

CITYSIDE



ANNUAL REPORT
AUGUST 2013

Cityside's AGM Agenda 2013 (10.30am Sunday 25 August)

Prayer

Election of Officers

- A description of the three different groups
- May need to include hearing from/being introduced to the nominees (especially if there are more than 5 nominees for any group.)
- Scrutineers to be appointed at the meeting

Receiving the Annual Report part 1: Financial Report, Pastoral Report, Children's Space report (?)

[Note: this part of the meeting should be brief.]

Results of Election (This will be important as the rest of the discussion unfolds – the Transition Group especially need to know who they are.)

Discussion of the process of Transition

Introduction...outlining what Brenda is doing and when.

- A process and timeline for transition has been suggested by the outgoing Council – what thoughts do people have about this? [there will be copies of the suggested timeline at the meeting.]
- What do Citysiders want the Transition group to do/consider first? What do Citysiders want to communicate to the Transition group about their hopes/feelings about this process, and the spirit in which they wish to proceed?

Receiving the Annual Report part 2: Citysiders' survey responses

As we've read through the report and considered what's expressed there...

- What stood out? What resonated?
- What are some of the things we seem to hold in common?
- Where is there significant difference expressed, that we need to hold in our awareness?
- Holding these responses together, where do we discern the greatest sense of vitality and hope? Of God's life in us?
- Are there any other things that we particularly want the Transition Group to notice as they explore these further?

Brenda's Pastoral Report 2013

This is the annual report for the year when we celebrate Cityside's 20th birthday. I pause to give thanks and to celebrate the goodness of the past 20 years, and all that Cityside has meant to me and so many others. As Adee said once in a previous Annual Report – Cityside is a taonga. There's a team of wonderful Citysiders who have been working on our celebrations, which will be on the weekend of 7/8th September. There was a time in Cityside's life when our community felt quite fragile, uncertain whether or not we were viable. This 20 years is a good milestone and I hope you agree with me that we are now a community that has a sustainable and strong life, and a sense of future. This makes it somewhat easier to move on in my own journey away from Cityside, confident in what will emerge for this church over the coming years.

Cityside would not function without a vast horde of volunteers and a handful of paid staff who keep aspects of our life ticking over.

This year, we had a change of admin staffing from Mikey to Fergus, Jeannie has continued her voluntary financial admin, Ian did great work on the property and then stepped down, Hyunsil has done endless rostering and children's space admin tasks, Kirsten has continued the wonderful work with our children, along with the dedicated children's space co-ordinators, and Nicki, Helen, Michelle P and Hyunsil have continued to walk with love and energy alongside our oldest children – some of whom turn 15 this year. And this is not to mention all those who are 'on' the rosters, helping with services, children, and providing morning tea etc.

Deep gratitude to you all for your care and service.

We have an ongoing need for a caretaker/housekeeping person who will look after the smaller-scale physical maintenance and safety of our building. This has been advertised as a voluntary role with travel reimbursement, but no takers yet. Some things are falling through the cracks due to this gap in our staffing.

We have been well served by a large and highly skilled and insightful Council for the past couple of years and I'm thankful for Mark, Fergus, Helen, Nigel, Grant, Kona, Craig and Luke for the work they've done. They have had some big stuff to handle along the way, including my change of role and pay, a big scary financial burden, and most recently my news of transitioning to the Anglicans. They have handled all this with grace and intelligence. Thanks especially to Mark for the extra workload of being the Chair. Cityside agreed last month to split the role of Council into two new groups: a Management Team dealing with organisational nuts and bolts, and a group of Community Leaders, responsible for the 'human' and big picture stuff in our community life. I'm looking forward to working alongside this new format, and believe it will serve us better in terms of keeping awareness and momentum towards those things that are important to our church's functioning and thriving.

The Curating team that plans and curates our morning worship has bedded in well, with some people taking some time out and some new curators. We've had some lovely services with much nourishment

for mind and heart. In addition to our usual church year feasts and seasons, and services built around the lectionary gospel texts, some of the themes we've explored this year have included Waitangi, reconciliation, the Cosmic Christ, love and fear, fair trade, Matariki, midwinter, the work of our hands, and letting go. The curating team is a wonderfully creative and thoughtful group of people, who put a lot of themselves and their heart into our gathered worship and prayer. My thanks to Fergus, Julianne, Kirsten, Karen, Evelyn, Derek, Adee, Christina and Sarah J for their involvement over 2012/3.

Something that I introduced since our last AGM is the 3rd Sunday of the month contemplative communion. My intent with this was for us to share communion more frequently, in the conviction that this is what holds us together in Christ and in community with all our differences. I also wanted to explore having a service that is mostly liturgical, predictable in form, multi-sensory, and chant and silence based, and where we engage with the gospel text at a heart level. Being the person who always curates these services, I can't say for certain how they're going, but I've had positive feedback and I enjoy offering them.

There are many threads to the weaving of our Cityside life – what happens on a Sunday is only one part of this. I really appreciate Jo for her consistent compilation of the 'cityside bits' email – even from afar. I often get one or two email responses from far flung people after the bits goes out, just making a comment about something that's been advertised, or saying 'hi'. There are many people who receive the bits who are not part of our 'attendance' community at Cityside, and often these are the people who most appreciate reading about what's happening. Now that Jo's doing the formatting of community notices, I'm able to give a bit more reflection time to what I write, and I hope that the weekly ponderings and resources are sometimes useful to people in their personal faith journeys, as well as keeping people informed about stuff that's happening in Cityside and in wider networks.

Julianne continues to provide space for contemplative prayer, with the 9.30 Sunday sits on the 1st and 3rd Sundays (with Mike RM and Murray as regular participants, with a few irregular ones) and also facilitating the 3rd Wednesday contemplative evenings. She's recently started advertising these evenings using the online 'meet-up' tool and has seen renewed interest through this. Kirsten and Mark host 'Contemplation and Conversation' once a month in their home, the Mangere Bridge people do a weekly 'Silence southside' and are looking at developing their common life further, the Monastics still meet in Adee's home, the Science and Faith group that Vince co-ordinates have covered some fascinating ground, and the playgroup has continued to meet fortnightly.

This year, Nicola and Mike have faithfully met most Thursday evenings in the chapel to pray – mostly for Cityside people and situations. This hasn't taken off so far to become a larger group, but I really value their consistent and loving prayer and commitment.

We've had some ups and downs with our property this past year. Our commercial tenants gave notice in November, and in February we installed a new tenant who stayed just a few months before notifying us that he didn't get his immigration visa and had to leave. Ian handed over his property management role to me after having done great work tidying up a lot of our contracts and improving our recording of

tenancy payments – for which I'm very grateful. One of our larger storage tenants left after a protracted and nasty period of non-payment and hassle, and happily one of our existing tenants has expanded his storage into the vacated area. And even happier, we now have a new tenant in the upstairs studio/office area who is operating an artist collective from that space. We blessed Damaris in her business and vision in July, and her tenancy began on 1 August.

I was grateful to be released to attend a retreat at Easter this year that was a significant time for me, and was one element in a process of exploring Alexander Shaia's framework for engaging with the four canonical gospels as a transformative path of spiritual practice. Since Easter, this exploration has deepened to include consideration of the rhythms of the Christian year set within the cosmos and the cycles and seasons of nature – as we experience them in the Southern Hemisphere. Cityside has hosted a couple of events around these ideas, and I personally have found the material and relationships that are emerging with others on the same journey to be very worthwhile. I have already been introducing liturgical elements from the Easter retreat into our Sunday morning practice at Cityside, but there is much more to share.

This year I have slowly been preparing material to support a new stage in our life as a community – the baptising of our teenagers who want to make a step forward in their commitment to the life of faith. The plan is to have two regular baptismal services – one in Spring, one in Autumn – each year, and for anyone (adults included) who wants to be baptised to go through a process of preparation and learning beforehand that I will facilitate. It seems likely that the first baptism will happen in November this year – or shortly after Easter next year.

Before the end of this year I have three weddings coming up – one of which is from within our community (Nicki and Neil), the other two being friends who are not Citysiders, and not within any faith community. I find it a privilege to work with couples who aren't Christians to develop a marriage service that honours the sacred, and which includes prayer and blessing, (my non-negotiables as a religious celebrant) but that doesn't use language that is alienating or foreign for the couple. I also took the funeral earlier this year of a woman also from outside the church, that I journeyed with in the last years of her struggle with MS. Again, a deep privilege to offer a funeral of hope and reflection to people who have a personal faith with Christian elements, but who are well outside the institutional church.

Also in the past months I have introduced to us to a model of community life and belonging that I've called 'travellers, companions and pilgrims.' I am deepening in my conviction that the future shape of the church will need to be a dynamic interplay between the celebrating/gathered community, and smaller, localised, groups that are sharing life on the ground with daily rhythms of practice and engagement. I think there need to be more and different ways of 'enfleshing' the faith that gives us life, and these threads need to be loosened from the 'Sunday service' model of church into a myriad of different clusters and networks and communities that affiliate together. I personally believe that the 'institution' still has a place, but its role is to hold space for the numinous and for stories and celebration, to resource, care for, teach and deepen, those smaller groups that are doing life in a transparent and permeable way in close relationship to the wider community around them. The

'travellers, companions and pilgrims' model is my way of imaging this model for us as Cityside. A group of Citysiders has met together to explore what the 'pilgrim' element of this path might look like for them. This is a significant paradigm shift even for those of us who have been part of Cityside for a long time, and I've often struggled for ways to try to describe what is still vague in my own mind. But still, I have hope for what may emerge – and if this isn't 'it', I hope that in time something else will be.

It's been delightful to welcome some new people to Cityside this year, and thanks to Helen who organised the dinner where we were able to get to know some of them better. What a wonderful grace to have these people bringing their gifts and insights and 'selves' into our community life. I'm conscious that we haven't had our membership renewal service as usual this year, when we would normally welcome new folk. I'm still pondering the whole membership thing. More later.

