another fantastic evening for our youth. We hired a bus to take them to Living Church, where John Dickson presented a gospel message to over 600 teenagers from across SEQ. We look forward to the next Combo Night in 2025.
- **Sunday Shapers** - Sunday Shapers, launched in 2024 for our senior youth, and took place every fortnight. Teenagers and leaders gathered on Sundays after church to discuss the sermon passage, serving at church, what it looked like to connect with others, and have discussions about a range of other topics.

## Working as a Team

The youth team is the glue and driving force behind Friday night youth! From the SLAP team (Set-up, Logistics, and Production) setting up and preparing for activities, to squad leaders discipling youth throughout their high school journey, our youth leaders do an amazing job leading our young people.

## Thankful for Last Year!

Last year we witnessed some incredible moments. We saw teenagers stepping into new roles within the church, from the music team to the coffee team, and it's been a blessing to see them loving and serving their church family. We've watched young people come to faith in the gospel and give their lives to Jesus, pursuing Him passionately. We saw strong intergenerational connections form between leaders and youth, with senior youth also leading their younger peers. We're so thankful to God for how He's been growing His church at Christ Central.



# YOUNG ADULTS

## Purpose & Vision

At Christ Central, our desire is to see young adults grow deeper in their love and knowledge of God, supporting, growing, and serving one another as part of our broader church community.

## 2024 Program and Highlights

- ▶ **YA Weekend Away** - Our Young Adults Weekend Away took place at the beginning of 2024. It was a wonderful time spent getting to know one another better, strengthening our sense of community, studying God's Word, and praying together.
- ▶ **Building Stronger Relationships Workshop** - Lifelong relationships are often formed during the young adult stage of life. With so many conflicting ideas and opinions about what singleness, friendships, and relationships should look like, we took the opportunity to dive into Scripture and explore Biblical principles for healthy, God-honouring relationships. We also discussed how these principles can be practically applied in our daily lives.
- ▶ **Y-Conference** - Y-Con is an annual young adults' conference that takes place over the October long weekend. In 2024, several Christ Central young adults attended, joining over 200 others from across SEQ. It was an incredible experience, as we studied the book of Ruth together, participated in various workshops, and gathered to discuss how we can best serve God in our current stages of life.

## Working as a Team

Young Adults wouldn't be possible without our dedicated YA leaders. We had YA-specific growth groups as well as groups integrated into other Growth Groups. We are so thankful for these leaders—both men and women—who faithfully invested in the growth, encouragement, and spiritual development of our young adults week after week!

## Thankful for Last Year!

2024 was an incredible year for the Young Adults ministry. It was inspiring to see the community grow—not only as a group of its own but as part of the broader body of Christ. We loved seeing our young adults invite friends to church and other events, serve faithfully in many roles at Christ Central, and, most importantly, grow in their walk with God. We are excited to continue witnessing our young adults thrive throughout 2025!

# ▶ GENEROUS WITH GOD'S MONEY

## Our Mission On the North Edge of Brisbane



**CHRISTCENTRAL**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Through your financial support, we can grow our staff team, expand ministry efforts, and extend our mission to the north edge of Brisbane. To be generous givers - it's not about the amount, it's about our desire to be generous because God has made us rich in Christ. To take a step in giving at Christ Central, you can use this QR Code. But partnership in gospel ministry can go beyond our church. Keep reading to learn about other opportunities to be gospel partners with others. Let's together take action to be generous!

[christcentral.org.au/giving](http://christcentral.org.au/giving)

## Discipleship at University in Petrie



Rachel Kotterer works with the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) at the UniSC Moreton Campus, Petrie. The mission of AFES is "In prayerful dependence on God, we proclaim Jesus Christ at university to present everyone mature in Him, by building student groups that evangelise, encourage, train and send." Rachel is involved in small group Bible Studies, one-to-one Bible reading, and preparation for upcoming AFES events, such as Kick-Off Camp, 28-30th March. Please pray for the ministry – for growth of a strong group of committed Christians at the Petrie campus, and that they would be bold in sharing Jesus. We can be prayer partners with Rachel but we can also be generous financial partners in her important ministry too.

[support.afes.org.au/support-rachel-kotterer-university-of-sunshine-coast-5266](http://support.afes.org.au/support-rachel-kotterer-university-of-sunshine-coast-5266)

## Bible Translation in Vanuatu



Tim and Ruth spent ten years on the island of Tanna, Vanuatu, serving in a local church. Tim also worked alongside local believers to draft the New Testament in the Lenakel language. After many years, this work came to fruition in April 2024 with the dedication and distribution of the Lenakel New Testament.

Though now living in Brisbane and cherished members of our church family, their hearts remain committed to the task of bible translation. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Old Testament could also be translated for the approximately



15,000 Lenakel speakers—the largest indigenous language group in Vanuatu?

Working with Wycliffe Bible Translators, Tim will continue this work from Brisbane, with plans to regularly travel back to Tanna. Please talk to Tim and Ruth to learn more. Through your generous support, Lenakel speakers can discover how the Old Testament bears witness to our Savior, Jesus.

[wycliffe.org.au/member/timz](http://wycliffe.org.au/member/timz)

## Sharing Jesus in the Heart of 'Christian Europe'



Jared and Verena, graduates of Queensland Theological College, have now moved to Heilbronn, Germany, to share the gospel of Jesus. They have a son, Noah, and Verena is currently expecting their second child. Jared, fluent in Turkish, and Verena, a German native, are working with European Christian Mission (ECM) to reach both secular Germans and the many Turkish-speaking migrants who have settled in the area.



Although Germany is historically the heartland of Christian Europe and the Reformation, it is now a spiritually dry place. Jared and Verena often feel isolated in this challenging ministry. Your prayers and generous financial partnership will not only support their mission but also deeply encourage them to persevere.

