



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

BECOMING A MEMBER AT
BRACKEN RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

Bracken Ridge
BAPTIST CHURCH

Becoming a formal member at our church is a step that we encourage people to take who have been a part of our community for a period of time and who are committed to the health and future direction of the church.

We don't make a big distinction between members and non-members in the normal running of the church. However, members play the vital role of discerning God's heart and direction for us as a church together. This is why we have members meetings where people vote on the most significant decisions facing our church like Pastoral appointments, Church Council appointments, budget, etc.

In deciding to become a member of our church you are expressing your commitment to the church family and agreeing to participate in our corporate decision making processes.

Membership Involvement

Before considering membership, we ask everyone who becomes a member to be:

**ATTENDING A SUNDAY SERVICE
REGULARLY**

**GIVING TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
CHURCH**

INVOLVED IN AN AREA OF SERVING

**ATTENDING MEMBERS MEETINGS
WHEN POSSIBLE**

General Information

FOR MORE GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION, PLEASE
COLLECT A COPY OF OUR "ABOUT US" BOOKLET

**Bracken Ridge Baptist
Church exists to
experience & share
the life, freedom, and
hope found in Jesus.**

JOIN US IN PERSON

Sundays 9am | 6pm

47 Norris Road, Bracken Ridge

During school terms, 9am service includes:

Kids Church (prep - grade 6)
Junior Church (3 years old - pre-prep)
Youth Church (grade 7 - 10)

JOIN US ONLINE

Sundays 9am

To stay connected, go to
brbc.org.au & subscribe to our Weekly Email

Staff



DAVID LUTHY – Lead Pastor

Email: david@brbc.org.au



DAVE ANG – Worship & Young Adults Pastor

Email: dave@brbc.org.au



STEPHEN BALL – Care & Connection Pastor

Email: stephen@brbc.org.au



ALEX SWEETMAN – Operations Director & Missions Coordinator

Email: alex@brbc.org.au



ASHLEY HICKS – Youth Coordinator

Email: ashley@brbc.org.au



KASS SWEETMAN – Children's & Families Coordinator

Email: kass@brbc.org.au



DEANNA SUOSAARI – Children's Worker

Email: deanna@brbc.org.au

To contact a staff member, please either call 07 3261 5045 during office hours or email them directly

Serving

We believe at BRBC that God has gifted all of us to bless and build up the Church. There are so many different ways to serve at BRBC including:

SUNDAY SERVICES

ROLES: Worship Team, Sound, Presenter, Lighting, Photography, Videography, Setup Team, Cafe, Welcoming, Integration

KIDS & YOUTH

ROLES: Kids/Junior Church Leading, Mainly Music Leading, Youth Church Leading, Bracko Youth Leading, Brigades Leading

LIFE GROUPS

ROLES: Life Group Leading, Life Group Assistant, Life Group Hosting

PASTORAL CARE

ROLES: Pastoral Care Team, Pastoral Care Admin, Mentoring, Cooking Meals

ADMIN/MAINTENANCE

ROLES: Gardening, Maintenance, Office Work, General Admin, Cleaning

EVENTS

EVENTS: Carols Spectacular, Church Camp, Christmas is Coming, Kids Holiday Club

To join one of these teams, please contact the staff member responsible.
If unsure, please email office@brbc.org.au or call 07 3261 5045

Contact Information

PHONE: 07 3261 5045

WEBSITE: www.brbc.org.au

STREET ADDRESS: 47 Norris Rd,
Bracken Ridge QLD 4017

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 3166,
Bracken Ridge QLD 4017



youtube.com/brackenridgebaptistchurch

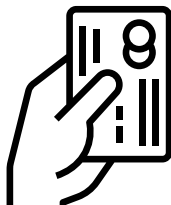


facebook.com/brackenridgebaptistchurch



instagram.com/brackenridgebaptistchurch

WAYS TO GIVE



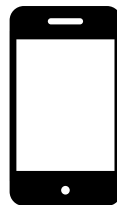
DIRECT DEPOSIT

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ACC: 400039012

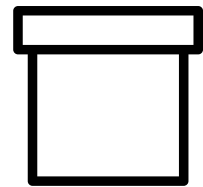


ONLINE

brbc.org.au/giving



TITHE.LY



GIVING STATION

Available in the foyer

OFFICE HOURS: 9am-4pm Mon, Wed, Fri

Church Beliefs

What We Believe

WE BELIEVE THAT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE FOUNDATIONAL AND UNCHALLENGEABLE. THEY FORM THE BASIS OF OUR BELIEF AS A CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

GOD

We believe in one God in three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, co-equal and existing forever in unity, creating and sustaining the universe.