Cityside's life continues to unfold in relationship to other faith communities. I very much enjoy our connection with Ponsonby Baptist, and the developing tradition of an annual shared service. We still have a loose sense of connection with St Luke's Remuera, that I hope will grow stronger over the coming year. From time to time we pray for our partner church in Christchurch – Oxford Terrace – and Evelyn has taken up the challenge of co-ordinating the mosaic artwork that we will send to them for their 150th anniversary as a gift of friendship and support.

I have struggled (more than usually) this year with the wider Baptist movement of which we are a part. There are a number of factors that contribute to this, but most pointed has been the handling of a Baptist response to the marriage redefinition legislation. The process has been poor, with a consistent lack of acknowledgement that there could be a Christian position that accepts marriage for same sex couples, and a failure to engage in anything but quick and superficial theological reflection on the issue. And, there has been some disappointing undermining of the freedom of individual Baptist congregations to seek their own conscience these kinds of issues, within a diverse movement. I know that we won't necessarily be of one mind at Cityside about the question of same sex marriage, and over the coming months I'll be seeking some feedback about how the church wants me to proceed should I be asked to celebrate a wedding for a same sex couple. In the meantime, together with some like-minded Baptists, I've been in a process of protesting to the Baptist leadership about the process that's unfolded so far, and trying to put forward an alternative viewpoint to the majority Baptist position, so that more than one perspective is aired in public discussion. It remains to be seen just how far this issue will go in terms of censoring 'dissenting' pastors and congregations, or removing people from celebrant status.

Finally, my own 'personal' year as Cityside's pastor... I've been so grateful for last year's decision to pay me full time in my role and to review the housing allowance. This has allowed us to buy our home, in a neighbourhood where we feel a sense of connection and friendship. I have been planting trees, we have a family pet, and Emerson has started at the local school with friends who live just around the corner. Irredeemably middle class aspirations perhaps! But to me they speak of a kind of stability, groundedness and sense of place that help me to be well and from which I can care for others. In the midst of all this settling, there's been the quite unsettling question of vocation. The way I have come to describe it, is that having resolved for a time the question of making 'home' in terms of place and neighbourhood, I

have also needed to explore 'home' in terms of vocation. Cityside is a home for me, but the wider Baptist movement is not. And I don't just mean political hassles, but deeper questions of church life. I am inexorably drawn, it seems, towards a more sacramental expression of worship, and towards the 'being-hood' of 'priest' in relation to the church and the wider world. There are many dimensions to this – too many to go into here. Suffice to say, my decision to proceed with the discernment process with the Anglicans and eventually to decide that my future lies with them and not with Cityside beyond the end of next year, has nothing to do with being dissatisfied with Cityside. It's just turned out to be the next step for me in a journey...and one that I didn't have any intention of taking this time last year!

I'd like to encourage us all into the coming year of reflection, discernment and transition. I hope that it will be a special and graced time for us as a community. I'm sure it will have its challenges and difficulties. But I hope it will also be an affirming time, that will draw people together, and ignite in us a deeper trust and faith in the God who is calling us on. Let's commit to a process that draws not only on our skills and intelligence and experience, but that also involves creative approaches to listening for the voice of God in our midst.

Blessings to you all and much gratitude for all you are as individuals, and all that we are together.

Love,

Brenda

Children's Space Annual Report 2013

The Demographics

Cityside currently has 59 children who are aged up to 11 years old, representing 29 families.

Of the children who come fairly regularly on Sunday mornings:

- 36 are part of the ten55s (Years 0-6 at school)
- 12 are part of the 2to5s group (2-5 years old)
- 3 are Under2s.

On Sundays at Children's Space, we usually have between twenty to twenty-five primary-aged children and around ten pre-schoolers.

What we've been doing and why we do it

- connections with God and each other - story-based – relational – practice based –

The aims of Children's Space are:

- To give children opportunities and skills to develop their own relationship with God
- To develop and use approaches that reflect the special character of the Cityside ethos
- To support children's spiritual formation within their family and at home
- For the children to build strong relationships both with each other and with the church community as a whole
- To cater for a wide range of children's needs, and to respond to changing needs and concerns

Some of the ways we meet these aims are:

- Creating white spaces in our times together, opportunities for children to encounter God unfiltered and at their own pace, and to respond to the text or story of the day in their own way
- Intentionally teaching a range of spiritual practices
- Telling the stories of the Bible, famous spiritual people and Citysiders
- Encouraging discussion and questions, even those we acknowledge we cannot answer
- Intentionally teaching children about why we do what we do at Cityside and about the church calendar year, and how they can join in and be part of what we do as a whole church community
- Offering a range of creative contemplative response activities for all ages involving different senses. Providing a range of response stations to the ten55s to cater for different stages of development and learning styles and flexible grouping of children.
- Making links explicit between what we do and talk about on Sundays and our weekday lives
- Giving children things to use at home, such as the Lent challenge, prayer kete of objects to prompt prayers and 'Communion at Cityside' book
- Over time, ensuring that the arc of our curriculum covers the key teachings of Jesus and the Bible
- Making opportunities for a wide range of Citysiders to be involved with the children to build relationship, so that our children feel connected to the whole community of Cityside, rather than just Children's Space, for example offering a range of ways to be involved in ChSp and family events that all Citysiders are invited to join in with

- Social events outside of Sunday mornings for the older children, that they can also invite their friends to (this is the new Connect Group for Year 4-7s - it has been lovely to see the positive impact Connect has had on the deepening of relationship and engagement on Sundays as well)
- Providing activities to support children at times in the Sunday service they may not be able to engage actively in: colouring clipboards, books in the service, toys and games available during morning tea.

The topics we have covered over the past 18 months are listed after this report if you are interested in perusing further.

A challenge

I feel very strongly that we at Cityside need to ensure that our children are closely connected to the whole community of Cityside, not just to their own family and the adults who lead ChSp. I believe it is these wider connections that will make the difference in only a very few years when these children leave the shelter of the organised 'programmes' and are wondering whether Cityside is still their home. Relationships need intentional and long term nurturing by all of us. You don't need to know every child, but every child in our community does need to be known by someone – someone who notices and is glad that they are part of us and conveys that to them.

My challenge to every Citysider is to talk to at least one child every time you are at Cityside (parents – your challenge is to do this with a child who is not related to you!). Short and sweet is perfectly fine – simply say hello, find out their name and remember it for the next time you see them, or ask them just one question, maybe about what they learned about at ChSp, or what their favourite response station was or get them to show you whatever they made, or if you heard about a social event in the notices or Bits they might have been to, ask them about it. If you are too shy to talk with them, smile at them when they come into the building at the beginning of church time so they know that they are seen and welcomed.

And another challenge

We have an population bulge at Children's Space, which goes from the current 10 year olds down to the 2 year olds. As the eldest nine children of this cohort leave primary school at the end of the year, the need has arisen to relook at how we structure what we do with our children, so as to make best use of our people resources, both voluntary and paid. Brenda is leading a discussion process around this over the next couple of months.

Many heartfelt thank yous...

...to the people of the Planning Team and the Children's Space curators, who pour so much love, wisdom and creative energy into the children of our community: Helen, Sarah O, Isa, Shannon, Mark, Hyunsil, Hayley, Michelle, Sandra, Sarah H, Gabrielle, Christina, and Rebecca. It is a privilege and a joy to work with you.

...to Hyunsil for all you do for Children's Space in your Admin role with such generous grace, conscientiousness and dependability.

...to all the parents of ChSp – thank you for your willingness to be part of ChSp with your children, even when you might crave a peaceful morning off. ChSp simply could not happen without you. Your children especially deeply appreciate your presence with them; I can see it in the proud energy bubbling out of them whenever you are rostered on to help with their group.

...to the non-ChSp-parent-people who are involved in ChSp – I so value your willingness to invest in building the connections that will last beyond these children's time at ChSp and will make them feel part of Cityside rather than just ChSp. Thank you to Hayley for the positive energy and enthusiasm you bring to curating; to Helen D, helper-extraordinaire, for being so wonderful at leading meaningful discussions; to Jeannie for maintaining so many informal connections with such a wide range of children as well as dealing with all the scrumpled piles of ChSp receipts with infinite patience; to Rebecca who has just joined our planning team with her teaching wisdom, and to Fergus who has been creating awesome songs for us (keep them coming please, Ferg!).

... to everyone who includes a child in some way in the services or at morning tea or at social occasions, and who helps them feel a valued part of our community.

Cityside's Playgroup for parents and pre-schoolers who are around on a Monday morning turned ten this year. Much appreciation to Isa who coordinated it for so long, and to Angela who took over the organisation for the past year, and to everyone who has been part of it at some time in the past decade. It has been my main support group in my own parenting journey and I feel very fortunate to have spent so much time with so many amazing people.

... to the Cityside Council for your active support, in everything from rat removal to appraisal.

... to Brenda, for so generously giving of your love and wisdom and care and time to nurture all that is growing at ChSp, including me.

...to Mark, who is the person I rely on the most to put our shared vision into action, who is awesome in a technical crisis (and actually in any other stressful moment as well) and who always notices and does whatever is needed to enable so much of what happens at ChSp, while also being on full-time parent duty of a Sunday.

...to the children of Cityside – I am loving the journey with you.

Kirsten Malcolm

Children's Space Co-ordinator

August 2013

These are things that we have focused on at Children's Space over the past 18 months:

- Term 1, 2012: **Lent, Easter**, St Patrick, Jesus' time in the wilderness, Harvest, Passover/Seder ritual, Centering Prayer, Bead liturgy.
- Term 2, 2012: Resurrection Encounters, **Making a Difference** (David, Daniel, Joseph, Te Whiti O Rongomai and Tohu Kakahi at Parihaka, Andrew Stroud and John Britten , Suzanne Aubert, Heather MacLeod, Sir Edmond Hillary, hearing from Citysiders who make a difference – Nettie, Andrew, Jared, Nicola), Gratitude body prayers, Body Lord's Prayer.
- Term 3, 2012: **Who is Jesus?** (The real man, light of the world, the bread of life, the good shepherd, healer, includer, the resurrection and the life), **Psalms** – word pictures for God.
- Term 4, 2012: **Creationtide**, All Souls/All Saints, **Advent**
- Term 1, 2013: **Places Jesus Hung Out** (up mountains, lake – scary places, at celebrations, peoples' homes, with outcasts, with the sick and needy, with friends), Lent, Seder Meal, interactive meditation, Centering Prayer
- Term 2, 2013: **What is...?** (What is church? What is the Bible? What is communion? What is a Christian?)
- Term 3, 2013: What is prayer? **The Wisdom of Dr Seuss** (God's presence in easy and hard times, God's faithfulness, that we are all worthy of love and belonging, what love is, being willing to understand difference, gratitude practice), Lord's Prayer, Prayer kete - collecting objects to prompt prayers.