[ecmaustralia.org/worker-detailpage/3c6b5d65-4850-4a1f-9912-7a06089ee296](http://ecmaustralia.org/worker-detailpage/3c6b5d65-4850-4a1f-9912-7a06089ee296)

## Supporting a Child Through Compassion



Compassion is a Christian international holistic child development program. Through their Child Sponsorship Program, more than 2 million children are currently being released from poverty in Jesus' name. Compassion is 'Christ Centred' – giving hope to the hopeless, spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. Compassion is 'Child Focussed' – children are the hardest hit by poverty, the least able to change their circumstances, and at the heart of Jesus' ministry. Compassion is 'Church Based' – local congregations can best identify the specific needs of children in their community and adapt programs that best serve their communities. Would you like to sponsor a child?



[compassion.com.au/sponsor-a-child](http://compassion.com.au/sponsor-a-child)

# COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

## REPORT

During 2024/2025, Christ Central's Committee of Management ("CoM") comprised of the elected members – Anthony Mitchell, Cathy Nash, Shantel Heath, Dan Vreeling, John Tsirindanis, Grant Crosthwaite and Dick Burr, with Garnet Swann as the Committee Chair. CoM is elected every year at the AGM by a vote of its members and any member of Christ Central can be nominated. Currently, the same members have nominated for 2025/26, along with Murray Scott.

CoM is responsible for the stewardship of the congregation's financial resources and physical assets and asks for your prayers that it manages these resources wisely to promote gospel growth.

Our Treasurer, Cathy Nash, was tasked with preparing Christ Central's accounts, budget and budget updates for CoM's oversight and approval and, again this year, met all of the PCQ Receiver's considerable and detailed monthly financial reporting obligations.

Anthony Mitchell and Grant Crosthwaite were responsible for overseeing all property repair and safety compliance matters at Petrie and for arranging working bees to ensure that the site was well maintained for the various ministry and community gatherings it is used for. One of the more recent improvements arranged by them was the installation of security cameras and improved external lighting at Petrie. We trust that these security enhancements will make it a safer facility for all.

A number of new property maintenance matters at Petrie have been identified and these will be attended to at the next working bee on 29 March 2025. CoM are thankful for the efforts of all those volunteers who serve by participating in the working bees or who undertake the mowing, cleaning and other tasks through the year to ensure Petrie remains a welcoming and attractive facility for ministry purposes.

At the time of preparing this report, CoM still awaits Justice Bradley's long anticipated judgement in the Catalyst proceedings against PCQ. Judgement was expected by December 2024 so the ongoing uncertainty means that we still do not know what lies ahead for the future of the Petrie campus. Christ Central remains a participating church which, together with many other congregations, seeks legal advice in relation to the ongoing receivership matters and CoM will provide an update for the congregation as soon as we receive news of the judgement.

From a financial perspective, CoM is encouraged to report that offerings and other revenue receipts increased in the 2025 calendar year compared with 2024, which has resulted in an overall net budget surplus of \$29,663. Our cash balance for the year ended 31 December 2024 was \$217,703 but CoM is mindful that ever increasing costs means that the 2025 budget results in a \$5,935 deficit that will need to be managed.

We remain grateful for the regular and faithful giving provided by those in our church to help Christ Central grow followers of Jesus across the north edge of Brisbane and beyond.



# COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Our Committee of Management (CoM) is a group of men and women who serve our church by looking after various financial and property matters. For 2024, CoM comprised Dick Burr, Grant Crosthwaite, Shantel Heath (Secretary), Anthony Mitchell (Deputy Chair), Cathy Nash (Treasurer), John Tsirindanis and Dan Vreeling. This team did great work throughout the year and the ministry team are particularly thankful of the constant support that Cathy Nash brings as treasurer. CoM is elected every year at our Annual meeting and all seven CoM members from last year are willing to be nominated for the forthcoming year. Our Board of Elders have approved that the committee can be up to 8 people, and we have received a new nomination – Murray Scott. If you're interested in being nominated, please contact Garnet.



**Dick Burr**



**Grant Crosthwaite**



**Shantel Heath**



**Anthony Mitchell**



**Cathy Nash**



**Murray Scott**



**John Tsirindanis**



**Dan Vreeling**



Can you help at our upcoming Working Bee at Petrie. It's a great way to lend a hand in making the Petrie property a great space for ministry.



**Christ Central Presbyterian Church**  
**Statement of receipts and payments**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Offerings	541,595	489,601
Designated donations:		
Compassion fundraising	4,686	4,155
Gifts	-	1,510
Care Fund	472	-
Other	200	1,060
Membership income	7,345	28,370
Maturity income	1,152	610
Young adult income	2,682	3,787
Youth income	21,158	14,910
Kids income	2,236	119
Interest	2,579	2,579
Sale of books and CDs	2,533	1,101
Property hire income	550	600
Reimbursed expenses/sundry receipts	-	760
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>587,111</b>	<b>549,162</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Ministry team	327,336	291,543
Support staff	27,959	27,638
Other staff costs	12,654	12,215
Magnification expenses	14,397	17,747
Membership expenses	14,399	36,233
Ministry expenses	2,422	10,003
Mission expenses	7,852	4,658
Maturity expenses	4,531	3,418
Youth expenses	33,829	34,097
Kids expenses	5,913	3,619
Ministry support		
Assessments (Church Offices & Presbytery)	47,608	50,440
Office expenses	9,084	8,698
Property services (rent, insurance, internet, etc)	29,606	31,649
Wider church		
Church Missionary Society	3,000	3,000
Other donations (Compassion, etc)	5,112	4,690
Other		
Miscellaneous	16	320
Asset major maintenance/improvement/purchase		
North Pine property refurbishment	-	12,193
Equipment	11,730	1,364
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>557,448</b>	<b>553,525</b>
<b>Net surplus</b>	<b>29,663</b>	<b>(4,363)</b>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Christ Central Presbyterian Church**  
**Statement of cash balances, other assets and liabilities**  
**As at 31 December 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Cash on hand and at bank</b>		
Westpac savings account	205,549	177,059
Westpac cheque account	7,154	8,648
Westpac debit card account	5,000	4,089
<b>Total cash on hand and at bank</b>	<b>217,703</b>	<b>189,796</b>
Cash on hand and at bank includes collections or fundraising proceeds for a specific purpose. At year end cash was restricted for the following purposes:		
Compassion	1,074	-
Religious instruction (RI) expenses	442	579
Encircle Ltd.	-	-
Other	70	70
<b>Total restricted cash on hand and at bank</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>649</b>
<b>Other assets</b>		
PCQ Capital Fund – restricted deposit (note 3)	42,003	42,003
GST receivable	13,632	10,012
Prepaid expenses	-	2,205
<b>Total other assets</b>	<b>55,635</b>	<b>54,220</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Payroll liabilities	1,106	1,448
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,448</b>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 1. Basis of preparation

