

## Spaces For Church Planting. #1 House

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Every church has been planted afresh at some point in the past. So, what are the accommodation needs for a new church plant in the late 2020s?

What are the basics that it needs to function, and how can these be achieved in the different types of plants that occur today?

This is the start of a series of an architect's blogs on what to look for when seeking a place to gather as a new Christian community. These could be.

- House
- Warehouse
- School or Community space
- Social enterprise
- Share an active church
- Empty church
- New build

### 1. House

The Christian church first started to gather in houses (Rom 16:5a). All over the world, many Christians gather in people's homes. If a church community is seeking to establish itself, particularly in a new area, it may start by looking for a house for its church leader with a large gathering room allowing for a growing community to meet.

This was the Melbourne Anglican model to plant a church in a new suburb of Mernda around 15 years ago. This has grown to the point of needing now to meet in a school hall, and they have acquired a site with a plan to build their own standalone facility.

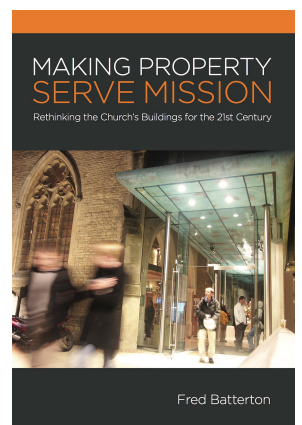
So, what to look for in such cases?

- Perhaps it will be simply a large lounge room that becomes the church worship space on Sunday morning. Ideally, this should have a separate entry point so people don't disturb the whole family life.
- There should be toilet facilities on the ground floor and have level access to avoid discrimination.
- The church leader probably needs a room for an office.
- Can the family continue to have a normal, private life, particularly when the church gathering space is not in use? Can the extra chairs be stored away?
- Can this still be made available when the host family takes a holiday? It is disruptive to find a new location.
- Is nearby car parking available in the street or by arrangement with others? And without upsetting neighbours?

Coming up over the next few weeks will be further blogs covering the remainder of the list.

Next time - The Warehouse Church

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