Community Responses

What makes Cityside my home?

It is the safest community I have found that allows for collectively exploring our own individual understandings and expressions of Christian spirituality.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Over the past year I have felt more satisfied with the weekly services, where as in previous years I have sometime found some services were sometimes a bit hit and miss. Though this may be a reflection of my own sense of feeling more at home within the Cityside community than I felt previously.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

I have often heard Christians from outside the Cityside community express their understanding of cityside's role to be providing a space for Christians to heal, mature, and explore after becoming disgruntled or burnt out by previous church experiences.

I personally like aspects of that description, and I do think it is a need within our wider church community, I feel like current role for the church is to provide a space and community for people who have already journeyed through this process, and are in a more settled life situation.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

I would like to see Cityside begin to develop a more outward reach, both in terms of providing a space for a new generation of exploring or 'disgruntled' Christians, as well as looking into the wider needs of the Auckland community, and sharing the resources we collectively have with those more vulnerable members of the local

What makes Cityside my home?

Everyone is so real here i.e. uses their own words to talk about their spiritual journeys. The space for creativity. The mixture of so many elements from all corners of Christendom; contemplative communion, Hill Song, The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe, Bourgeault... The lounge vibe!

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

A shift towards a more, um, reflective/contemplative - sorry can't find the right word here - shift in thinking and disposition, less cynical angry burnt out evangelical stuff. More food at morning tea. All plusses, really. If I had a magic wand I'd use it to sort out - what seem to be - ongoing property, furniture, laptop and other housekeeping issues.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

A place and community which can help to resource those who want somewhere spacious to practice Christianity, whatever that means to us and the great thing about the spaciousness here is that there is plenty of space to figure that out.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

I'd like to see us engage with the Bible, more frequently and more deeply, acknowledging that it's a hard book in many ways, wrestling with it as needed, sharing what is speaking to us at the moment - maybe this has changed over time for some of us.

Further Comments..?

I want to thank all of you for being so open to me having a go at everything here and being open to the ways in which I can contribute, giving me the practical assistance I need to do that without taking tasks out of my hands.

Karen

What makes Cityside my home?

In one sense Cityside is my home because quite some years ago I made a decision that it would be and ever since have assumed it to be true. What drew me to Cityside back then, and still does today, is the freedom to be where I happen to be on my spiritual journey and to be part of a group of people who are seeking to find out what it means to be a follower of Christ in our time and place. It is home because of the relationships I have with fellow Citysiders and the sense of being part of a caring, sharing community despite the shortcomings of our geographical spread.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

In no particular order, as they come to mind and without grouping them into plusses and minuses:

How much the children are growing up!

Less contributions from other Citysiders in the services under the new curating model (that's a minus for me)

Some new faces, including a few closer in age to me.

How Citysiders have responded generously financially to the move to having Brenda employed full time.

How much Mark and Kirsten contribute to the life of Cityside.

I am sure I will think of a few more once I have pressed the submit button...

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

I am not someone who naturally thinks in this framework. I am much more attuned to what we offer to one another and I see that as having a flow on effect as to how we as individuals function in the world. I recognise I am not entirely comfortable with the idea of churches proclaiming themselves to have roles and ministry in the world unless it has a different feel and motivation from what I have come across so far in other churches.

I do believe we continue to offer a safe place for those who no longer find themselves fitting into the expectations of some other churches and we offer a place where people can come aside and take time and space to heal. Where people can stay on the journey as followers of Jesus instead of drifting away. I consider this to be a hugely valuable and significant contribution but I don't imagine that fits with what was intended for this question.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

I wish I had plenty to contribute to this section but alas it is not an area where I readily have ideas. But I will eagerly await to see what ideas others put forward and what resonates with me.

Further Comments..?

I do wonder about our building and the large amount of money it costs us and will continue to cost us to occupy it. Is it time to consider other options? (I understand this conversation has been had previously but not in the 11 years or so since I came to Cityside)

Jeannie Cochrane

What makes Cityside my home?

Cityside is a community I would like to call home.

I love the synthesis of ancient traditions and modern / local (Maori) traditions

I'm excited by development of thinking... pilgrims... going into the world... bringing blessing to the communities we live in

I feel refreshed, energised & filled by the genuineness of the Holy Spirit

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Everyone is welcome; everyone is included

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

I'm excited by the development of thinking... pilgrims... going into the world... bringing blessing to the communities we live in

More specially, I see Cityside as a place of sanctuary, a modern day 'monastic' community (I know monastic is not quite the right word). A place to go to bring quietness and a place for meditation.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

A place I can go to during the day/ during the week; a place of retreat.

Use the road frontage as a way to 'open up' to and serve the immediate Mt Eden / Eden Terrace communities..

Find a tenant for the space who will complement the Cityside mission & ministry by offering a welcome to visitors during the day.

The world is crying out for meaningful connection with spiritual things; connection with genuine meaning; rhythms of the earth & sky.

We can demonstrate this through our lives (and Cityside as a community of believers can empower us to do this)

Cityside as a venue can also be a place for our community during the week.

Further Comments..?

Is there some way that Cityside could be transferred to the Anglican Auckland Diocese? The whole community feels and acts far more like an Anglican community than Baptist...

Vaughan Henry

What makes Cityside my home?

I've been a member (& absentee member) for probably 16 years. During the several years that we lived outside Auckland you guys have always treated Brenda & I as part of the family, so that's how we feel. After returning to Auckland we 'shopped round' a bit to see what other Christian communities round the city were doing, but concluded that Cityside is still our tribe.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Because we haven't been back long I don't feel very qualified to see things 'in depth', but Cityside seems to be in really good heart as a community. There are a lot of long-standing, caring, family-like relationships here. Coming back I've noticed that the style of service is more liturgical, perhaps less spontaneous than in the past, but that may just be a rose-tinted memory. :-)

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

I'm not very clear on this - probably because we're still not really involved in things, only coming occasionally. Certainly the church seems to function well at supporting and nurturing its members. Whether it's reaching out much as a community to the world around I'm not sure, though definitely many individual Citysiders are doing that through the work they do in their own lives. So in as much as Cityside nurtures that energy & spiritual/personal growth, then Cityside is reaching out through us.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

I'd love to see a much more indigenous flavour to our worship. Cityside leans quite heavily on Celtic spirituality - I think we need to find a Southern hemisphere language, more grounded in our own soil & soul.

Cityside services can be a bit too introspective & individualistic. Too many 'stations' & not enough prayer or discussion circles. More opportunities for interaction would be good.

Further Comments..?

I'd love to see us talk to God more directly. Most prayer at Cityside is either formal, liturgical, or indirect. I'd love us to talk with God as if he really was in the room with us, and not somewhere far away. Jesus used the word Abba (daddy) when talking to God, and taught his disciples to do the same (of course God is mummy too). Our words are important, as they create our reality.

We could really do with some new or different songs. Part of Cityside's mission statement (as I recall) was to engage with contemporary culture. I'm not suggesting Hillsongs or any of that (please, no!), but some of the old ones that turn up feel tired & old-fashioned - musically very conservative.

Mark Laurent

What makes Cityside my home?

The people. There are people in the Cityside community who know me well enough that I can connect in easily and without masks.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

There seems to have been an increasing flow of new people - this is good, but I'm not sure they are staying in great numbers (which might be fine, or maybe its a lost opportunity....)

The meeting of significantly increased financial needs has been impressive.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

Cityside occupies a precious niche - a community where those who are engaging in a more mysterious, a more open-ended, a less dogmatic, a less triumphalistic kind of faith can continue the journey together. It has significant 'artsiness' in its DNA - this seems to ebb and flow. It has had significant anti-establishment-ness in its DNA. This seems to be ebbing (which is fine by me). It has taken on the role of being a refugee camp in the past and to some extent this vibe hangs on. I don't like some aspects of that but i get why it has been like that.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

I would love Cityside to find ways of sharing our experience and providing inspiration for others on similar journeys in Auckland and beyond.

Practically, I would like to see long term decisions made to put our community on a sound financial footing. Whether that be radical redevelopment of the building, or leaving the building entirely for a more cost effective physical space. This is probably a medium term thing as these kind of things aren't easy or quick changes - and perhaps the next wee while isn't the right timing....

Would Cityside consider changing the nature of its 'christian-ness' (?) to articulate an even more open-ended place for faith? I'm not sure what Citysiders really think about the extent of their christian-ness but it would be interesting to keep exploring the edges.

Maybe multi-faith engagement could be an avenue of interaction....

Nigel Smith

What makes Cityside my home?

The first thought that comes to mind is that it's simply the people who make up Cityside that makes it homely. For me there's a sense of belonging due to the time I've spent involved with the community and

that sense is primarily relational. I don't have a sense of affiliation with a brand or a church per se. We're just a group of spiritual strugglers; flawed and failing, and I like that.

I'm involved in a few different things associated with Cityside, but very little of which is spiritual formation aside from discussions with people. For that, the Contemplation and Conversation group has been very valuable. Thank you to all those who have been present for that and for sharing that part of your journey with me.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

At times I have the sense that the numbers of people around on a Sunday morning aren't huge, though at the same time I've seen many new faces and we are often short of seats in the main space - so perhaps Sunday attendance is up and I'm not terribly observant! It's been great to get to know some new people and wonderful to have their contributions to the life of Cityside.

Children's space has been once more very rewarding to be part of - you are a truly wonderful bunch of children!