These financial statements were prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. The accounts have been prepared using a combination of cash accounting and accrual accounting and do not record full balance sheet items. Revenue is recognised and recorded when cash or its equivalent is received and expenses are recorded when they are actually paid; GST related to income or expenses is recorded at the time of receipt or payment, respectively. Liability amounts are reported for information purposes only. Accordingly, the financial statements are not intended to present financial position and results from operations in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Christ Central Presbyterian Church (ABN 24 524 367 813) (Christ Central) is an unincorporated association registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) as a basic religious charity. Sufficient detail is provided in these financial statements in order for us to comply with ACNC guidelines and particularly to be able to review solvency. Any excess cash is for the future ministry purposes of the congregations, and therefore, any excess cash is not equity because it also represents a liability to fund future ministry. All offerings received are for the ministry purposes determined by local congregational leadership and approved by the congregation. These ministries are aligned with our prayer "to see a flood of lifelong disciples across the north edge of Brisbane and beyond". Therefore, the amounts reported in our annual financial statements are the cash accounts and liabilities, as the amounts donated are specified for use only in locally determined ministry and do not represent accumulated profits or equity.

### 2. Plant, Equipment and improvements to land and buildings

Christ Central owns property, equipment and improvements to land and buildings located at Lot 1 on Registered Plan 187269 Local Government: Moreton Bay located at 55-61 Old Dayboro Road, Petrie, which is beneficially owned via trust arrangements with The Presbyterian Church of Queensland. The assets at this property were independently valued as at 30 June 2024 for insurance purposes. The valuation was as follows:

Property description	Reinstatement valuation \$
Church building	1,094,100
House	534,800
Site improvements	129,500
	1,758,400

### 3. Receivership of The Presbyterian Church of Queensland Incorporated by Letters Patent

On 12 May 2021 receivers and managers (the Receivers) were appointed by order of the Supreme Court of Queensland to all of the assets, property and undertakings of The Presbyterian Church of Queensland Incorporated by Letters Patent (PCQ LPE). The Receivers have advised the Committee of Management that until further directions are made by the Court, it considers Christ Central to be an undertaking of PCQ LPE. However, they have also advised that they intend to allow Christ Central to continue on a "business as usual" basis and to that end the current management, financial reporting, banking arrangements and governance will remain in place. To comply with the current Court orders the Receivers are required to be consulted before Christ Central does any of the following:

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

### 3. Receivership of The Presbyterian Church of Queensland Incorporated by Letters Patent (continued)

- incurs any liability outside of the ordinary course of our operations, or incurs any liability concerning capital work (that is, a liability of a non-operational nature);
- sells or otherwise disposes of any assets;
- encumbers any assets;
- signs or executes any contract or agreement; or
- incurs a liability or expenditure that is unbudgeted or a material portion of Christ Central's bank account balance. The Receivers have defined a material portion to be greater than both \$25,000 and 10% of the current bank account balance or during a period when Christ Central is up to date with its reimbursement and assessment obligations to PCQ, greater than both \$50,000 and 20%.

At the date of this report, Christ Central is up to date with its reimbursement and assessment obligations to PCQ. In 2022, the Receivers formally approved the renovation expenditure and works at Petrie. Commencing in 2022, Christ Central determined that the centralised insurance arrangements put in place by PCQ and the Receivers were inadequate to ensure "business as usual" for its congregations. Accordingly, Christ Central placed certain categories of its insurances independently and requested that it be removed from those categories of cover in the centralised arrangements. This request was denied by the Receivers. To the date of this report the Receivers have not denied any requests for material expenditure and in 2022 formally approved the budgeted renovation expenditure and works at Petrie.

Extensive financial information is required to be provided to the Receivers on a monthly basis. The Receivers have made considerable requests for information relating to the assets, property and liabilities of Christ Central (including real property) in order for the Receivers to be able to report to the Court. The Receivers have delivered their report to the Court, and that report is available to members upon request.

The Receivers have advised that the deposit of \$42,003 held by Christ Central in the PCQ Capital Fund is not capable of being withdrawn. They have obtained orders from the Court to enable them to apply these funds towards the costs of the Receivership. While the funds have not yet been applied by the Receiver, and we have no timeline of when that will occur, it is highly likely that will occur in the future and the deposit will be extinguished.

The Receivers have advised that the most complex aspect of their report is the determination of the ownership of real property. The real property of Christ Central is legally vested in PCQ LPE; however, it is our understanding and position that it is held by PCQ LPE as trustee under a specific charitable trust for the local congregation and now being Christ Central, as distinct from any other trust use or purposes of the PCQ more broadly.

The direction of the Court relating to all the above matters are uncertain. While we remain hopeful that the Court will ultimately find that Christ Central's assets should not be subject to the receivership, it is possible that the Court will determine that some or all of Christ Central's assets should be available to extinguish debts of PCQ LPE.

In light of the uncertainty and complexity of these matters, the Committee of Management has joined with more than 40 other committees of management for other PCQ congregations and appointed expert legal counsel to advise these congregations in relation to their interests in these proceedings. During this period of uncertainty, Christ Central is unable to undertake any purchase or material redevelopment of property. We continue to pray for the many people who have been impacted by the receivership of PCQ LPE, and we pray for a positive outcome for our church.



