

Green Fields Baptist Church
Statement from the Deacons

The Deacons have listened to the feedback coming from Life Groups and others concerning the Possible merger of CBC with Green Fields BC. It is clear that there are some real challenges ahead if the merger goes ahead, but it is also clear that there is some excitement about the possibility of what might be if the merger goes ahead.

Having carefully considered the issues and discussed both options, the Deacons propose that we take a step of faith and go ahead with the merger. Whilst there is some fear in taking this step, fear must not stop us exercising faith. We remember taking huge steps of faith when we embarked on the Church Redevelopment Project. It stretched us in many ways, but it was a great journey of faith and led us into many new ministries and opportunities.

In making this proposal we recognise it does not make the future certain and that, in time, after trying, it might not work.

Here's what we think it would look like over the initial stages following a merger that might take this forward:

- **Someone to manage the building and the bookings**

We are thinking of appointing a person to a paid role of two days a week to manage the premises and the bookings. This person would be responsible for maintaining the premises, organising any work that needs doing and keeping the building clean. They would also be responsible for managing the bookings that currently take place and any future bookings for the use of the building.

It could be a flexible working arrangement amounting to 16 hours a week, to be worked as is most appropriate.

This would be a new role and not be an existing member of staff.

- **A holding time**

This request has come with almost no time to think through the longer term vision of the church, or how it fits with the vision of CBC. Merging with Green Fields would give us time to explore possibilities with the current congregation, explore the possibility of other groups and ministries who might benefit from using the building, and explore the possibility of any future ministry in the church, whether that be in conjunction with CBC or in other ways.

This would be a time of exploring the possibilities and exploring what our response as a church is as well as our response as individuals.

- **The longer term**

Right now we don't know what the longer term looks like. It may be that during the time of exploration it becomes clear that it will be difficult to sustain a ministry at Green Fields and the best thing to do is to seek someone else (perhaps one of the churches currently meeting there) to take over the premises. That would be fine.

It may be that during the exploration time things begin to grow and a longer term picture becomes clearer which we begin to walk towards.