The Connect group has been an unexpected joy to be part of – and I reference the comment above. Further though, there's been a lovely energy within the Connectors and the group has nurtured an increase in relational depth for those who participate. I've been surprised and delighted at the excitement and the willingness to come as regularly as people have been.

I've not stayed in the service much on Sundays (once? twice perhaps?) due to child related commitments, so don't really know what flavour the services are taking theologically. In a wider vein though, my impression is that the curating group is growing in experience and depth which is certainly a plus. Thank you to Brenda for the intentionality, wisdom and care in nurturing this group.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

There was a time that Cityside was described as the last stop for the disillusioned; that people who were fed up with church based Christianity had somewhere else to try before giving up entirely. Somewhere that was comfortable with questioning; somewhere that could cope with ambiguity, uncertainty.

I think our role has moved on somewhat, but I do like that idea of Cityside as a sanctuary, as a haven for spiritual seekers within a Christian tradition. I like that we embrace the questioning and can cope with people not having all the answers. I also value our ability to be accepting and to hold within us a range of stages on the journey.

I see our ministry simply as ourselves. To continue honestly and humbly along the path to closer union with God; to encourage other, and to reflect the truth that we have found.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

Personally I'm exploring a deeper relationship with God and understanding of the Holy Spirit and would really like if there was some way this exploration could be done alongside others. How that can work outside of the Sunday mornings space I need to investigate.. as has been noted elsewhere, there are many of us who are time poor so communal aspects can be difficult. I'd like to look at ways that we can be in community while continuing our lives. This is perhaps along the lines of the suburban monastic sort of idealism which Brenda is initiating with the pilgrim discussion. I'm not sure where to take this yet, and need to continue to develop the practicalities of it all.

It would be nice if we could reach a level of maturity in which we felt comfortable leading retreats, seminars, talks and generally undertaking some sort of outreach and involvement in which we can share the practices and understanding that we have found helpful. I myself am not at this point in my journey - so this is just a wistful pondering. I think that we as a community have developed some wonderful things, and it would be great to find a way to share.

Further Comments..?

I wish to express a huge thanks and appreciation of Brenda, whom I've had the pleasure of working with more closely over the past couple of years. We as a community have been very fortunate to have someone of your wit, care, capability and wisdom to walk alongside us. Thank you.

Mark Prins

What makes Cityside my home?

The people. The acceptance of different ideas. The acceptance of the "I don't know" factor. History-having been there for a while.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Plusses -Nice curating. Variety of stuff happening in Church. The worship (heaps better- thanks Adee and others!). Children's Space continues to be a carefully planned and facilitated space for my children to learn about God - and it's fun. My kids enjoy church. I enjoy church - I value the time and space to reflect and respond. Connecting with people a bit more than the Sunday styles = play group, mother's retreat, and CH SP planning meetings. I notice as I write that that I am clearly connecting with the SAME people at all of these things.

Minuses - Lots of 'work' to do on the building/finances/planning for EBGBs and Children, and not enough people to do it. Big dreams, and hopes, and desires for what we can do and be, but also a lot of tiredness, and lethargy.

Only connecting with women who do play group, mother's retreat, and CH SP planning.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

To encourage reflection and growth in us, in our lives and journeys of faith. To question entrenched ideas so that we can live better lives, more like Jesus.

To welcome all types of people and value diversity.

To be a community of support for each other.

For the physical resources to be available to other groups for mutual benefit.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

Outward focus on our community - can we strengthen the old ties again with the City Mission?

Michelle Parkinson

What makes Cityside my home?

The collective intention to seek and be in God's presence in silence, uncertainty, joy, sadness, questions.

Brenda's sermons.

The sense of quiet holiness.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

More people have become familiar to me. This has taken a long time because I don't put myself 'out there' socially. So it is a good thing that slowly I am becoming more familiar with some people. +

The quality of Brenda's sermons. +

The quality of others who have spoken/run the service, like Vincent and Derek and Evelyn.+

Holy Communion twice in a month, wonderful.+

The savoury crackers used for second HC, dreadful and disgusting. -

Wish the music people would do stuff more often...

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

A community of believers who, in spite of our unbelief profess Jesus as Lord and God as Lord, Kind and all the omni words.

A place that welcomes people whoever they are.

A place that offers intelligent sermons, intelligent services, intelligent people.

A place where artistic expression is invited.

A place where doubt and hope can lie together

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

music! dance!

Further Comments..?

More later,

Jenny De Leon

What makes Cityside my home?

Connections with people and God

sanctuary from "noise"

place of growth, new understandings and good conversations

years of memories

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Brenda's courage and openness in sharing her process of discernment and the openness and love from Citysiders in response

our community's ongoing care and support for one another in general

a shift in energy in the Sunday morning service

exciting things happening in children's space

thoughtful, inspiring and well-curated services from a wide range of people (thank-you curators!)

the generosity and goodwill of all the Citysiders who make good things happen even when others feel they can not

the joy seeing people who had been away returning, the sadness of others leaving

the huge financial/ practical challenges in regards to maintaining the Cityside church building & getting income from it

the sadness of not being able to paying our pastor (and others?) what they are worth, and seeing the stress and tension that created for the Rockells in their search for a house

the excitement of finding a tenant whose vision and activities are so well in keeping with our own - Yay for Damaris's art studio!

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

being a community of faith that supports one another in our journey with/or towards God and our daily lives

being a place where people can experience peace, acceptance, love and connection with God

a place that encourages genuine engagement with the deeper questions of faith, honours creativity and is committed to social justice

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

I would love to see us having a larger community so that more people could share in the wonderful things that happens at Cityside! [Confession of ulterior motive - more Citysiders who could contribute financially and practically would also ease the pressures experienced over the past years!]

And while I'm dreaming, more twentysomethings, retirees and a wider cultural/ethnic mix would be really cool. Just because.

Finding a way of maintaining our ethos of collaboration and freedom while being able to meet the challenges of transitioning in the next year (without having to have too many more committees or rosters!)

Further Comments..?

Brenda will be greatly missed - on a personal level, but also her wisdom, insight and commitment to advancing our spiritual practice at Cityside. I hope we can make the most of the next year while we still have her in our midst but also keep the faith that the next chapter in Cityside's life will be just as enriching.

Esther Graham

What makes Cityside my home?

We've chosen to worship here. We sense a connectedness, and it feels right to be with this community at this time.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

We enjoy coming away from each Sunday service with something to ponder, or to be challenged by. Love the integrity of the worship and the attitude of leaders.

Still working on getting to know people, but we need to be personally more proactive in this area.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

It's difficult to comment on this as relative newcomers, but we sense that services at Cityside are a way station for many who may struggle in other worship settings. Cityside's role seems to be to grow Citysiders and encourage them to be God's servants to the world, representing Christ in distributed settings.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

Possibly having more specific/intentional opportunities for outwardly-focused 'ministry' together. How do we do social justice as Citysiders?

Further Comments..?

We want to take this chance to say thanks to all the people who curate services, and for the inclusiveness we have felt in being part of the community in worship.

Mark and Karen Haines

What makes Cityside my home?

- Brenda's theology, creative talents and leadership style
- The people who are part of Cityside (thoughtful, challenging, honest, open, intelligent and seeking to grow in their understanding of themselves, others and God.)
- An approach to faith that is helpful and enables me to live with integrity.
- I relate to many of the questions that are posed relevant and provocative challenges

- I feel very grateful that I'm comfortable inviting my friends and family to Cityside (rather than feeling embarrassed or very, very nervous about their presence!)

- Cityside is my home because I simply cannot 'do church' in the way that seems to satisfy most Christians.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

- An influx of new people plus the wide age range represented in that group

- Curators are becoming more experienced and skilled

- There seems to be an increasing number of people coming to Sunday services less than 50% of the time. I wonder why, I wonder what the implications of this trend are and what is an appropriate response

- The children's programme continues to be absolutely outstanding though its effectiveness is also constrained by attendance patterns

- It is fantastic a) that our financial situation has improved so much , and b), that we finally got a good tenant

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

- To grow our faith, hope and love (as individuals and as a community)

- To help us 'hear' the whispers of God and encourage us to follow Jesus in more radical ways (as individuals and as a community)

- To show the wider Christian community a way of being church that might encourage growth/change in the Church universal

- It would be wonderful if we could develop some new ways/models of living as Christians in Aotearoa in the 21st century - beyond just struggling along as individuals.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

- See above. Brenda's encouragement to explore the 'pilgrim' model offers a way forward for some of us.

- I'm not sure about the wisdom of putting lots of \$ into maintaining our current building. Hoping that those with the passion and skills to explore alternatives keep on keeping on!

- More chances for hospitality and sharing over meals (eg. the dinners Esther organised)

Helen Dallaston

What makes Cityside my home?

It is a place where I always feel welcome and supported. It is full of special people who truly care about each other, the wider community and the world in general. I feel I can be myself there without being judged.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

I really like the way people have the opportunity to curate and contribute to services. I haven't noticed any minuses.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

To be a safe, non judgmental space for people to explore their Christianity. To be a place that truly welcomes everybody.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

To somehow 'market' itself so more people in the community are aware that this space exists. When I bring visitors they are always pleasantly surprised by Cityside's lack of dogma, its focus on critical, exploratory thinking and its warm, accepting atmosphere. I think many more people could benefit from being part of the Cityside

Philippa Coyle

What makes Cityside my home?

The people and the amazing space created for our children.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

A stronger community and a stronger recognition of having an active relationship with God through Jesus by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

Learn about the Christian faith and our role in it. To move/grow in this faith. To serve each other and community as a result of this growth.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

Prayer. Partnership. Use of the bible in the service and in everyday life. Support for people who want to/need to move to the next level in their faith.

Shannon Hatalafale

What makes Cityside my home?

People, especially the developing of local connections through shared spiritual practices, support and care, sharing food together.

Connections with the wider Cityside community through shared ethos/ theological perspectives/ spiritual practices.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Deepening of local connections/ community (plus!).

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

To provide a space where alternative theological perspectives (to the mainstream "church") are explored and encouraged.