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**CHRIST CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**ABN: 24 524 367 813**

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT**

**To the members of Christ Central Presbyterian Church**

**Qualified Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of Christ Central Presbyterian Church, which comprises of Statement of receipts & payments for the year ending 31 December 2024, Statement of cash balances, other assets and liabilities as at the 31 December 2024 and the notes to the financial statement.

In our opinion the financial report of Christ Central Presbyterian Church, has been prepared in accordance with Associations Constitution, including:

1. giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as of 31 December 2024 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. complying with accounting policies to the extent described in Note 1, and the Associations Incorporation Act 1981; and
3. the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and regulations.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Basis for qualified opinion**

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practical for the Christ Central Presbyterian Church to maintain an effective system of internal control over fundraising activities and cash from donations until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to fundraising and cash donations was limited to amounts recorded.

**Emphasis of matter – going concern**

As discussed in Note 2 Receivership of The Presbyterian Church of Queensland Incorporated by Letters Patent, the Church is being impacted by the current receivership. The ultimate outcome of the receivership cannot be currently determined. The Committee of Management has determined that the going concern basis is appropriate for the 2024 financial statements. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

## **Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

## **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report**

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 and to meet the needs of the members. The management's responsibility also includes such internal controls as the officers determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, Management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Management either intent to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Management is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report. A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:

<http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## **Independence**

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.



### **Sunidhi Mehta**

Chartered Accountant  
Membership no. 278683

Dated: 5 March 2025

# CHRIST CENTRAL FUTURE DIRECTIONS

(Paper presented at the end of 2024)

## 1. HOPEFUL AND MISSION MINDED

At Christ Central we've been talking about 'hope' lately. Hope is forward-looking and is about trusting in the promises of God.

- Hope is what is secured for us through Jesus' death for us, His resurrection and that He now rules and intercedes for us. *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf.* Hebrew 6:19-20.
- Hope produces boldness. *'Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold!'* 1 Corinthians 3:12.
- Hope shapes our whole thinking about where this world is heading. *He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.* Revelation 22:21.
- Hope directs us to be good stewards of what God has given us, while we await His return. *"The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'* Matthew 25:22-23
- Hope leads God's people to move outwards and onwards in spreading the gospel, even in hard circumstances – *"But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. 4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went."* Acts 8:3-4.

And so as we consider future directions of Christ Central, we don't do this in our own power and this is not about 'manifesting' a future destiny through our own imaginings. We wish to move into the future God has in store for us - boldly and with great HOPE. Jesus is our Saviour and King, and so our hearts' desire is to make Him known.

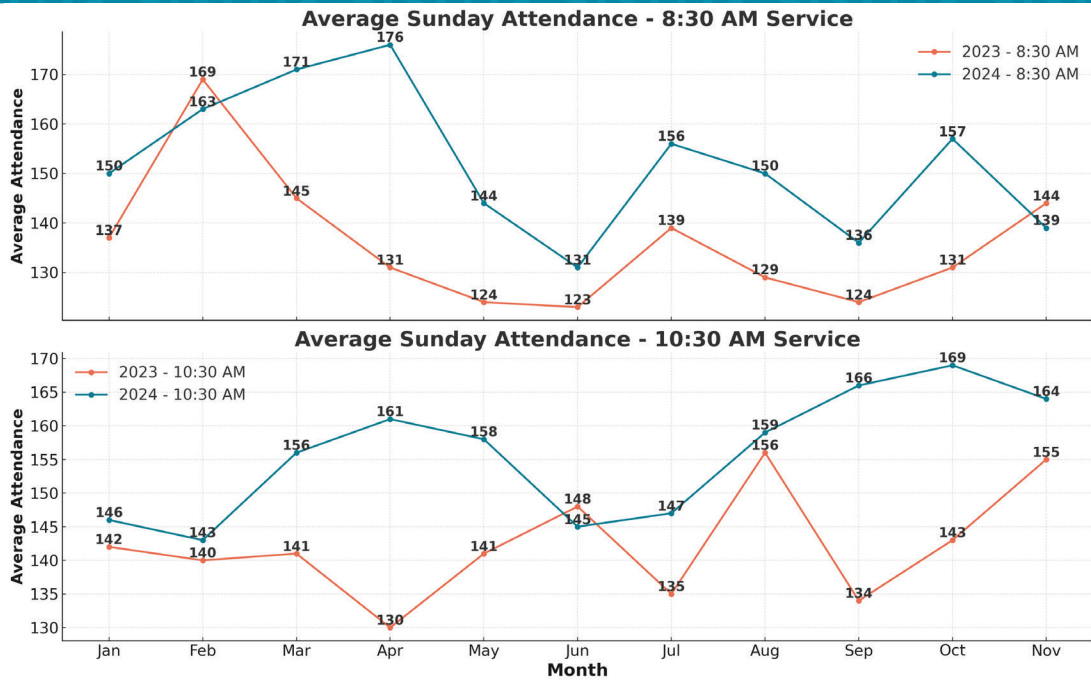
## 2. WHERE WE ARE AS A CHURCH

We can be thankful to God for the growth that's happened at Christ Central since we were launched out of Mitchelton in 2007.

- We've moved from a cramped classroom at EHSS to a much larger school hall that unexpectedly came to fruition in 2012. That was God's wonderful provision!
- We now have a substantial youth ministry with numbers being 40-60 teenagers on a Friday night.
- In 2019 we moved from one Sunday gathering in the school hall to two gatherings.
- God sustained us through the challenging season of COVID and we have been slowly but surely growing since then.

This has all been God's work and even if we just compare the last 2 years we see a trend of growth:





When it comes to our current venue of the EHSS Hall, there are various issues worth being aware of. As renters, we can be evicted with a month's notice. Over the last few years we've faced ongoing restrictions – parking and classrooms have been taken away, and we continue to manage the relationship with the school and OSH club as best we can. In asking for more space, the school has clearly said, 'no', and so for the last couple of years we've sought to create more space through more intentional ushering, putting out more chairs, and encouraging people to use Bunya Park Shops carparking.