Genesis 1:26,27; 3:22; Psalms 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, came to this earth as both God and man. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless human life, and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He was raised from the dead, ascended to heaven, and will come again to judge the world and reign as King and Lord of all.

Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrew 4:14,15; 1 Cor.15:3,4; Rom.1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Tim.6:14,15; Titus 2:13 3.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit is a person co-equal with the Father and the Son. He is present in the world to convince people of sin and of their accountability to God. He gives new life and is present in all who turn from their sin and place their faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord. He lives in believers from the time they turn to Jesus and works to make them holy. He empowers them for Christian life and service, and gives them understanding of spiritual truth and guidance to do what is right. He gives spiritual gifts to all believers for the building of the church (the body of Christ).

2 Cor.3:17; John 16:7-13; 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor.2:12; 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; 5:18; Galatians 5:25 4.

THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the Bible is inspired by God and without error in its original form. It is our primary authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20–21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 12:6; 119:105,160; Proverbs 30:5 5.

THE STATE OF PEOPLE

We believe people are made to live in relationship with and dependence on God. Through our rebellion and self-dependence (sin) all people are separated from God and face God's judgement.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3–6; Isaiah 53:6; 59:1–2; Romans 3:23 6.

SALVATION

We believe we cannot make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. We are saved when we turn from our self-ruled life (repent), place our faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord, and receive the Holy Spirit. When we are saved, our rebellion and failings are forgiven and we are adopted into God's family forever.

Rom.6:23; Eph.2:8–9; John 14:6; 1:12; Titus 3:5; Gal.3:26; John 10:28–29;

Tim.1:12 7.

SERVICE

We are saved to worship God and live lives of sacrificial service. Our call to be holy (set apart for God) is expressed as we love God, love people, and seek first God's kingdom in his church and in his world.

1 Pet. 1:15; Luke 4:8; Matt. 6:33; Eph. 5:1–2; Luke 10:27; 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 John 3:1–3 8

THE FUTURE

We believe people were created to live forever. Everyone will be judged by Jesus for what they have done on earth. Those who have placed their faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord will live with him forever. Those who have ruled their own life will be separated from him forever.

John 3:16; 5:11–13; Revelation 20:12–15

Baptist Distinctives

There is no single formulation of belief and practice which all Baptists have affirmed. Indeed, for it to be so would violate the principles of freedom which are fundamental to being Baptist. Of the following Queensland Baptist core values, none are exclusive to Baptists, but collectively they form a set of principles which is distinctively Baptist.

THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

Christians everywhere confess that Jesus is Lord. The life and practices of Queensland Baptist churches affirms the sole and exclusive Lordship of Christ. No other authority should be permitted to usurp Christ's position as Lord of all.

THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURES

The Bible, as the true record of God's revelation, is the supreme written authority for our faith and practice.

REGENERATE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Baptist churches consist only of believers, those born anew by the Holy Spirit, who have freely responded to serve God together.

BELIEVER'S BAPTISM BY IMMERSION

Being a believer's church, Queensland Baptists affirm that baptism is for believers only and that full immersion is the appropriate mode for baptism.

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The presence of the one Holy Spirit in the life of every believer draws believers together into a community of faith. The Spirit is the source of spiritual gifts which bring vitality to worship and mission.

THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

There is no intermediary between God and humanity except Jesus Christ. Baptists believe that every believer is called upon to fulfil the ministry of the church, to worship God and bear witness to His good news.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Each local church has the freedom and responsibility to conduct its own ministry. Whilst affirming the place of leaders to guide, the local Baptist congregation has the final authority, under Christ, for the life and mission of the church.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Queensland Baptists will exhibit a strong commitment to developing, identifying, installing and releasing, visionary, gifted, anointed, godly, servant leadership; who whilst leading, still are accountable to God through the Church Meeting.

LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE

Baptists accept that no one can coerce a person to believe; no one can force a church to accept a creed. Central to the Baptist identity is a strong commitment to total religious freedom.

DIVERSITY OF PRACTICE

Queensland Baptists exhibit a strong commitment to diversity of practice and methodology in ministry between churches believing that this allows for congregational creativity, expression of unique personality, matching of local needs and resources, and the possibility of mutual enrichment.

EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

Queensland Baptists exhibit a strong commitment to evangelical Christian doctrine, and to evangelisation of all people in obedience to the Word of God.

Perspectives on Secondary Issues

In our church family there is a great deal of diversity. This is both healthy (we can learn from each other and learn to love each other despite our differences) and Baptist (we believe that individuals have the right to interpret the Bible personally through the guidance of the Holy Spirit).

We hold strongly to the following biblical principles:

- In essential beliefs we have UNITY.
- In non-essential beliefs we allow DIVERSITY.
- In all beliefs we show CHARITY.

We have produced the following statements to give some guidance on the general direction and position of the church in some areas of doctrine and practice where Christians may have differing views.

Please note:

1. These statements are only for guidance. The Bible is our authority and as we submit to Scripture and the Holy Spirit, our viewpoints may change.
2. These statements do not attempt to cover the areas totally. Further details may be available from our pastors.
3. Because of the diversity of our church and our adherence to the Baptist principle that Christians should read and interpret the Bible themselves, people in our church may disagree with some of the statements below. That's okay. Uniformity in belief is not a condition of membership. We do not see any of these beliefs as essential to the foundations of Christian faith.
4. These statements are in random order and not in order of importance.

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

We believe that all the biblical gifts of the Holy Spirit are valid today. No gift has ceased to exist although the Holy Spirit gives gifts as he chooses and some gifts may not always be evident in our church. We encourage the use of all the gifts but do not tend to use the prophetic gift of tongues in our church services.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

We believe that both men and women can be gifted and called to leadership in the church. We also believe that wives need to submit to husbands and husbands need to love (which involves submission) their wives, so there needs to be agreement about ministry roles in a godly marriage. We encourage women to use their gifts and fulfil their God-given ministry in the church and beyond. For 30 years, we have been taught by both male and female preachers.

CREATION

We firmly believe that God created the earth as the Bible states. God as Creator informs our perspective on all of creation and life. We believe that the Bible does not clearly record over what period God created the world, but we support Christian scientists who research the scientific basis of God's creative work.

CORPORATE WORSHIP

We believe that corporate worship should be in spirit (touching the spiritual realm and aided by the Holy Spirit) and in truth (in sincerity and in accordance with the Scripture). The Bible describes many different styles of corporate worship, all of which involve the mind, emotions and body. In our corporate worship, we encourage both freedom (it's between you and God) and love (don't do something that will severely inhibit the worship of your brothers and sisters).

THE SUPERNATURAL

We believe that Satan and his demons are actively trying to influence God's world and destroy his kingdom work. We believe that prayer has a key role in the defeat of Satan. We pray for healing and deliverance and have seen God answer many of our prayers. We also pray for a greater release of God's power in revival. However, we recognise that what we want is not always what God wills and we do not believe that God chooses to heal everyone now.

Perspectives on Secondary Issues Continued...

DIVORCE

We believe that divorce was never God's intention for his people so we work hard to maintain and grow our marriages and are concerned with the lack of valuing of marriage in our society. However, we believe that Jesus allowed for divorce in some circumstances and that he forgives and heals us from our brokenness. There are many divorced and remarried people who have found a home in our church.

SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS

We believe that God created and intended sexual relationships for committed, heterosexual marriage. We believe that same sex attraction (along with many other human challenges) came as a result of a broken world but is not sinful in itself. We believe that God does not want people (whatever their orientation) to engage in sexual relationships outside of monogamous, heterosexual marriage. However, we take seriously Jesus' call to love our neighbour, so sexual practice is never a barrier to our offering love and care.

ALCOHOL

The Bible clearly states that drunkenness is sin, but is generally positive regarding the controlled consumption of alcohol. We neither encourage nor discourage the use of alcohol, but because the abuse of alcohol is responsible for damage in our society and some in our church have been impacted by this, we do not allow alcohol to be consumed in our church grounds.

MONEY

We live in a society that tends to venerate money and possessions. Jesus said, "You cannot serve God and money," and he taught more on money and possessions than on any other subject. We therefore talk freely about money, tithing and giving. We teach that Christians should give in a generous, sacrificial way and live lives that reflect godly stewardship of all they have. We believe that generous giving brings God's blessing, however, these blessings are often spiritual. We will not pressure people to give.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

As followers of Jesus we are committed to standing against attitudes, structures and laws that oppress and disadvantage the poor and struggling in our society and in our world. We believe we should challenge the status quo when it hurts those whom God would protect. We believe that our faith must include a heart for social concern/justice.

OTHER DENOMINATIONS

We believe that there are Christians in all Christian denominations and we want to work together with these our brothers and sisters. We are Baptist by conviction, but we do not believe that we have an exclusive claim to biblical truth. We seek to learn from the emphases of other Christian denominations and are prepared to cooperate in any way that expands God's kingdom. We believe that this is not the time to squabble over minor doctrinal differences but to work together in love.

ABORTION AND EUTHANASIA

We are pro-life in that we believe that God gives life and only God has the right to take it away. We regard the lives of unborn infants and the dying as precious to God and therefore oppose any intervention that will end their lives prematurely. We accept that there may be very limited circumstances when a life may be ended or allowed to end prematurely for a greater good (e.g. to preserve the life of a mother, to allow a person whose brain has ceased to function to die).

SECOND COMING

We believe that Jesus is returning as Judge and Lord and that through his intervention we will live forever with him in a new heaven and earth. While we are completely confident of Christ's victory, we believe that as the return of Jesus nears, spiritual warfare will increase. We do not subscribe to one particular viewpoint regarding the order of events preceding Christ's return. It is likely that the return of Jesus will be greater than and different from any of our human systems and timetables.

Membership &
History

Structure

UNDERLYING OUR STRUCTURE

1. God is the leader of our church
2. Everyone should be involved in ministry
3. Everyone in ministry needs to be supported
4. All leaders are servants
5. Every person is important
6. Our church operates on the basis of relationships rather than rules
7. Our focus is on ministry not maintenance
8. An essential role of pastors is to equip people for ministry
9. Leaders are allowed and expected to lead
10. As much as possible, those in ministry accept responsibility for their area of ministry

MEMBERS

The members meet together at least twice a year, for major decision-making and are involved in all aspects of church life, serving according to their gifting.

COUNCIL

The Council is composed of not more than seven elected members and two pastors. Those on the Council are appointed by the church members for two-year terms.