To encourage and provide teaching on spiritual practices that are life giving and sustaining of people's spiritual journeys, both individually and collectively.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

I am excited about the recent discussions around developing local "pilgrim" communities and would like to see this continue

Justine Skilling

What makes Cityside my home?

I enjoy coming on a Sunday morning and spending time to reflect on my life, and remember what's important. I admire many people who form the Cityside community, and the value they add to the world. I appreciate that I'm allowed to think outside the traditional religious box, and this is not condemned as 'odd' or 'hypocritical'. I appreciate having a place where my children can learn about religion in a thoughtful, creative, open way.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

The biggest 'plus' for me in the last year has been that I have really come to value the Sunday morning services. My current job is very demanding, so I appreciate the Sunday morning routine of having some quiet, structured time to re-focus, and get my head and heart refreshed. I don't have much time to contribute myself, but I really enjoy the space that Cityside offers, and the gift of 'time out' that the children's program offers me.

The biggest 'minus' for me in the past year was (surprisingly) the message that Brenda sent to the children about what it means to be a Christian. It contained a great generic message at first about remembering God etc., then went on to say that Cityside was, in particular, a Christian church, and what

that meant was that we believe Jesus was something special etc.... (sorry can't remember precise words). The letter brought into focus for me that I no longer believe in the traditional message of Jesus, so I'm not sure whether the label 'Christian' should apply to me, and it made me question whether I 'belong' to Cityside, if Cityside wants to position itself as a 'Christian' church.

I feel worried that at the membership renewal time, I can't legitimately stand up and say that I am devoting my life to following Jesus. Does this mean I will never be in the 'inner circle' at Cityside? Does this mean that I shouldn't contribute? What is the meaning of 'membership' if those words don't count all that much?

I do wonder whether I need to look for another spiritual home, where Jesus is less of a central figure. It would be at great social cost to my family, but I do not want to offend people who want to keep Jesus at the core of what they do.

The current way I handle this tension is not to contribute much, except when my contribution can be 'vague' and perhaps reference 'God' rather than 'Jesus' specifically. But this tension does worry me.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

I personally would love to see Cityside take on a greater role at providing a spiritual home for those who no longer believe in the Jesus message. To become a place of spiritual nourishment, without needing to adopt a Christian flavour. I know so many people who have left "church" because they don't believe in the Jesus story, and they are now the poorer for having no other place to be nourished.

Could we become (overtly and proudly) that place of nourishment for those who feel they are post-Christian? And spawn many other communities to become post-Christian communities of faith, which better address the spiritual needs of our modern world?

When we were in the US, we spent time at a Unitarian Universalist church, which I personally found incredibly refreshing. A whole organisation which had the structure and community of a church,

(including a denominational support network), but which did not require the Jesus story to be central. The stories, songs and messages which nourished the community were drawn from many traditions.

I wonder if Cityside could become a church like this?

I know as a church, we are only awkwardly fitting into the Baptist denomination. I also know many people already resonate with the label "Post-evangelical". I wonder how many of our community also resonate with the label "Post-Christian"? I'd be keen to find out...

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

We need to take better care of our physical environment. Shabby carpets etc.

On a very specific note, one thing which really annoys me is that there is no discreet way to enter or leave the main space (either direction) when the service is going on. Everyone walks right in front of everyone, right in the middle of the service. Could we somehow re-arrange the furniture to make it more discreet? I'm sure both the walkers-through and the service participants would appreciate it. And it would foster more respect for what's going on in the service.

Further Comments..?

Thanks to everyone who contributes. While I don't feel I am able to contribute much myself at the moment, I really appreciate those who can, and I do value the service you all provide. :)

Joanna Smith

What makes Cityside my home?

I have moments of feeling at home in and with Cityside, such as:

Moments where I experience Cityside as a collective of people who are in search of living authentically, heartfully and soulfully - like in services where citysiders speak of personal experiences of letting go and we do body prayers together, or we have lovely pieces of art to experience and reflect on...

Moments in which I find myself alone in the space and deeply grateful for the beautiful aged building and the many memories I hold in the space.

Moments of connecting one on one with Cityside friends, feeling like I can relax and they can relax in a shared experience of sifting and sorting through our resistant-to-religion heads hearts and guts, trying to integrate it all spirit-fully into daily life.

Moments in which I read Brenda's cityside bits and Andrews reflective bits and feel so inspired to have such intelligent reflective expansive leaders in my life.

In these things and many more Cityside is my home.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

In the last year the things I have noticed and appreciated are: Wonderful children growing into their teenage years, the generous giving and caring to my child, Brenda's ever deepening, real, wonderfully discerned and articulated insights, the welcomed presence of citysiders in my locality, the requests for help in regards to practical needs within the community, and the support and giving that this has enabled....

In the last year the things I have noticed and thought 'mmmm' about: My own lack of interest in being a regular sunday participant (okay that has actually been for the past 10 years out of the 17 I have been connected), the fragmentation that occurs for me in leaving my locality to go and connect with 'at home'

people (okay thats also at least 10 years), the struggle with raising enough money to sustain cityside's building and activities...

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

I understand Cityside's role to be to continue to be a place and community of people who actively seek to love themselves, their families, their neighbours, the earth and all that is in it through engaging with and reinterpreting the christ movement.

I understand Cityside's ministry to be to continue to teach, guide, co-create daily, weekly, monthly, yearly practices, rituals and theology that enable us to love fuller, integrate values, work towards needs being met through a recovering and recreating of the christ movement.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

I am in full support of Brenda's proposed model for Cityside (pilgrim, companion, friends of...) and would love Cityside's future to grow and strengthen each of these areas.

A number of Citysiders are connected with Peacemakers (a retreat and developing eco-community in Helensville) and I have carried the thought for a while now that it would be great to have a more formalised connection to Peacemakers as perhaps Cityside's rural cousin with whom we could support and share retreats.

Further Comments..?

ummmm... no

natasha hofmans

What makes Cityside my home?

We're still at the "becoming our home" stage, but have felt welcomed into a faith community that is genuine, open, caring, dealing with the nitty gritty of everyday life, and the big stuff too.

Oh, and you seem to care about the same things we do too, but I hesitate to put that in case it sounds like a club of the like-minded!

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Minuses: none (honeymoon period- promise to do better next year ;-)

Pluses: Wrote along these lines to Brenda, but imagine writing it here will not cause excessive hubris: "You're special" - I wondered if maybe after a few years some of the unique features of your life together don't get noticed. As a newcomer, it stood out a mile. People with real struggles being honest about it. A great depth of reflection coming from almost everyone who contributes to a service. A lack of packaged answers. Reflection that stirs my emotions, thoughts and hopefully actions.

As an increasingly wrinkly person, I must admit that I'd become somewhat cynical about Sunday mornings. Not any more. Thank you.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

Yikes!

A community of people discovering together what a faithful life is like in this time and place.

Allowing space for brokenness, healing, and expression of the creativity we've been given.

Celebration together of God's goodness and each others' highs.

Crying with the broken hearted. Searching for ways in which we might be channels of grace for those with need both inside and outside our community.

Welcoming to any who might care to join us.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

Too early to say.

The next paragraph is my personal interest that I'm hopeful might resonate with some other Citysiders one day (next year or the year after...)

At the moment I'm embarrassingly super-keen about exploring ways of creating geographically close communities, which might then be catalysts for better, easier, happier, greener, ways of being a faith community. Not a commune, he quickly adds.

Further Comments..?

Good on yer for reading and processing all this

[Anonymous]

What makes Cityside my home?

A beautiful eccentric space
where I'm challenged
to continue walking my spiritual journey
in fine company.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Anticipation of change

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

Widen our horizons to spiritual possibility
To accept those who come
Strip the religious myths
To challenge

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

Youth Group
Widen the demographics
Financial stability
Relationships

Further Comments..?

I am so, so, grateful for my seventeen and a half years with this wonderful ever changing community!

Big thanks to Brenda (sermons esp) and council (keeping it together), admin staff (practicalities), Kirsten (kids stuff), Mark (clock craftsman), Adee (music), Julianne (centering prayer), Ali (magazine), Vince & Sarah (science & faith), Laura (garden),

and all the wonderful people who've shared stories, thoughts, time, inspiration etc

Isa Rive

What makes Cityside my home?

- The ethos (encouragement to participate, excellence not necessary, questions welcome, and many others)
- The history I have here
- The people I journey with

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

An influx of new people (this is a plus!)

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

I believe Cityside remains a place of safety and support for people of faith that don't fit well in other church environments. We are different, and that difference is good.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

I believe we as a community have good and strongly-held ideas, viewpoints and tenets that could bear sharing more widely, particularly with the other institutions and communities of faith that we engage with.

Further Comments..?

The next 18 months will be an interesting time for us. I have to admit that I look on it with a certain amount of fear. My goal is to not be paralysed into inaction by that fear, but to use it to motivate me into positively engaging with the process.

Craig O'Brien

What makes Cityside my home?

Being treated with respect. Being allowed to voice my opinions with Brenda and still being loved regardless of what I say (I hope!).

Meeting friends and people there who treat me with respect, and value me.

Being welcomed.

The Centring Prayer/ contemplative nature of the Communion services.

Ritual in a love-centred church.

The couches.

A place for young people to come and hear something different real and hopeful.

Being allowed to be cynical.

The acknowledgement of the need for a pilgrim path for some people.

The garden.

Julianne's contemplative services - even if I hardly get to them - it is a great offering there.

The real world approach to faith - the sermons grounded in real life - 'prayer as a prayer of the heart, not magic' etc.

The care that people in charge of things take to try and ensure that everyone is included/respected.

The way when a need is publicised for an individual that we as a community seem to respond very well.

Hearing people's wisdom.

Jeannie's humble and gentle contributions full of wisdom.
Having Andrew's wisdom about the spiritual landscape about the place.
Many more....

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Big Plus - all the new people - yay to you people.

Also all the many pluses I wrote above.

A few minuses - often lack of real person to person connection especially outside of services (often unavoidable due to geography and modern pace of life- hence the pilgrim discussions).

