

## Spaces For Church Planting. #2 Warehouse

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The church that establishes itself in a warehouse is usually active when the remainder of the neighbourhood is away. No one may see the life and gathering of the Church at evenings and weekends..

- This may be beneficial in terms of borrowing car parking.
- There is an opportunity for the church to connect with the local businesses and workers during the weekday.
- Don't expect to just move in with some seats and use the space. Approvals are required.

### Approvals

- Council will require a Change of Use permit to a Place of Assembly. This will depend on several things, including car parking availability. Councils may be concerned about the loss of employment space. Resolve this before acquiring the property. Ask a council planning officer or seek advice from a planning consultant/architect.
- National Construction Code will require fire precautions and safe egress in case of fire. A building permit will need to be obtained. This is also likely to require changes to toilet provision and upgrading thermal insulation of the walls and roof amongst other things. A Building Surveyor's report is advisable at the outset.

### Auditorium space

- Warehouse spaces are often large and unwelcoming unless they have substantial modification. Hard wall surfaces provide acoustic reverberation, which may be good for choral music, but not for speech and contemporary band music. Acoustic wall and ceiling treatment may be required. New walls to contain the space can be finished with acoustic boarding.
- Even if additional insulation is added, the height of the space is such that it will stratify heating (28deg at ceiling to get 21 at head level). Low-speed ceiling fans might resolve this. An air conditioning plant for a large space can be costly to install and run but is only required for a relatively short part of the week. Heat Pump Technology for heating and cooling is likely to be needed. Energy recovery should be considered.

### Entry and welcome.

- There is an opportunity for large signage on industrial buildings. This can create a sense of invitation and present a style. Entry through a roller door is not particularly inviting. Therefore, the entry point should be obvious, have shelter and human scale.

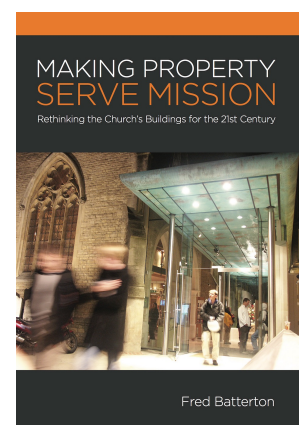
### Complimentary uses and mission opportunities from spare space.

- Include hot desk serviced offices, indoor soccer, adjacent warehouse, childcare, children's adventure centre and of course, a cafe that could serve the industrial community around during the week.
- Making your spare space available can be beneficial financially. It can be engaging for the wider community and it is environmentally sustainable as these users don't need to build, maintain and heat somewhere else.

Many more issues to consider - more covered in the book.

Next time - School or Community space

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