

JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT: DESIGN STATEMENT

10 November 2022



Refer to the attached Developed Design drawings, dated 03.11.22

PRINCIPAL DESIGN DRIVERS

1. Existing building: retention of the existing Wyllie Lounge and Kitchen, and re-configuring the Stewart Lounge to potentially almost double its capacity. Proposed internal alterations to provide a new Admin area at the West end and a new entry off the Carpark.
2. The church carpark is also retained on the north side of the building, essentially unchanged, except for the loss of 2x parks for the new North side church entries. This current location of the carpark is a favourable point as far as the Council Town Planners are concerned – away from the King/High intersection and visually concealed
3. The Presbyterian Support Services building remains on the East side. The new John Knox church building must engage and connect to this building for the continuance of the services provided by both facilities
4. The new church building should be no more than approx. 350-375m² in footprint to remain within the expected construction budget.
5. Multi-purpose: the design provides multiple gathering spaces for both church or community group use, for varying sizes and formality: 1. Auditorium 240 capacity, configured in a couple of ways, 2. Wyllie/Stewart Lounges, combined capacity 110 people, 3. Foyer 80 people, 4. Meeting Room 15 people, 5. Smaller Meeting (ex-Office) 5 people.
6. Location of the church building at the corner of High and King Streets and how the building addresses this important corner, at the entry to the Town centre:
 - a. The new church building is diagonally opposite the Town Hall, with its corner curved façade. We have introduced a similar soft curved edge to the Auditorium corner to reflect the Town Hall.
 - b. The Auditorium is positioned directly onto the High St boundary and designed to continue the nominal 5m wall height frontages along High Street, as an extension of the high-level frontages on this main axis into the Town centre. This continuance of the high-level wall frontage, including a good percentage of glazing into the Auditorium, meets the WDC's Urban Design rules for this aspect of the building.
 - c. The Commercial space is removed from this design option, therefore leaving an opportunity for a landscaped corner public/church amenity, ideally located for a North and North/West aspect. This space will further reinforce the importance of the King/High intersection, providing an external gathering space for the public and church users. The design encourages the public to walk thru this area, while the main Foyer of the church is designed to open up directly onto the landscaped space.



SPECIFIC DESIGN BRIEF MATTERS

1. **New Auditorium:** designed for a maximum capacity of 240 people, and can be oriented as required, diagonally into the South/East corner or facing East. Currently it is proposed that a Sound A/V desk be located in the last row of seating – to be confirmed once proposals for sound and A/V are approved.
2. **Foyer:** designed to be approximately 1/3 of the area of the Auditorium. This is a ‘rule of thumb’ used to allow for a gathering space in itself and as an ideal ‘bumping’ space before and after the church service. A Tea Making facility is provided for morning tea after the church service, or for community groups gathering in the Foyer, with a design capacity of 80 people. The Foyer provides direct access to the new landscaped space, as an ideal extension for an informal church gathering. The Foyer can also be used as an overflow space to the Auditorium.
3. **Wyllie and Stewart Lounges:** Multi-purpose meeting spaces, either a meeting / catering space, for community, church and children, with a combined capacity for approximately 110 people, located directly off the existing Kitchen, or as an extension to the Foyer by means of wide opening glazed sliding dividers.
4. **Meeting:** with a capacity for 15 people meeting for a formal or informal get-together. Good visibility into the room. Room to be used by Parents and Bubs during services, with a glazed sliding door into the Auditorium.
5. **Admin:** The design includes a new Admin area located at the west end of the existing Stewart / Wyllie wing. The main advantages of locating the Admin area in this position is 1.it allows for natural light and ventilation, 2. visibility thru to the Foyer and Auditorium beyond, 3. located next to the new North entry thereby providing good sight-lines to the main entry points to the church facilities, 4. increased Admin space compared to the current situation, 5. ‘hub’ of the church facilities. There is an added advantage in that removing the Admin from the new building footprint allows for more usable storage space and reduction in additional new build area required to meet the brief.
6. **Storage:** the design allows for approximately twice the area of storage than what is currently provided. Provides for access thru the room, from one side to the other. For chairs and tressle tables when not in use
7. **Toilets:** The new toilet facilities are placed in same location as the current toilets, taking advantage of the existing drainage pipes. However, the new toilet numbers are designed for an Auditorium capacity of 240 people and doubling the number of toilets currently provided.

RESPONSE TO JK's DREAMS AND GOALS

John Knox Presbyterian prepared a document at the beginning of this process: ‘*Dreams and Goals*’, dated August 2018. We have responded to the various goals and dreams. Here a summary:

1. **Welcoming:** Minimal barriers between the street and JK + Life happening on the inside + connection with surrounding public space: Our design encourages the activation of the street edge, and encourage pedestrians and passer-bys to be curious about the inside of the church building, removing physical or visual barriers. The church frontage is well glazed into the Foyer, and with windows into the Auditorium, allowing those passing by to be visually drawn into these spaces, and encouraged to appreciate life inside. Visibility is key, both inwards and outwards.



2. **Church for all ages:** Future church, not traditional: The design gives a nod to the past with a few reference pointers: stone masonry perimeter foundation wall, landscaped corner to reflect the heritage and history of the site, and integration of a few salvaged items from the demolished church building (stained glass window, honours boards). But the church overall design is contemporary in its smooth, curved lines, clad in a flat tray metal skin. A future church typology, steering away from the traditional.
3. **Western Gateway:** Accessible to the community throughout the week: multipurpose spaces, accessible for all users, well located at the entry gateway to the Town Centre. The landscaped courtyard on the western side will prove ideal for both church and community groups to come together and gather.