

Parramatta  
baptist church

# Planning and Praying *into the coming years*



Update August 2017

**God has been growing His church here at PBC. We are humbled, thankful and excited about this growth. Our heart is to see many more find new life in Jesus and community within church in the coming years.**

To that end, the pastoral team and diaconate continue to pray, discern, prepare and plan for the future and our continued growth. This booklet captures some the thoughts, hopes and next steps to be considering together as a church as we grow towards 1,000 regular worshippers.

## The growth we have witnessed

To give an idea of numerical growth our church has experienced in recent years:

- Since June 2013 when we moved into our larger and more ministry focused facility we have grown by approximately 140 people, requiring the commencement of an additional morning congregation in 2015.
- In November 2016 the NCLS results showed that 26% of our church family had been here less than two years.
- Since the beginning of 2016 we have had 70 adults attend a 'Welcome to PBC' event.
- We currently have 630 men, women and children who regularly attend our church.

We have also seen and experienced growth in our ministries, including: Friday Youth Group (*which has tripled in 18 months to over 60*



*youth each Friday); PHUN (our ukulele network which outgrew a lounge room, then the Basement and now requires the auditorium to accommodate two groups); Playtimes (which now runs 4 groups each week and has a waiting list to join) and Small Groups (with 200 adults in permanent groups, rising to 270 during the 6-week intensives).*

## How we are responding and preparing for growth

As part of the normal life of our church we have continued to pray,







## Praying and preparing for continuing growth

As a church leadership we are committed to being proactive in pursuing and preparing for growth. In the short-term, some of our 'next steps' include:

- Encourage and direct growth towards our

10:45am and 5:30pm congregations;

- Employ an Operations Manager to oversee the necessary property, finance, resource and compliance needs of our church, both now and into the future;
- Ministry Intern positions for 2018 to equip and raise up the next generation of gifted ministry leaders;
- Continue to explore options to increase our capacity for growth into the future.

plan, train leaders, run programs and care for people. Beyond these activities, to specifically embrace the opportunity for growth this year we have:

- Launched our new church website and Facebook page designed for those who are looking for a church.
- Continued to support our church plant, Parramatta City Church, which has worked towards and will commence weekly services from September 10.
- Are currently implementing a new church-wide database called Elvanto to better enable rostering and membership for a church our size.
- Had conversations as a pastoral team and diaconate about our facility, staffing and program needs into the future to effectively minister to a larger church size.



## Ensuring healthy growing church practices

In our last communication around growth, we identified three important responsibilities we had as a whole church community to steward the people that God would bring our way. From a leadership level down, we continue to prioritise:

- Being inclusive of newcomers;
- Facilitating a greater sense of belonging;
- Intentionally developing leaders.

## Unchanging convictions as we pray and prepare for growth

Foundational to any discussions around growing as a church is our firm commitment to retain the vision, values and culture of what makes us uniquely us as a church.

Two of the core convictions we have around the future is that:

- All we do must be oriented around empowering and equipping people to be disciples of Jesus. We are and will continue to be a church made up of people who are *“learning to live and love like Jesus”*;
- Each of us has a call on our lives to share the good news of Jesus in



our neighbourhoods, workplaces, church-based ministries and other ‘sent’ places. We are and will continue to be a church with the culture of *“everyone on mission every day”*.

We invite you to continue to pray for what God is doing in our church, and the ways in which we can make Christ known to our surrounding community in the coming months and years.

*In Christ,*  
**The Pastoral Team and Diaconate.**