## EATONS HILL STATE SCHOOL

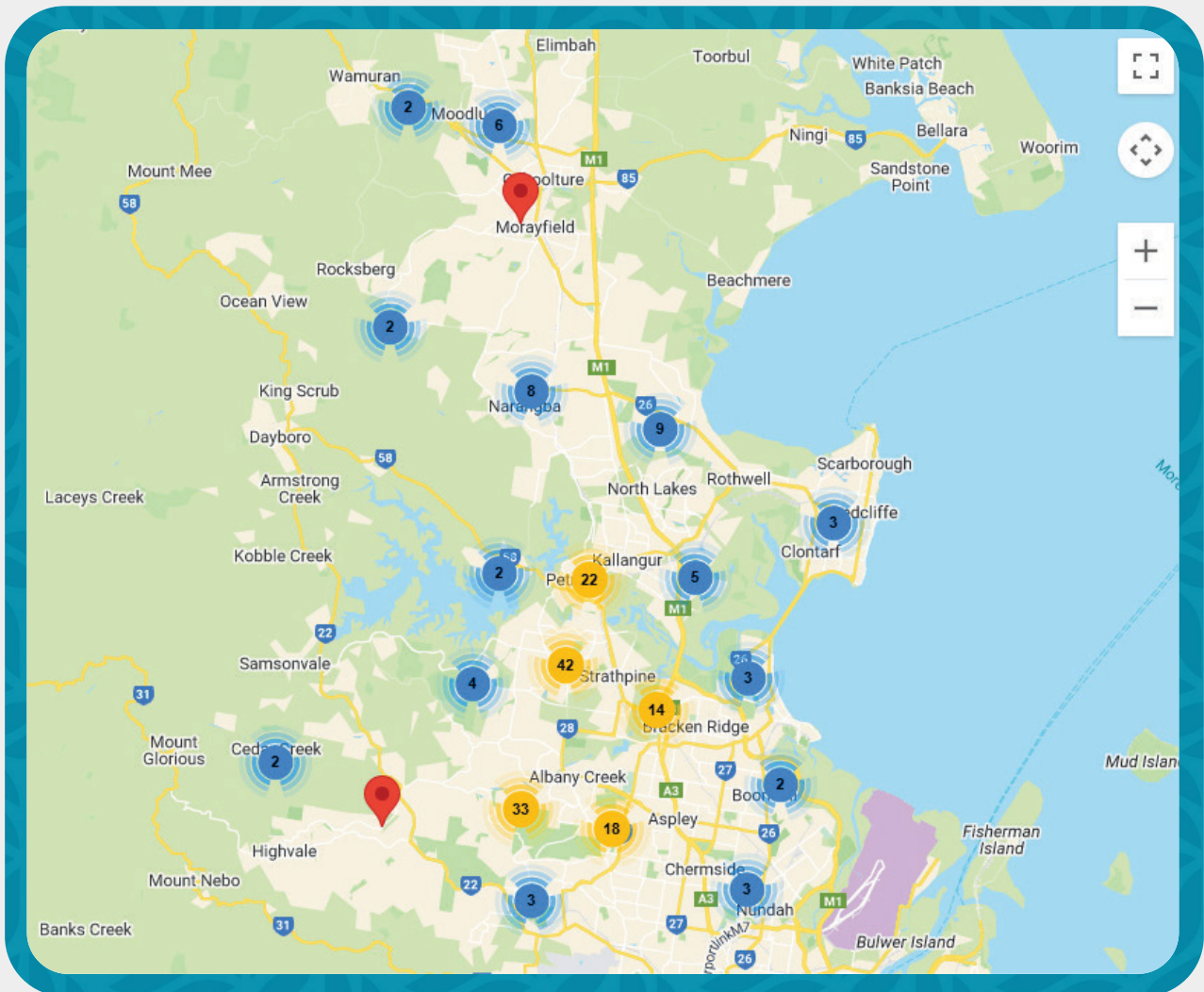
- **Renters – so Uncertainties & Restrictions.**
- **More Space? 'No'.**
- **More Ushering.**
- **More Chairs.**
- **More Parking at Bunya Drive.**

Therefore we have to face the reality, that we're reaching maximum capacity in this building. Yes, there are a good number of spare chairs most Sundays, but we should be sensitive to the fact that there have been Sundays when newcomers have come in and been unsure where to sit or have had to drive around the carpark a few times before finding somewhere to park.

This capacity issue matters to us because people matter to us. The reality is, people are either subjects of King Jesus who know His forgiveness and love, or they are currently in the 'domain of darkness' and need to know the eternal hope that's only found in Jesus. Another way to putting this - being full on a Sunday is not good because we have so many more people we want to reach!

### 3. OUR MISSION FIELD

As we think about the north edge of Brisbane (or we could say, the area of Moreton Bay Regional Council), it's the part of God's world where He sovereignly has us. It's the part of Brisbane where we do life – schooling, work, recreation, shopping, time with neighbours, friends, family, and church community too. We love where God has us, and we come from all over to gather each Sunday at the Eatons Hill Hall.



*Note: our address data in Elvanto needs some updating, but this map generally shows where people are coming from.*

This is our mission field and we've sought to capture our heart for this area in these words – Our Prayer is to see a flood of life long disciples across the north edge of Brisbane and beyond.