Lack of corporate church outreach to the needy/vulnerable - and perhaps to the needy/vulnerable places in ourselves. Are we primarily a place of refreshment that helps keep us all together so that we can function the rest of the week? This is probably a good needed thing - I know I often need it! But is there more to 'church'?

We respond well to the needs of individuals/families in our midst, but do we respond well to needs brought to us about the wider community? Not always - but perhaps we are all too exhausted from the often heart centred jobs that many of us have mon - to fri to want to engage with these needs too? Is it easier to engage with injustices overseas than it is to engage with local ones?

I find this sad but understandable.

I have noticed that I am finding the need to distance myself from the more 'talking' based services (although these are so helpful too to help connection and to help 'heal' faith), and to

instead engage more with ones that help to connect us all in the silence instead, and via Communion and ritual.

I love the idea of ritual as it's a contemplative space that almost anyone can potentially engage with. I therefore deeply appreciate Brenda's contemplative communion services and stuff like Julianne's movement prayer last week. I deeply value silence, and am engaging more with this, but I am also aware that it is not something that everyone, whether because of physical, intellectual, or emotional reasons, can engage with - so I value the ritual being part of our community life - particularly movement prayers that take in the whole body, and Communion (another 'body' :)).

How do we engage with people who are radically different and who have quite different ideas of social manners etc? Fear? Discomfort? Allowance? Need to control? Need to let go? Is Brenda or a social worker the only one who is to be seen as being capable of 'dealing' with 'this'? Do we need to 'deal' with 'it'???? What do radically different people bring to our community - what gifts is the Creator giving to us through them? What gifts can we give? What are fears to be listened to, and what are fears to be let go of?

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

A spiritual refuge of acceptance, space, and chance to hear in the silence/ritual, and a chance to talk things through to reform/heal faith so that it is more real in the modern world.

Hopefully to grow out of this can grow new counter-cultural ways of being in the world - e.g being more connected with each other - phoning each other up, helping each other out etc.? Or even just becoming aware of what our barriers to doing this is valuable in itself.

But if not - it is a valuable resource for people to re-form their faith so that it can actually make sense in the context of the modern world we live in and a great (liberal?) spiritual refuge of ritual, loving silence (where this is possible), and support for people to then go out to minister Christ's love in their jobs the rest of the week. Which is also great stuff I think.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

I am letting it be what it will be. My attempts to peel back on busy-ness may lead me to engage more in the church in my local area every other week or so. But I really value being able to connect in ritual, contemplativeness, open-heartedness (liberal-mindedness?) to help me take that back to any local endeavours I may have.

So...I'm 'letting it be' but hoping it will continue as it is with ritual/contemplation/love/liberal mindedness.

Having said that - it has just come to me -

I would love to see more of any form of movement prayer - get us connected to our bodies, and I would imagine it would help build our connection to each other, and enable more inclusiveness.

I also know there sounds like great developments happening in the planning of provision of teaching for the youngsters. It's great that they are treasured and respected.

I ultimately want whatever Cityside is or enables us to do to give liberation to us and to our wider community.

Janet Pearson

What makes Cityside my home?

The people - being known, the grounded, intelligent thinking, the openness and empathy. Good to be back.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Brenda has a bundle more mana.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

Holding people that are questioning. Enabling people to grow deeper spiritually. Challenging accepted christian norms.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

Addressing the geographical spread of the congregation more.

Clinton McClean

What makes Cityside my home?

I feel that I can share my life and journey with the community of people at Cityside, as others share with me. Even if I have only been coming about once a month, and facing (ok, trying to ignore in the hope that it goes away) my own little faith crises.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

For me it is still that counterpoint to mainstream and evangelical churches in NZ. It is a place to escape strict dogma focused religion, or what seems to be the mindless escapism of the superstitious other extreme. A place to accept the doubt and embrace the glorious mystery.

Further Comments..?

Love you guys...

I'm actually looking forward to seeing how the next while evolves as we 'transition'. Thank you Brenda, I don't feel so unsettled about this exciting new step for you (and us) as I thought I might. I have appreciated the way you have involved us in that process.

Camp rocks, looking forward to the next!

Anony Mouse..

What makes Cityside my home?

It's a community where I feel welcome and that I can be a part of (contributing and receiving). I feel like I can be myself and that I'm accepted as I am.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Not too sure because I don't have previous years to compare it with. Mostly good stuff :)

Hayley Drown

What makes Cityside my home?

There are people at Cityside who I can be myself with - they know me and see me and love me anyway. This trust has taken many years and much time and intentionality to develop, and it is something that I value highly. I've been a Citysider almost half my life and it is quite simply my turangawaewae – my place to be.

I love the ethos of Cityside - the acceptance of where I'm at and what I'm exploring and where I'm journeying, and the freedom to do that. The wisdom and generosity of others when they share their stories about how they do life. The willingness to talk about the hard stuff, and to be vulnerable and real. The range of spiritual practices and theological ideas that we engage in, and the deep spirituality, pondering and wide reading that informs so much of what happens. The creativity. The contemplative bent. The permission to think and question and participate and lead. The intentional embracing and nurture of all that.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Plusses

It might just be me and the changes I've noticed in myself influencing what I see at Cityside, but over recent times I see many green shoots that have pushed their way up through the cracks in the hard stuff. I see that the flavour of the questions has changed for many people. I see we are a very different group than the Cityside of a decade ago. Someone recently said to me that they thought Cityside is dark and cynical. Maybe we still are, but I think also mixed with the ability for more of us to look for the sparkly bits, to laugh at ourselves a bit more and even to dance a little inside. I see that the emphasis for many has shifted from looking at what is being rejected and moved away from to what we want to embrace and grow towards.

Expertise of service curators has been growing as the group gains experience, and also thanks to the nurturing and mentoring by Brenda. I am sad that I miss so much of what goes on after the children leave, because I know how much heart and energy goes into the creation of all our services.

Contemplation and Conversation. Julianne's Centering Prayer services.

A group of consistently regular attendees at Children's Space, which has been great for

deepening relationship with and between those children, and for helping them with continuity of learning. Connect has been an unexpected joy to be part of which has added to the opportunities for those children to grow relationship.

Minuses

Always always at Cityside the energy and reserves of people feels thinly stretched – it seems as if many of us are only just managing to bob up to the surface enough to survive because of just how much is going on in our lives. Perhaps stage of life stuff so maybe this season will pass, but perhaps it's just the way life is for us, so maybe that's something to ponder what that means for us as a community, and for our expectations of each other.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

I don't know. I know that when I happen to talk about how we do church with others they are always intrigued and curious. I take for granted many things that they crave, and almost no longer notice them. We are different from many other churches, and maybe that is enough of a ministry to have to those who are looking for our particular variety of different.

I still value the idea of being equipped and supported to invest in the things that I am passionate about outside of Cityside rather than being totally consumed by church-based ministry projects – I think Cityside does that well, for me anyway.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

Closeness of community – I still don't know how to get around the hugeness of our geographical spread or the stretched thinness of busy lives, but I sometimes feel a bit lonely on my spiritual journey. I treasure the people who have been regulars at Contemplation and Conversation evenings, as this has been a place where I've found opportunities to let people see me as I am and to talk about what I'm working with, and to hear the on-going stories of how others are negotiating their lives and soul-stuff, more than just feeling like I am only seen as the things I do at Cityside. I would like us to develop during-the-week community further (in addition to keeping

Sundays as a whole-community gathering) and to continue to look for creative solutions to the obstacles caused by our geographical spread, busyness and tiredness.

A paid property-type person.

Further Comments..?

I would like to make mention in an appreciative way of some people who I think of as our Cityside community glue. They quietly and with great grace contribute so much to all the things that need to be done whenever we gather together and the myriad of practical matters around the building. There are many, but the ones that have come repeatedly to my notice recently are Helen B, Hyunsil, Laura, Jeannie, Helen D, Nicola, Hayley and Ali. Thank you to you and also to all the other unseen elves who contribute so much.

I'm also taking this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Brenda for all that she is, and all that she brings to Cityside in her role. We are so fortunate as a community. Impending loss certainly brings all that is going to be deeply missed into sharp focus.

I am grateful to Brenda for being so transparent about her decision-making process and giving us such a long, supported time to prepare for her departure. I know we can do this transition well together, and I hope that everyone else feels that they can engage and play an active part in the process and that their voice is heard and that we can journey together effectively. I personally hate change and times of transition, and generally try to avoid them by rushing to certainty. The one thing I am holding certain in this journey of transition however is that God is there, behind us, ahead of us, and absolutely with us.

Kirsten Malcolm

What makes Cityside my home?

Cityside is somewhere I feel completely free to say, think, feel and respond as I wish, and as comes naturally. I feel supported and encouraged, often appreciated, always welcomed. I feel I am with like-minded souls in an unconditionally warm environment. Even when I don't much feel like connecting, it's somewhere I can come to just be. I love, admire and respect our pastor, and those who lead our church life. I am proud to bring outsiders/visitors, and to tell them about the church I go to. Cityside suits where I've been in my journey over the last several years, and it may suit where I (and it) are going in the years to come - we'll see. And there are very dear people I've met through Cityside who will be in my heart for the rest of my life, wherever our lives lead us.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Personally, I've struggled over the last year to be as involved as I once was. But this is only due to time and pressures, not a lack of feeling of (be)longing. Cityside is a lovely community in this regard b/c it allows me the space/time to be distant, but at the same time perhaps that's not always a good thing. Should I have greater accountability? Should it be harder to just come and go as I choose? I don't know. I feel I flit in and out a lot recently. So to this end I don't really have a clear view of what's been going on around me at Cityside - I haven't had the time/space/energy to engage any more than I've been doing. The same people seem to be turning up week on week, and that, to me, is a good thing. So my vague sense is that we're pretty connected and coping OK with the issue of Brenda's pending (eventual, likely) departure, rather than falling apart. So that's encouraging, too.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

At the moment, due to my own distraction and lack of substantive connectivity in anything more than the occasional Sunday, I don't have a sense of this I'm afraid. Sorry.

Further Comments..?

