

Congregation Meeting February 2 2020

RATIONALE:

The Elanora Uniting Church upholds the mission to grow a welcoming and caring community which wants to know Christ and make Him known, empowering all people by the Holy Spirit to see lives transformed and encouraging service. This statement is made for all people of all ages. As a congregation we are mostly living out this mission through supporting our semi-retirees and older within our local community. Our Families Ministry currently consists of KidsHope in the Elanora Primary School, support for our School Chaplains in local Primary and High Schools and we offer an activity table for children during worship.

We care for people in our community well and this is to be celebrated. This proposal extends our care to a younger demographic. One aspect from the Congregation Profile created by the congregation in 2018, listed one of the missional aims as “family focus – change activities to be more attractive for families”. This proposal comes to the congregation with a genuine belief that this is a call from the Holy Spirit to not change activities but add an activity to our current ministries to be more attractive for families. By establishing a youth hub ‘Dwell’ (the proposed name) we offer a safe space for the young people in our community who are seeking shelter, protection, love, acceptance and above all God’s healing and transformative power in Christ.

This proposal is for the families of our youth who may have lost touch with God and/or Church community, or who do not know about the Good News in Christ. This proposal is not primarily about getting youth and families into a worship service, but extending our care in a holistic way where they can meet Christ, be empowered by the Holy Spirit and their lives transformed to love and serve God.

Dwell is to be built upon Psalm 84 with three key words:

1. Restoration (a safe place for healing)
2. Re-building (a place of developing confidence, identity and hope)
3. Revelation (a place to find direction and purpose).

PROPOSALS:

- The Family Ministry of Elanora Uniting Church in Australia establishes a Community Youth Hub “Dwell” as an extension of our vision in being ‘A Caring Community with Christ’ to be launched July 2020.
- A Leadership Organising Team to be established and to include Mr Todd Chamberlain (Chaplain Elanora High School), Victoria Kirk-Lamburd (Family Ministry Representative on Church Council) and Liz Mahon (Child Safety Coordinator) and Rev Catherine Solomon (Minister) with liberty to add others to this team as required.