



2022 Vision Conference

6 Month Progress Report

Approximately 120 members and supporters participated in a Vision Conversation together on 23 March at the invitation of the Church Council. It was an excellent evening with significant positive consequences that continue to impact NewHope.

Major gains of the event include:

- Opportunity for the church to meet face to face. This event was held shortly after isolation rules relaxed. The social interaction, worship experience and overall engagement was very strong.
- Opportunity for people to share their thoughts and concerns openly and freely. The structure of the event evoked a great variety of responses and interaction contributing to our ongoing '*discovery → discernment → decision making*'.
- The Church Council and Pastoral leadership received a cross section of points of view on various issues. This allowed us to see areas of alignment and areas of divergence in the church.
- Three major themes were identified and specific work has been undertaken in these areas:
 - Relationships
 - Young Adults
 - Worship
- Numerous ideas and practical suggestions were offered. These have been useful and have informed both the Council and Pastoral Team's leadership in 2022.

Significant leadership responses to the Vision Conference:

- The content of the consultation has been a standing item on the Council and Strategy Team agendas for the past six months.



- Many of the practical suggestions have been taken on board and variously implemented (see examples below).
- The major themes have impacted our daily work and our 2023 planning.
- Many informal follow-up conversations and further inputs have occurred over the past 6 months.
- Council gave an update at the Members Meeting on 6 June.
- Work on the three major themes was prioritised. The following dot points are examples.

Relationships

This is a broad heading under which conference participants identified practical opportunities, individual felt needs and major systemic considerations. Among the many practical leadership responses we can highlight the following:

- Emphasis on 'care' and 'connection' at in-person gatherings.
- Launched 'Connect to the Heart of NewHope'
- Launched the 'Family Notice Board' and strengthened 'NewHope News'
- Implemented monthly 'Engagement Cards'
- Significant pastoral care, leadership development and mentor/discipleship activities
- Creation of church wide 'WhatsApp Group'
- 'Encounters in the Psalms' video project and 'Awe and Wonder Spotlight Stories' – initiatives profiling many NewHope voices.
- We engaged a fresh pair of eyes to review our connection and integration processes for new people.

Worship

Conference participants offered many practical suggestions, put forward conflicting opinions regarding in-person and online delivery modes, and shared ideas from other churches. This data was diverse. Practical responses include:

- Reestablishing in-person Sunday Worship Services (English x3, Chinese, Farsi) and Kids Church ministry x2 (7 months of uninterrupted in-person gatherings).



Linking the Chinese and Farsi worship with Kids ministry to serve the emerging generation.

- Continuing online stream at 9am. Survey research of the online viewership indicates stable and strong participation and engagement. Strong opportunities to foster more outreach (new people) and continuity (existing members & supporters). Still much to learn. The aggregate of in-person & online attendance (average 2.5 people per device & approximately 70-90 live devices) compares favourably to 2019.
- Holding Chinese/English (9am) and Farsi/English (11am) combined services and three integrated special family services. Good learnings. We intend to continue this approach from time to time.
- Supporting and caring for the smaller teams of service providers who are carrying larger loads through this transition season.

Young Adult Ministry

A clear desire to see our Young Adults supported and empowered emerged from the conference participants. A range of felt needs, program ideas, staffing suggestions, and testimonials were contributed. In the past six months we have undertaken the following in response to this priority:

- Held several well attended Young Adult events, receiving strong positive feedback
- Reestablished the Young Adult peer leadership team after COVID interruption, and increased Lance's time allocation in this area.
- Commissioned an external review of our YA Ministry with the support of our Baptist Union.
- Invested substantial resources reestablishing the 5pm worship service, achieving good attendance and engagement.
- We will take this priority forward into our 2023 planning.

Challenges and comments:

- Implementation of new initiatives is hampered by the lack of volunteer resources.
- Diminished (down from 2019) and unpredictable giving patterns impact our capacity.



- Most of the conference input requires an ongoing and iterative response. The work of leadership so far is just a beginning.

Consultations:

- Appreciation Inquiry
- Connection and Integration Consulting Project
- Young Adults Consultation Forums
- Online Engagement Survey
- National Church Life Survey