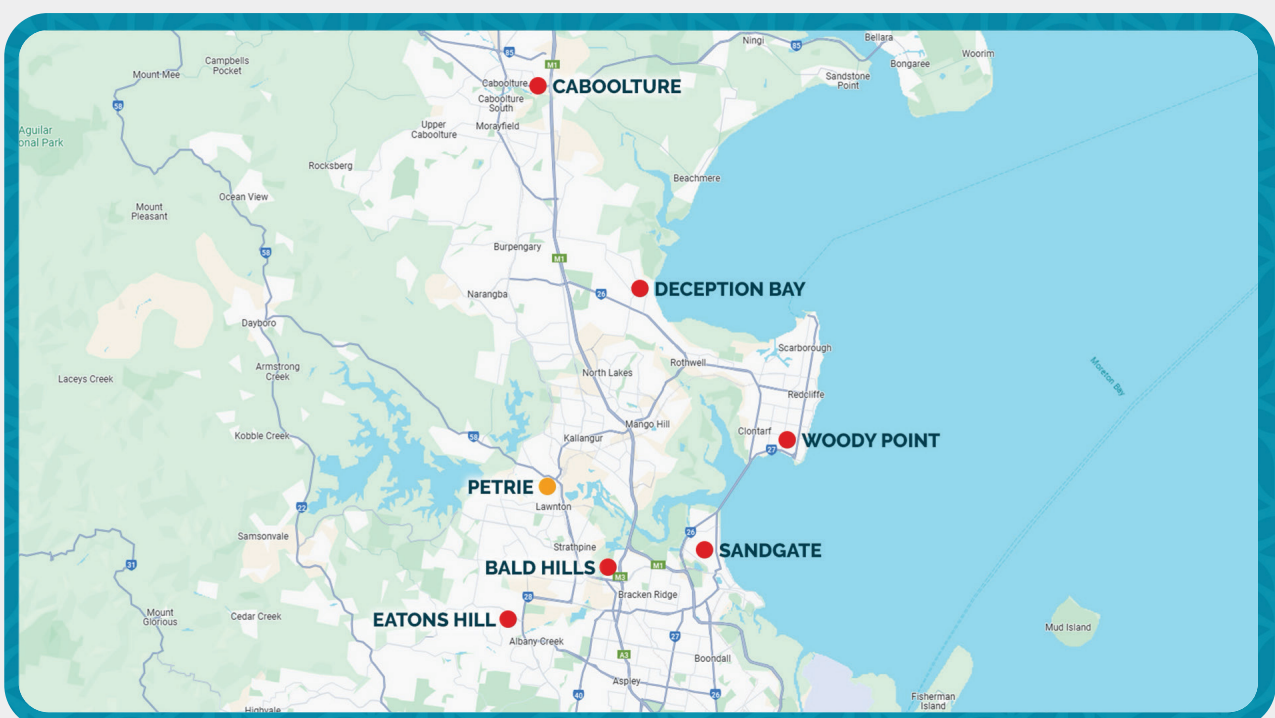
### OUR MISSION

**“Our Prayer is to See a Flood of Lifelong Disciples Across the North Edge of Brisbane and Beyond**

In fact, this part of Brisbane is going through a phase of change and is facing a time of massive population growth. Jesus said, 'Open your eyes and look to the fields, they are ready for harvest', John 4:35. God knows those who are His, but it does seem that the size of the fields are growing all around us, and particularly northwards between Eatons Hill and Caboolture. It's predicted that the population will reach 800 000 within 20 years, with 70% of that growth happening west of the highway. There are significant development areas on the horizon including Caboolture West, and Morayfield, as well as the ongoing 'filling-in' of areas such as Warner, which is relatively close to Eatons Hill. It's predicted that each week 240 resident will move into the north edge of Brisbane. That's more people than most churches have!

- **5th fastest growing local council.**
- **From 500 000 to 800 000 by 2046.**
- **Now the 'City' of Moreton Bay.**
- **240 residents added to the area each week for the next 25 years.**
- **70% of growth, west of highway.**
- **Filling-in of Development Areas.**
- **Other Presbyterian Churches.**

There are churches spread all over the north edge of Brisbane, including the Presbyterian churches located in the suburbs of Caboolture (Moreton North), Deception Bay (Peace), Woody Point (Peninsula), Sandgate, and Bald Hills. We want to keep thinking into how to appropriately support and partner with our fellow churches so that healthy discipleship and growth can happen.



## 4. OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

We understand our current situation NOW – our numbers and our current gathering location at Eatons Hill. We know WHERE we want to go – reach many more people with the gospel of Jesus in the north edge of Brisbane. So, we all need to consider, under God, HOW to achieve that. Broadly speaking, there are four options before us.

### NOW-WHERE-HOW?

Option 1 – Stay Put

Option 2 – 3rd Gathering at EHSS

Option 3 – 3rd Gathering at Petrie

**Option 4 – Church Plant Further North**

Ultimately, it's Option 4 – Support a Church Plant Further North that we want to investigate further and take steps towards. We believe this is the wisest, the most missional (and yes, the most costly option!), but we believe it's the best option so that we might be used by God to see the gospel of our Lord Jesus reach more and more people. The four options can be spelled out as follows:

#### OPTION 1: STAY PUT

- Stay as two morning gatherings at Eatons Hill.
- Keep tweaking around the edges – seating, car parking etc.
- This is the least costly option.
- There can be a type of faithfulness with this option – we stay true to the gospel in our teaching, foster a loving community, we see people mature and serve, and there's much mission work still to be done around the Eatons Hill area. But in light of what we see happening in the Moreton Region, how can staying as we are in a space that continues to restrict us, be an acceptable option?

#### OPTION 2: THIRD GATHERING AT EHSS HALL

- Two morning gatherings at Eatons Hill, plus a third gathering in the afternoon or evening.
- We keep to the building we know, with all hall/school issues we're familiar with, and so extending to a third gathering in this way would be the easiest option in terms of resources.
- But this would be 'putting all our eggs in the EHSS Hall basket'.
- There is more mission work to be done around that area, but this option is not pressing further into the mission field of the North Edge of Brisbane.
- Studies show that new churches tend to bring more growth, and yet this option is only extending what we currently do.

### **OPTION 3 – THIRD GATHERING AT PETRIE**

- A great team of people have led the way to bring about fantastic and necessary renovations at Petrie and provide for ongoing maintenance to the site.
- This option is about the model we've discussed previously – Christ Central becoming 'multi-site' i.e. 1 church in 2 satellite locations - Eatons Hill and Petrie.
- With this model we would get to leverage off the resources of one church to support its satellite campuses.
- We would look to appoint a pastor at Petrie, but they would also give attention to the wider Christ Central church across its satellite locations.
- But even with great improvements (such as air-conditioning!) we've brought to the Petrie location, there are still real limitations to the site if we would start a new gathering there:
  - It could be too full, too fast so we would still need to move from the site eventually.
  - With some initial investigations, we know there would likely be issues with parking, neighbours and noise and the need for more space for kids and other gathering areas.
  - The reality of Receivership remains. Our position is that this property is held in trust for the congregation for local ministry purposes, but while we await any future legal proceedings, there's uncertainty about any property within PCQ.

