

## Summary of Feedback and Suggestions received on A&A Proposal 07 Nov 2023

On 30th September 2023, the Alteration and Additions (A&A) steering committee for the church building held a fruitful dialogue session with members of the ORPC congregation. Since then, we have continued to receive more feedback and suggestions from members.

The church belongs to all of us, to both our present and future generations. We are heartened at the continued support, interest and participation in the future of our church.

In the document below, we outline some of the matters raised about the project to date in order to keep everyone updated on the latest developments.

Some of the most salient themes discussed were the legal implications, the scope of work, funding, time-line of project as well as the need to improve upon our communication between leaders and members of the ORPC congregation. The committee's responses to these themes have also been included.

Where we can, we will seek to incorporate your feedback while considering the existing site constraints, with the goal of achieving the best collective outcome for the future of our church.

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### **1) Legal Implications:**

A concern was raised regarding the legal implications that may arise if we were to vacate the present premises during the A&A works, as it may lead to a legal situation where the government may repossess the site on the grounds that it is not used for public worship purposes as stipulated in the land grant and Certificate of Title. We have been advised to seek legal advice on this matter, and not to proceed with the proposed A&A works without first obtaining an unequivocal and legally binding confirmation from the State that the proposal is not a breach of the condition attached to the land and the same will not trigger a reversion of the land to the State.

*Response: Session intends to seek independent legal advice and clearance from the relevant authorities before deciding to cease public worship for any period at our church land.*

### **2) Scope of Work:**

A question was also raised regarding the proposal being over and above the scope of work mandated at the Extraordinary Congregation Meeting (ECM), given that a prior decision was already made on the exact scope of work to be carried out. The member also sought to understand the necessity for strengthening of the rear slope behind the Sanctuary and Chapel.

*Response: Session appreciates the mandate given on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2020. However, three years on and since the beginning of 2023, the A&A Steering Committee has undertaken a fresh review of the scope of work required and its associated costs. The A&A Steering Committee has identified an option where with an incremental cost of \$4 million, Dunman Building will be reconstructed into a five storey building to better meet present and future ministry needs. This alternative approach was presented for Session's consideration and has received unanimous support from the church leadership to bring forward for ORPC congregation consideration.*

*Specific details on both the Jan 2020 mandate and the latest approach can be found on our slide deck available on our website or through this link: <https://orpc.sg/aanda/projectproposal/>*

### **3) Enhancing the usage of our church premises:**

A few members have raised the possibility of using the enhanced church facilities for greater outreach to our surrounding community; promoting the Christian faith to the youths, students and seniors, leveraging on our location and ministry potentials.

*Response: The Session and A&A Steering Committee acknowledge the tremendous ministry potential that ORPC may offer, given its strategic location and history. We will seek to maximise flexibility during the design and planning phase so that the ministry goals of a Disciple Making Church may be achieved.*

### **4) Funding:**

Given the funding gap of about \$10 million for ORPC, a question was raised as to the possibility of ORPC committing more from its accumulated reserves, leaving less to be raised from fundraising activities as the amount of \$10 million is still a substantial sum.

Another member wanted to know more about the fundraising plans and schedule and if fundraising activities can be launched now.

Question was also raised regarding the basis of cost sharing with Providence Presbyterian Church (PPC), and the legal ownership of the redevelopment as well as our commitment towards PPC in return for their sharing of A&A project cost.

*Response: We noted the concern regarding the substantial funding gap. Based on current calculations, the proposed total funding requirement from ORPC is \$23 million. The Finance Committee has provided a maximum sum of \$13 million from the church's accumulated reserves towards the A&A project. The amount provided by the Finance Committee takes into consideration the need to set aside sufficient reserves for the ongoing operating expenditures of ORPC. This leaves us with a funding gap of \$10 million that needs to be raised from members. We seek your prayer and support towards this endeavour.*

*A Fundraising Committee is being formed to plan and execute the fundraising program. We will provide further details as they become available.*

*The cost sharing/commitment proposal presented at the dialogue meeting is in the midst of being discussed and negotiated with the leadership of PPC. We will provide details of any final decisions to our congregation when they are available.*

*Do note that current proposals are a high-level cost estimate done by professional architects. Specific costs can only be provided after a full feasibility study is conducted on our site.*

*More specific details on the funding proposal can be found on our slide deck available on our website available or through this link: <https://orpc.sg/aanda/projectproposal/>*

## **5) Prayer:**

A suggestion to start a prayer group specifically to pray for this project was received.

*Response: A series of prayer meetings and congregation information programs are being planned currently. We hope that every member of ORPC will be able to vote on the project at the oncoming Extraordinary Congregation Meeting in an informed and prayerful manner. Prayer and Communication will remain key to the project until its completion.*

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*We thank each of you who are joining the A&A steering committee on this journey. We will continue to share progress updates as information becomes available and ask that you continue to pray alongside us for our church's A&A project. Please continue to reach out to us to share your concerns and thoughts.*

*Thank you.*

*ORPC A&A Steering Committee*



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