Apologies for lack of substance this year - I nearly didn't bother to do the Report b/c I don't feel I have anything to say. We're in something of a holding pattern regarding council/committee

structure, and next year we'll be facing the prospect of new leadership, and I don't know what that will look like or how I'll feel about it until it happens. If I think of what I want it to be, I'll step up and get involved. Meantime, I'm just grateful/glad/relieved/blessed to have Cityside as my place.

Sarah Watt

What makes Cityside my home?

Familiarity, comfort, challenge, corner-rubbing-off interactions, habit, desire...

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

That there always seems to be so much to do.

That people are very busy indeed.

That there are wonderful moments of genuine connection.

That new people come and some even stay.

That there are many good things that happen for and by the wonderful people at Cityside :
Childrens Space, Quiet groups, Science groups, EBGBs, Amazing creativity, Care, Concern,
Response to need, Love, Prayer, Births, deaths and marriages, Music...

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

Allowing thinking.

Stimulating thought and practice.

Nurturing soul connection with God and each other.

Further Comments..?

In no particular order...

Thank you to Kirsten, Brenda, Nicki for your creative effort and care in developing thoughtful programmes for our young people. Thank you curators for bringing yourselves to the services you curate.

Thank you council for all the time and effort and energy spent on things that are seen and unseen for the good of our community- I know that you are all busy and your time is precious and that you give selflessly.

Thank you to Hyunsil for tirelessly creating rosters and reminding us of our parts to play - you are always gracious and cheerful.

Thank you Ian for caring for our building and its tenants (or lack of) in the midst of your busy life.

Thank you Laura for weeding and planting and cultivating.

[Anonymous]

What makes Cityside my home?

History (14 years), acceptance of diversity, meditative and artistic practices, quiet space in services, my kids like it, not-noisy songs, people I find interesting, a place I feel comfortable inviting others to.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Plusses - continuing to try to adapt and find ways of worship that include variety of voices and styles; willingness to try to work together on challenges (eg the rental / tenancy, Brenda's salary, rostering gaps); wholistic calls to practically support Citysiders in need; amazing kidspace and kids; EBGB identity as a group;

Minuses - inside maintenance of space/shabbiness;

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

A place where Christian expression is open-minded and accepting of respectful, diverse views. An oasis of meditative, reflective space. Artistic and thought-full expression of spirituality and Christian faith. An embracer of diverse Christian traditions too. An internet connected place so you don't have to be in the building to be part of the community.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

I love it when we have the resources to provide art / meditative / music spaces to the public.

Imagine if we became a centre of stillness and retreat and antidote to the busyness and consumption of life and our open-mindedness meant that people from all sorts of faiths and searchings knew they were welcome and they came.

I reckon our kids programs could be franchised!

I would love our physical space to be more maintained so that it was a nicer place to be inside (but I totally understand why it isn't = \$ and time)

Further Comments..?

I love us :)

[Anonymous]

What makes Cityside my home?

Great group of people working at being a living faith community. Even though I've been overseas for 18 months Cityside still feels like my spiritual home.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

Hard to say as I haven't been there but the new evening programme for the older children sounds great.

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

Primarily a faith community open to all. Encourage spiritual practice. A place for children to grow up learning the ways of faith from adult mentors.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

Men's and boys meditation group

Further Comments..?

Really looking forward to being back again next year. Love you all!

Chris McKinlay

What makes Cityside my home?

The people, length of service, playgroup and children's space, the support and love of fellow Citysiders, the sense of being accepted no matter my journey or current questions.

In the last year, what have I been noticing (plusses and minuses)?

The wonderfulness of children's space and everything that Kirsten, Mark and the planning amazingmums do for our blessed children.

The sense of spaciousness that might be around the corner with the tantalising prospect of a youngest child (maybe, almost) ready to take on kidspace by herself.. (holding breath!).. and maybe being able to stay in the service more regularly!

What do I understand Cityside's role and ministry in the world to be?

Hmm, this one's tricky. I want to say something about equipping Citysiders to become the best version of the person God intends us to be and helping us to find our individual and collective passions and how that outworks in our local and less-local communities.. I'd like to think there's something corporate and community-driven in there too. Even though I haven't engaged with it actively yet, I would hope that the conversations around how we do community have something to offer here.

In what areas would I like Cityside to be developed?

Residential apartments in our office spaces :o)
More intentional community in our suburbs.

Further Comments..?

I love Cityside! Thanks for making it the place I want to "live" and the place I want my children to learn about what living as the community of God means. Mwah!! xx

Sarah O'Brien

Minutes of Cityside AGM Meeting : 19 August 2012

Held: @ Cityside Church

Start: 10am

Chair / Facilitator: Derek McCormack

Minutes: Laura P

Present: Brenda Rockell, Derek McCormack, Karen Plimmer, Saul Parkinson, Alister Kitchen, Michelle Parkinson, Grant Bayldon, Helen Bayldon, Isa Rive, Nettie Cullen, Justine Skilling, Vernon Rive, Peter Skilling, Mark Prins, Kirsten Malcolm, Ian Atkins, Sandra Atkins, Murray Sheard, Nigel Smith, Joanna Smith, Fergus McKinlay, Esther Graham, Jared Partridge, Christina Partridge, Hynsil Bedingfield, Charles Thompson, Dienneke Roster, Claude Dewerse, Christy Thrower, Nicki Maplesden, Jolinda Bidois, Julianne McEldowney, Adee Wood, Jenny DeLeon, Helen Dallaston, Evelyn, John Finnigan, Sarah Watt, Philippa Coyle (nee Watt), Vincent Heeringa, Sarah Heeringa, Ros Coulter, Nicola McMeikan, Janet Pearson, Roy Lay-Yee, Micheil Reid, Lisa Baudry, Natasha Hofman, Jeannie Cochrane, Michael Brenndorfer, Duncan Philps, Ross Bedingfield, Laura Patterson

Apologies: Kimberley Madden-Snod, David Cullen, Andrew Dallaston, Luke Turner

1.	Opening Morning tea Song led by Adee and Karen Prayer led by Brenda
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting n/a
3.	Agenda Items Thanks and gifts to Ian, Duncan, Christina and Laura Council Changes Current council members: Mark P, Kona, Fergus, Craig, Luke, Christina, Laura. Standing down: Christina and Laura Nominees for election: Nigel S, Helen D, Grant B. Nominee for re-election: Luke <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scrutineers (Helen and Vernon)- Voting All nominees were voted in. New elected council members: Nigel S, Helen D, Grant B, and Luke (re-election)

Discussion of Brenda's letter and responses to it

(direct comments/questions in italics)

I commend Brenda for her thoughts and allowing us the chance to respond to them.

Brenda: Is our model for church too individualistic. Are we shaped by the Gospel and it's call to us as a community as a corporate lifestyle. Deeper shared response to life.

There are challenges to this. Historical and current. We've had a focus on resources people to be sent out into the world, but as individuals. People are being driven further out geographically (due to cost).

Am committed to being part of cityside more. This is less as an individual and more involved in relationships.

Q to B: could that sense of connection be fulfilled outside of cityside?

B: it's an integral part of what Christianity is, so need to see it at cityside in some form.

Agreed that we are missing something in our gathering. We need to be here and be present with each other.

Can we clarify: is this about our corporate expression of our worship or our individual response? We have a shared community where we live (includes citysiders). Church is an important part of our life. Are we talking about coming together physically and doing things together? Our focus is local so we couldn't commit more.

B: its about a model that starts with relationships. Choices about where we live. How we serve alongside each other. Not this virtual thing (sunday) if it doesn't have deep connections for what else is going on. Christ calls us into connection in our shared rhythms of life. Possibly more clustering of lives. A restlessness of ourselves and our church. Is 'going to church' just turning up on sunday. Want to get beyond this.

See the church (broader) in crisis. We need to question 'what is church for'.

Q: Do you have models which influence this?

B: monastic models. But how do churches foster this and do corporate worship. Church worship, meeting and local rhythm of life.

Q: Are there things we can do to change what we do on sunday to facilitate this? Cant see what the solutions are to overcome geographical challenges

Online community is a big part of my life. We could use this more. Citysiders reach is far greater than who is in this room. Can we make more of an effort to have more of an online presence and support each other through this. Finances is an issue so can open this up for donations.

Monastic group has a deep grounded spirituality journey together and runs through to sunday connections. Is this a place in your heart shift or is there a response we can give each other on a sunday?

There is a thread and desire for community and connection. Timing might be an issue to bring this about at the moment. It's a timing issue.

This church has a unique opportunity on a sunday to be involved in the service and to share of ourselves. There are people who have other spiritual groups and communities they are involved in. Some don't want to connect to citysiders in geographical ways.

*Is pay one of the key issues here? Is Brenda being paid enough?
What does it mean to be a christian in today's world? How should we live?*

I struggle with the sunday morning model. Have stopped finding sunday morning being a resource at all. Geographical challenges have always been an issue, even with other churches. Local groups don't always work as it's more about relationships not about the area. So may not connect with people in your area. How to share rhythms outside of sundays with the corporate community. What binds us beyond sundays?

There are 3 threads here. We have high expectations for what church is. For most of just getting to church is an awesome achievement.

1. Brenda's career. 2. Brenda as pastor, 3. What is church

Do we need to let you be free from the mechanics of being a pastor? Does the pastor role need to be someone who isn't overwhelmed by things like (family, finance etc). We don't have to solve the pastor thing to answer the church questions.

Time to get back to basics about what is faith? Is this just an evaluation of these things?

Q: Could these yearnings be answered by us being able to support a housing and location relocation. What is Andrew's response to this?

B: not sure about first question. Maybe neighbourhood stuff would answer restlessness. Second question, would need to talk to Andrew.

Some people are quite relationally connected and some aren't. That is normal in any church

community. We want leadership to be connected and holding ideals of community. How can we assist Brenda to be relationally connected?

Feel like we've failed Brenda. How can we address this?

Support the idea of putting a donate box on the website. Some creative ideas were in the annual report for how to support Brenda better (each of us give money?).

