

## Discussion Resources For Church

This series of resources poses questions to prompt discussion amongst church members. It is intended to lead to a fresh understanding of the way in which the Church's buildings can serve the work of the Church.

This follows the book "[Making Property Serve Mission – Rethinking the Church's Buildings 21st-Century](#)" by Fred Batterton. This is a series of on-screen slides to accompany the following questions. Download the slides in PowerPoint (Windows) or Keynote (Mac).

### 4. Is Our Building a Help or a Hindrance?

Questions and comments relate to the following slides:

3. Is our building obstructing our mission or is it enabling it?
4. Many church communities have inherited buildings like this
5. But what is the task given to us by God? There are some basics and some specific to each church group. What is our Missional DNA?
6. Site, buildings, rooms can each be reviewed against DNA by the users. Engage leaders in usefulness testing.
7. History - Been in use for many years. Built as the pride of the community when Christian faith was the default. Originally conservation was the prevention of change. Now considered to be the careful management of change. Did Jesus ask us to be curators of heritage buildings? Are we distracted by preservation?
8. Fortress or welcome? - Only open for a few minutes a week. Closed up and no seeing inside. Is it a private religious club?
9. This church building has been converted to apartments. The lofty wide span internal volume is gone. The need has gone and the shell remains an architectural icon. New churches are being accommodated elsewhere.
10. The early church borrowed public buildings. Later, church buildings were used as the community centre with worship as Sunday use. Then the sacred space concept - all other gatherings elsewhere. With passing of Christendom they became isolated anomalies for private use.
11. Where do people gather now? These are some new architectural icons for gathering.
12. Cafes, pubs and it can be churches if they are opened up.
13. What can we learn from retail ? Transparency and openness. What message do we send?
14. More retail knowledge: how do visitors respond to what they see, hear, smell as they enter? Compare a shop that you use with your church?
15. Be wise stewards - When you find that you don't need all your inherited property, get best value and redeploy the funds in mission. Beyond this see that the development sits well with the buildings that you will still use.

