# Moving Forwards – Nedlands Uniting Church 2017

For details, refer to [“Discussion Paper regarding future, particularly Church Service options”](https://1drv.ms/b/s%21AmF0u8InlBDu7WOWQcei6jX5pqdh)

## Aim

* To eliminate the impediments to the growth of Worship Services at Nedlands Uniting Church.

## Current Situation

* **Over-Crowding**. The “Upstairs Service” is normally 80 – 90% full, and sometimes overflows: This can lead to existing members feeling we’ve done enough and first time visitors thinking they shouldn’t stay.
* **Fellowship**. Having a cuppa in an over-crowded space does not encourage people to stay and build relationships. It’s hard to hear what you say.
* **Parking**. For new people, having to find a spot and then walking can mean arriving after the start of service. “Do I have to walk in front of everyone to that front seat?”
* **Health and safety**. Meeting the safety requirements for width of aisles will result in an even lower capacity in the sanctuary.
* **Styles of worship**. Some members want a more contemporary style of service and others have proposed a Mandarin service.
* **Isolation of the children from majority of adults**. The adults in the 9:30 upstairs rarely interact with children from the CHAFS service. Many adults appreciate the presence of the children in the services.
* **Synchronisation of 9:30 services**. The need to end the earlier half of each service prior to Sunday Club is particularly difficult on communion Sundays for CHAFS.
* **Hearing problems**. Sound quality in parts of the sanctuary is so poor as to hinder comprehension. Sound quality in the Hall is also quite poor.

## Possible Approaches

* **Additional Evening Service**. A youth service/contemporary service in the Sunday evening.
* **3 Morning Services**. Maintain the 8am service and then have two services in the sanctuary (9 and 10:30 or 9:30 and 11) with a shared morning tea between in the crossover. At least one of these later services to have children present for at least part of the service.
* **2 Morning Services in the Sanctuary**. A traditional service (incorporating the current 8am members) followed by a contemporary service.
* **Incorporate Bilingual Service**. Integrate ESL into the regular Sunday Church and have a separate Mandarin sermon delivered concurrently with the English sermon.
* **Create Proper Overflow Facility**. Provide a live feed into the hall for overflow from the sanctuary.
* **Start New Church**. Develop a congregation at another site to reduce pressure at the 9.30am service.
* **Move Worship Venue**. Use a bigger meeting venue, with on-site parking for Sunday morning services and retain the current site as a weekday ministry centre.
* **Move Church**. Purchase/build a new facility large enough to cater for the congregations’ growth. Ideally a bigger, purpose-built premises with on-site parking for Sunday morning services.

## Analysis of Approaches

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|  | **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| **Additional Evening Service** |  |  |
| **3 Morning Services** |  |  |
| **2 Morning Services in the Sanctuary** |  |  |
| **Incorporate Bilingual Service** |  |  |
| **Create Proper Overflow Facility** |  |  |
| **Start New Church** |  |  |
| **Move Worship Venue** |  |  |
| **Move Church** |  |  |

## Selection of Preferred Approach (or hybrid of approaches that resolves most of the current issues)

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