Wanting to see Cityside to be more interconnected. As our commitment to Cityside we need to identify purposeful ways of connectedness. To be seen as a core value. Commit to this community and commit to this value.

Sensing a value of connection theme coming out of: we are being together but for moments of our lives for refocussing, reconnecting. This is important as we work out the meanings of our lives somewhere else. We get together to scatter. We come and go under this umbrella of shared faith, doubts and visions. Seems a willingness to share with Brenda an exploration of where the church can go. Hear a sense of uncertainty about how people can be part of this.

Derek/chair: Two main questions / and responses:

1. Where are we at as a community, where could we be going, should we stay where we are, are there other visions we should share?
2. Do we have the right arrangement for Brenda's role and employment (currently 80% role) *Brenda is happy to be here as part of this discussion.*

B: Feel warmly to discussion that has just come up. Feel a call to be a minister of the gospel in the midst of my family life. Have the discussion around the pastoral role about the role, not about me.

Don't like the tight ass mentality of what most churches pay their pastors. Think it's a no brainer. Shouldn't pay the minimum but what peers are getting. Can we employ a second person to achieve goals Brenda is talking about.

Jeannie's comment (as absent) via Derek: Brenda does 100% but gets paid 80%

Can we clarify why the role is 80%?

Derek: Brenda originally came into the role at 80% (that what was offered) and 20% of the role was given to someone else to support this role (didn't happen), and then for the project role and now Kirsten's role.

Many thought Brenda had chosen 80% role.

Would like to see a pastoral team and male / female combo.

I prefer single person so the vision doesn't get lost.

How do we solve the problem of un-integration? If I didn't have cside as my 'compost' then I wouldnt be able to be strong here.

How much \$\$ are we talking about here? What % of increased giving do we need to give?

Understand the 80% job is not working. Feel your pain. Understand the need to have a home that functions as a home. If we can help solve this then other things may fall into place.

Acknowledge that some people here may not be able to give more. Is this a reflection of what's going on in the wider outside community? Can we peel back the stuff that we are 'doing' and then have more 'being' rather than 'doing'.

Do we need to consider a cityside house / manse?

B: being a minister is about carrying this community 24/7. full time ministry invites me to greater integration. Would feel free to do more time wise as have put boundaries up to protect the part-time space.

A motion was proposed by Fergus, then amended by discussion and resulted in:

We reaffirm our commitment to Brenda in the role of minister for Cityside and we will increase Brenda's role and remuneration (stipend, housing and allowances) from 80% to 100%, and we ask council to take all necessary steps to ensure that this happens as soon as possible.

Motion seconded by John F.

Carried by majority.

Receiving reports

– Pastoral report

Chair received and moved.

Chair noted the recognition in report for those who give time and energy to the community.

	<p>Motion to receive the report. Accepted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Finance report <p>Chair received and moved. It is noted that the financial reports have not been audited.</p> <p>Motion to receive the report. Accepted.</p> <p>Request raised from member that we tell people each week that they can give in the jar and have the bank account number in the newsletter.</p> <p>General Business - none.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Meeting closed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Song led by Adee – Benediction – tea/coffee

Financial Statements : 2013

Balance Sheet, as of June 2013	
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash On Hand	
Cheque Account	\$7,615.23
Business First Oncall acc	\$11,813.22
Term Deposit (BSDS)	\$10,531.89
Marie Jamieson Trust	\$1,000.00
Rent Account	(\$3,532.22)
Covenant Money Chapel	(\$146.63)
Total Cash On Hand	\$27,281.49
Total Current Assets	\$27,281.49
Other Assets	
Comp Eqpt - Benq6210 Data Proj	\$2,750.00
less accumulated depreciation	(\$2,750.00)
Brother H5040 Laser Printer x2	\$1,065.91
less accumulated depreciation	(\$1,065.91)
Jamieson Piano	\$920.00
less accumulated depreciation	(\$518.88)
Konica Minolta BZ250 copier	\$3,000.00
less accumulated depreciation	(\$3,000.00)
Sony Vaio Laptop	\$1,425.80
less depreciation	(\$1,425.80)
Pullman AS4 Vacuum Cleaner	\$560.89
less accumulated depreciation	(\$560.89)
Total Other Assets	\$401.12
Property & Equipment	
Land	
Church Property Land (QV)	\$1,350,000.00
Church Property Building (QV)	\$200,000.00
Building Alterations 2000	\$12,268.43
Building Alterations 2002-2005	\$31,822.79
Hall Renovations 2008	\$8,433.61
Exterior Upgrade 2010	\$81,492.13
less accumulated depreciation	(\$3,259.68)
Offices Upgrade 2011	\$5,936.52
Total Land	\$1,686,693.80
Furniture & Fixtures	\$2,465.00
Total Property & Equipment	\$1,689,158.80
Total Assets	\$1,716,841.41
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Self Denial Funds - On Hand	(\$0.02)
Holding Monies Account	\$518.61
PAYE	(\$449.07)
Kiwi Saver Employee Contributi	\$200.65
ESCT	(\$69.72)
Provision for Maintenance	\$20,000.00

GST		
GST Collected		\$29,603.72
GST Paid		(\$62,501.48)
GST To/From IRD		\$33,058.27
Total GST		\$160.51
Total Current Liabilities		\$20,360.96
Total Liabilities		\$20,360.96
Net Assets		\$1,696,480.45
Equity		
Retained Earnings		\$144,561.98
Current Year Earnings		(\$5,342.21)
Historical Balancing		\$1,557,260.68
Total Equity		\$1,696,480.45

Profit & Loss, as of June 2013

	Selected Period	% of Sales	Year to Date	% of YTD Sales
Income				
Donations				
Offerings - Automatic Payment	\$9,940.00	84.20%	\$91,807.00	70.00%
Offerings - DDebit (one off)	\$0.00	0.00%	\$6,000.00	4.60%
Offerings - Cash/Jar	\$770.00	6.50%	\$5,163.00	3.90%
Designated giving	\$200.00	1.70%	\$2,600.00	2.00%
Building Income				
Rent Income				
Constructive Personnel Rent	\$0.00	0.00%	\$10,796.38	8.20%
ICESA Ltd	\$0.00	0.00%	\$4,051.44	3.10%
Constructive Personel Power	\$0.00	0.00%	\$292.32	0.20%
Storage rent	\$211.65	1.80%	\$6,734.10	5.10%
Building Usage Donations	\$682.50	5.80%	\$3,666.19	2.80%
Total Income	\$11,804.15	100.00%	\$131,110.43	100.00%
Gross Profit	\$11,804.15	100.00%	\$131,110.43	100.00%
Expenses				
Church Supplies				
Church Supplies - housekeeping	\$63.34	0.50%	\$563.78	0.40%
Church supplies - services	\$44.35	0.40%	\$487.55	0.40%
Hospitality (teas, lunch)	\$100.19	0.80%	\$171.21	0.10%
Administration				
Financial admin	\$89.50	0.80%	\$1,458.57	1.10%
General Admin	\$0.00	0.00%	\$107.85	0.10%
Bank Charges	\$0.00	0.00%	\$20.00	0.00%
General Expenses	\$0.00	0.00%	\$271.22	0.20%
Post Office Box	\$0.00	0.00%	\$147.83	0.10%
Print, Stationery, Photocopy	\$58.76	0.50%	\$893.47	0.70%
Telephone, Tolls, Internet	\$34.78	0.30%	\$1,579.33	1.20%
Building				
Insurance	\$0.00	0.00%	\$6,526.36	5.00%
Security (Alarm, Locks etc)	\$0.00	0.00%	\$297.91	0.20%
Rates	\$0.00	0.00%	\$3,177.27	2.40%
Water	\$27.32	0.20%	\$337.71	0.30%
Power	\$215.97	1.80%	\$2,710.05	2.10%
Maintenance accrual	\$10,000.00	84.70%	\$10,000.00	7.60%
Repairs & Maint - Build & Equip	\$0.00	0.00%	\$1,814.81	1.40%
Repairs & Maintenance Exterior	\$0.00	0.00%	\$1,137.50	0.90%
Repairs & Maintenance - Equip	\$0.00	0.00%	\$445.00	0.30%
Fire safety	\$291.93	2.50%	\$1,949.22	1.50%
Building WOF	\$0.00	0.00%	\$411.96	0.30%
Weekly cleaning	\$240.00	2.00%	(\$60.00)	0.00%

Profit & Loss, as of June 2013

	Selected Period	% of Sales	Year to Date	% of YTD Sales
Ministry Enhancement Expenses				
Reimbursable Expenses	\$467.80	4.00%	\$2,453.79	1.90%
Mileage	\$152.10	1.30%	\$886.60	0.70%
Payroll				
Stipend	\$3,513.92	29.80%	\$44,428.04	33.90%
Children's Space Facilitator	\$800.00	6.80%	\$10,400.00	7.90%
Admin assistant	\$320.00	2.70%	\$4,074.86	3.10%
Children's Space Admin	\$0.00	0.00%	\$150.00	0.10%
Accident Compensation Levy	\$0.00	0.00%	\$264.97	0.20%
Rent DC to Landlord	\$0.00	0.00%	\$2,760.00	2.10%
Housing Allowance Taxed	\$2,927.00	24.80%	\$31,459.28	24.00%
Kiwi Save Emp contrib/tax cred	\$139.00	1.20%	\$1,415.11	1.10%
Other				
Gifts	\$75.22	0.60%	\$322.11	0.20%
Children's Space Expenses	\$967.17	8.20%	\$1,767.79	1.30%
EBGB's expenses	\$0.00	0.00%	\$37.74	0.00%
Designated expense	\$400.00	3.40%	\$2,500.00	1.90%
Total Expenses	\$20,928.35	177.30%	\$137,368.89	104.80%
Operating Profit	(\$9,124.20)	-77.30%	(\$6,258.46)	-4.80%
Other Income				
Interest Income	\$26.11	0.20%	\$916.25	0.70%
Total Other Income	\$26.11	0.20%	\$916.25	0.70%
Other Expenses				
Net Profit / (Loss)	(\$9,098.09)	-77.10%	(\$5,342.21)	-4.10%