### **OPTION 4 – SUPPORT A NEW CHURCH PLANT FURTHER NORTH**

- This is different to the 'multi-site' model we've previously discussed i.e. one church gathering in two locations. This is about helping launch a new church – with its own leadership, financial support, and its own sense of ownership and activity for how to evangelise its local area and see the church grow in love and maturity.
- This is about having a go again! - akin to how Christ Central was given birth in the first place. Seventeen years ago Mitchelton Presbyterian Church 'sent' a group of pioneering people to see a new church established.
- This option is about moving further into the centralised area of where growth is happening in Moreton Region.
- This option is about considering the question - if we didn't have the Petrie property and as we look at the mission field of the Moreton region, would Petrie be our location of choice for where to launch something?
- This is a departure from what was said to North Pine (the intent to relaunch at Petrie), but we believe this does honour the heritage of North Pine that had some involvement in church planting.
- Not being the multisite option, it can make for easier recruitment. i.e. recruiting someone to have his sole focus on the church plant, rather than the more complex approach where that person would also need to give his attention to the multi-site reality of church.
- Church plants are entrepreneurial and bring evangelistic intent and energy – as we experienced ourselves with the launch of Christ Central!

- This option is much less dependent on Petrie but would include the step of forming a launch group for the plant for a short time there. It seems this is wise given Receivership which makes for uncertainties over property.
- While Receivership creates some uncertainties about Petrie. when we are eventually not under Receivership – we could sell Petrie (if it has not been lost in the Receivership) to help kickstart a property purchase (if PCQ agreed), or would it be best to keep it as a centralised base of operations for ministry?
- This is the most costly option! We would get to celebrate the launching of a new church, but people can feel 'left-behind'. Let's recognise too, we'll need to face ongoing restrictions at the Eatons Hill Hall, and we will need to prayerfully seek the next steps for missional growth.

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## 5. STEPS FOR OPTION 4

Steps to achieve this option – Support A New Church Plant Further North - will need to involve building a launch team, recruiting a church planter, raising funds, finding and securing a venue, and lots of prayer! Calling them 'steps' below does not mean they are strictly sequential:

**Step 1** In 2025 we will start using Petrie more i.e. for our once-a-month Crosstalks, along with a meal to experience good community.

**Step 2** Talk to QTC, Reach Australia, PCQ, other churches – the need to identify that future church planter who will have a passion for bringing the gospel to the Moreton Bay Council area, loving and leading this new church well.

**Step 3** Start working towards funding. We want to see ministry grow at Christ Central and we need to grow to be able to support the next church plant! We need to be in the position to initially support a full-time church pastor. We will need to consider the best approach to support the launch of this church. Could it be one eldership and one CoM with Eatons Hill for a period of time, and partnering in resources and ministry for that time, as it was with Mitchelton-Christ Central? Or does there need to be a different approach which acknowledges the realities and restrictions that come with Receivership – impacting our ability to fundraise, sign a lease on a new building, recruitment?

**Step 4** Locating a church planter could take some time. But it doesn't mean we should simply wait 'til then. By the start of 2026, have a launch group that's meeting at Petrie in the afternoon each week for its own gathering. Build community, be prayerful, do evangelism. It would be initially resourced by our current staffing mix for a limited time. This group is waiting to be launched northwards. There will need to be thoughtful timing for when this new group starts at Petrie so that it doesn't lose focus on its ultimate northwards destination.

**Step 5** Looking for a suitable area and venue for the new church plant.

**Step 6** Have a new pastor, God-willing sometime in 2026, so that he's working with the launch congregation through the year, and then ready to lead the new church for 2027.



## 6. HEALTHY CHURCHES PLANT HEALTHY CHURCHES

The above are steps to work through, but in order to support the establishment of a new church plant, we need to keep growing in maturity and health. When it comes to church planting there is a truism, 'healthy churches plant healthy churches!' So there are a range of areas we need to keep working on so that Christ Central itself is in a healthy place to be able to support a new church plant:

**Eldership** Grow our number of elders and see our Session supported well to shepherd the church.

**Mission** We can't just sit around see a future church plant as the time to do mission. There's much work to be done now in terms of sharing the good news of Jesus, engaging with our community, and seeing growth in heart and number.

**Staffing** The ministry at Christ Central needs to be properly resourced - so we need to keep looking to raise up leaders and take opportunities to appoint people in key positions.

**Additional New Leadership** In addition to Christ Central being healthy, we need to look to put in place new leadership for the church plant eg. identify new elders and members for a new CoM.

## 7. INITIAL FEEDBACK

At our Sunday 8 December meeting, we talked about the proposal of planning for a new church plant in the North Edge of Brisbane. We asked for comments around 'What Excites You About this?' and also 'What Do You think Are the Biggest Challenges?'. Here's a summary of that feedback:

### WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THIS?

- We get to connect with people in a different area.
- Makes the church mission minded.
- It would take us closer to a new social demographic group.
- Enables growth.
- Lots of people to see brought in as part of God's harvest!
- It's a blank canvas approach but along the lines of how Christ Central began.
- Opportunity for growth and spreading the gospel.
- Opportunity for more engaging with more youth.
- Shake-up brings growth, and personal growth too.
- God working His plans out!
- Being nimble and able to rapidly reach people.
- Rich potential for evangelism northwards.
- Excited to be talking and thinking about this.



- There's a hole between Petrie and Caboolture that needs a new church.
- So much new growth in Moreton Bay, an opportunity to gather new people.
- Gives opportunity for people in sending church to step up into new roles.
- Exciting and empowering for the church that sends the plant too.
- Healthier than a second campus or a third service. Not just increasing capacity/convenience but pioneering!
- This is taking a step in recognition of growth projections in the Moreton region.
- The least selfish option – not thinking about our own comfort.

## WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES?

- Receivership.
- Organisational issues and commitment issues to navigate.
- Finding a pastor/people who could lead well – pastoral and vision.
- We know problems with renting and this would mean more of the same.
- Money.
- Leadership
- Finding the right location – that allows for future growth
- Fund-raising.
- Funds for a building, staff, equipment.
- Saying farewell to many church family members, feeling of being left behind.
- Receivership will make church planting very difficult.
- Finding the right person to lead the new gathering.
- Financing – where does the money come from?
- Receivership – are we able to rent a new place?
- Sending church will need to fill gaps when people leave for new plant.
- May be a while until the church can be financially independent.
- A church venue that attracts people and allows for long term growth.
- Resourcing for new building, staff, elders.
- Need to adapt to a new demographic, be flexible to different styles of church and ministry

It was heartening to hear the range of responses that were given, and for those present at this initial meeting, there was a sense of excitement that there would be a way forward to see mission growth. At the same time, it was recognised that Receivership poses a challenge to church planting within PCQ, and so the meeting discussed that particular topic.

## 8. RECEIVERSHIP & SUPPORTING A CHURCH PLANT

### LATEST UPDATE ON RECEIVERSHIP

The trial to hear Catalyst's claim against PCQ concluded over 10 months ago. Judgement was expected before the end of this calendar year but we still await an outcome. Whatever the judge's ruling, it could trigger an appeal by the losing party, and, in the event the decision is against PCQ, an application for a stay (postponement) of enforcement, meaning that PCQ would have a period of time to prepare an appeal and work out how it might be able to satisfy the debt. If Catalyst succeeds in its claim against PCQ it is considered it will press for the sale of congregational real estate assets (church sites), and then there is the prospect of the counter-argument that church land is not in fact owned by PCQ but, instead, only held by PCQ on trust for the local congregations for local ministry purposes. These complex and fairly unique legal arguments could certainly take several more years to run their course.

### CONSEQUENCES OF THE ONGOING LEGAL PROCESS

Until the questions of trusts and ownership are resolved, Christ Central and all other congregations are likely to find themselves under the ongoing restrictions of receivership. Currently we are allowed to carry on 'business as usual' as defined by the Receivers, but our financial activities are monitored closely, and there are restrictions on what expenditure is allowed. The ongoing consequences of these financial restrictions may include Christ Central being prevented from recruiting additional staff for a church plant or entering into a lease of new or additional premises. Therefore, under the existing legal PCQ framework our vision for mission and growth could be severely limited.

### SUPPORTING A CHURCH PLANT DURING RECEIVERSHIP

At our 8 December meeting, we presented two options to move forward with mission growth and see a new church plant established on the north edge of Brisbane:

**Option A** Carry on as we are under Receivership – seeks to raise funds, identify growth areas, and face restrictions under receivership of buying or renting land, and even face possible restrictions of an employment contract specifically for a plant. In this situation it would mean individuals from Christ Central needing to put their personal names to, and effectively underwriting, any new lease and employment contract commitments.

Note: Since our meeting we've been made aware of two PCQ church plant initiatives undertaken by a church during Receivership – with funding directed for new church planters, and the signing of facility hire agreements (school and community hall), all while under Receivership. These were progressed out of existing congregational funds with a minimal funding to ensure the approval of the Receiver would not be required. Given our desire to raise significant funds to enable the new church plant to be self-sufficient and have more certainty over its premises, we'll need to investigate these instances further. We need to learn more to understand both the opportunities and risks for mission growth we face at Christ Central while under Receivership.

**Option B** Create a structure or entity that is, strictly, outside of PCQ and beyond the reach of the receiver and Catalyst, akin to what Queensland Theological College has done. A new entity was constituted by QTC so that this vitally important asset could be purchased back from the Receiver and then continue to operate for the benefit of the Church. This new entity would still be a Presbyterian church and would include

a constitutional commitment to return to the PCQ fold once the Receivership is at an end and it is wise to do so. No congregation has done this so far but QTC's precedent is a tried and tested model which allows continued ministry without interference from the Receiver or risk from Catalyst.

Under this model, Christ Central Presbyterian Church in Eatons Hill and its facilities in Petrie would continue under PCQ in Receivership but any new mission venture or plant would be done separately to PCQ in QTC's mould. This would allow the new church plant to obtain sufficient insurances and hire ministry workers without the adverse impact of the Receivership. This is early thinking but is presented as a possible option, rather than the need to wait for many years until the end of the Receivership.

As presented at our congregational meeting on 8 December, Option A does not seem a wise approach to take ie. the risk posed to those underwriting a new lease and the difficulties in raising significant funds. While not without its challenges there is wisdom to Option B and it's worthy of further investigation. Following our meeting on 8 December, our Committee of Management has now established a new 'Plant Structure Group' (PSG) which will investigate and look into the various aspects for enabling congregational assets to be legally raised, acquired and held to facilitate a church plant of Christ Central. Our Committee of Management has approved David Nash, Dick Burr and Cathy Nash to be members of the PSG, and a budget of \$10 000 from budget has been allocated to assist the PSG in engaging various external consultations to progress its work.

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This paper has covered the topic of options for mission growth- pros and cons, and we've even covered the complex territory of Receivership and its impacts. We will all have various reactions and responses, and I encourage you to speak to our elders on session - David Williams, Andrews Burns or myself. Or alternatively if you have comments or questions around the detail of the work of the Plant Structure Group, I know any of them would welcome a conversation with you. I would finish by returning to the topic of HOPE. Jesus is our sovereign King and we await His return, and so it's only appropriate that we look outwards in our mission to proclaim Christ and plan for the future. Our future is in His hands and so as we plan, let's seek His wisdom, be prayerful and go to His word so that our hearts and minds would be fixed upon His glory, not our own.





**CHRISTCENTRAL**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH