# Permission to Cease Worship

**Cornerstone/ St George’s Methodist Church– York Circuit *(29/33)***

**1. What is the present membership?**

5

**2. What is the number on the community roll?**

0

**3.  What is the average adult attendance at worship?**

10

**4. What other activities take place on the premises?**

York Community Church run the following: Foodbank, CAP debt counselling, community café, toddler group, games club for local young people, prayer meetings, cell group, Alpha/ explorer courses. York Chinese Christian Church worship in the building on Sunday afternoons.

**5. Provide a financial overview – e.g. income vs expenditure.**

A total income of £17,315.51 was reported 2018/19 comprising of £2,500 offerings, £12,465 from room bookings and £2,350.51 share of income from the student flats.

The total expenditure on the building for 2018/19 including insurance, utilities, maintenance and repairs was £12,081.02 plus an additional £1,010.50 paid in Circuit assessment. A net surplus of £4,223.99 was reported.

Whilst room booking income continues to grow, the surplus is inadequate to address major repair costs such as re-roofing which are needed in the next few years and which are estimated to cost in the region of £125,000.

**6. If a new building is not to be provided, what provision will be made for the present congregation and other activities?**

The present membership was gathered from other churches and it is anticipated they will worship with the churches they came from- other Methodist churches and other denominations.

**7.   What impact will the closure have on the local community?**

The impact will be minimal while York Community Church continue to operate from the building. If the building were to be sold and YCC were unable to buy it there would be a significant impact on the local community, with the closure or relocation of the Foodbank, CAP debt counselling, community café, toddler group, games club for local young people and other activities.

**8.     What other Methodist Churches and Sunday Schools are there in the neighbourhood and what are their distance from the property to be sold?**

The nearest Methodist Church is at Heworth, one mile away but serving a significantly different community. There is some children’s/ youth work at Heworth. Also about a mile away is the Anglican/ Methodist LEP at Heslington, also with some children’s work. Central and Trinity Methodist Churches are both about 1.5 miles away.

**9.    What initiatives have the membership tried, if any, to encourage the residents of the community to become part of the worshipping family?**

When the congregation of St George’s felt that the time had come to cease worship in late 2016, a team from across the Circuit took over the building with the hope of planting a Fresh Expression (Cornerstone) which would reach out to the community. This has been hampered by the need to facilitate repair, maintenance and upgrading of the building, and by the small size of the team committed to the church plant. It has also become clear that much of the work we would have liked to do is already being done by York Community Church, who have been using the building under licence to run community outreach (see 4 above). We do not want to hinder their outreach but there is limited scope for us do our own when they are using the building 5 or 6 days a week.

**10.   Does the membership consider that their mission is complete from this building and why?**

Our conclusion is that we do not have enough presence or people as a Methodist church to justify the major repairs needed to the building, and it would be better to spend our energy and money elsewhere. York Community Church will continue doing missional outreach into the community from this building as long as the Methodist Church allows this, and are interested in leasing or buying the property.

**11. Who will offer Christian worship, mission and on-going pastoral care of the community?**

York Community Church are committed to work in the community- their main worship takes place at a nearby school and Cornerstone’s premises are used extensively for outreach during the week (see 4 above). 0.2 miles away is the Anglican Parish church of St Hilda’s who are also reaching out to the community.

**12.  What arrangements have been made for on-going pastoral care in the community?**

It is anticipated that other churches will continue work in the community, especially York Community Church and St Hilda’s Anglican parish church.

**13.Have discussions taken place with other denominations in order to maintain a Christian presence in the locality and what was the outcome?**

York Community Church are committed to work in the community- their main worship takes place at a nearby school and Cornerstone’s premises are used extensively for outreach (see 4 above). 0.2 miles away is the Anglican Parish church of St Hilda’s who are also reaching out to the community. The nearest Roman Catholic church is 0.6 miles away.

**14.   What is to happen to the building? If it is to be sold, how will the proceeds of the sale be used to promote an effective presence in the community the Church once served?**

A decision needs to be taken by the Circuit about the future of the building, with input from the District regarding the student flat above the church which provides income for the chaplaincy at the University of York. The church members hope that York Community Church will be enabled to continue their outreach to the community through sale or lease of the building to York Community Church.

**15.   Has the District Archivist been consulted regarding records and artefacts and records that might need to be conserved?**

Yes- ongoing.