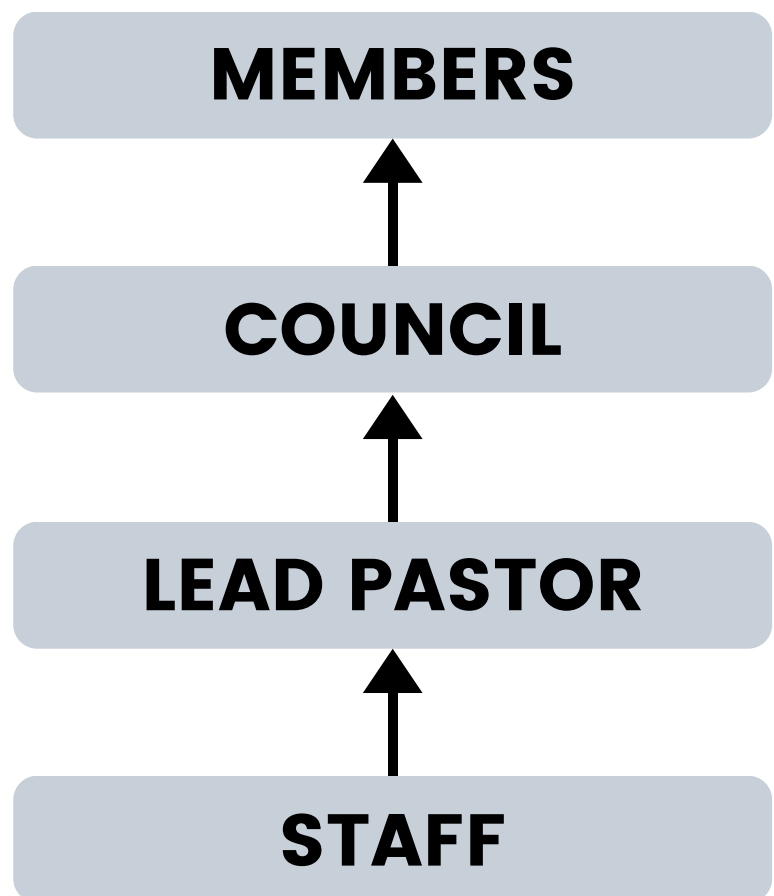
LEAD PASTOR

The Lead Pastor is called by the church members and heads the staff team.

STAFF

Made up of people employed in two categories.

- PASTORAL STAFF – Pastoral Staff are responsible for the spiritual and pastoral leadership of the church or an area within the church and are appointed by the church members.
- SUPPORT STAFF – Support Staff who operate in support of the Pastoral Staff in specific areas of ministry and are appointed by the Church Council.



History

Our church has always been exceptionally well served by a large body of volunteers who give generously of their time and gifts. It is these volunteers, together with our continuing staff, who provide leadership and enable us to maintain effective ministry. Most of all, we give thanks to Jesus, the Chief Shepherd and Head of our church, who continues to grow us together in the love of God and empowers our ministry to our community.

1968

In December 1968, Sandgate Baptist Church commenced a Sunday School in the Bracken Ridge area under the leadership of Ralph & Daphne Brett. Ralph is still in the church. The Sunday School continued successfully until 1976.

1980

In 1972 our land in Norris Road was purchased by the Nundah and Sandgate churches with the view to commencing an outreach in Bracken Ridge. But it wasn't until 1980 that the first service was held in the TAFE College after extensive preliminary work initiated by Maurie & Glenda Simpson. Ninety people attended that first service and within a few months Pastor Ted Brett became the part-time Pastor.

1983

Gradually the infant work grew with the church calling a part-time Minister of Visitation (Mel Williams) in 1982 and becoming a fully-fledged Baptist church in 1983.

1986

The desire to have a church building of their own had always been a driving motivation for the church family, especially as the land was already available. The first Site Plan application was submitted to the Council in 1983, but because of a number of problems, building didn't commence until late 1985. The building programme was completed in December 1986. Despite a few setbacks, the church grew steadily in numbers with membership reaching 94 and morning attendance about 110.

1987

John Sweetman commenced ministry in September 1987 as full-time pastor and the church continued to expand rapidly especially in the young family and young adult areas. The church adopted a strong commitment to renewal, and worship services (which had always been free and informal) grew both numerically and in open expression of worship. With the growth that was occurring, the church set about to rapidly expand their ministries with children's, youth, home group, and prayer ministries developing. The Pastoral Team was increased to assist with ministry to the growing church family and its community.

1995

Many building options were considered, but finally it was decided to extend the building by removing a side wall and adding an annexe at the rear. In 1994 the Brighton Baptist Church amalgamated with Bracken Ridge with the Brighton pastor joining the Bracken Ridge team. In 1995 the extensions were opened. However, the space quickly filled and in 1997 two morning services commenced. John concluded at the end of 2001 to become the Principal of the Baptist theological college (Malyon).

2004

Brent Sweeney was appointed Senior Pastor of the church in 2004. Brent had already been on the pastoral team for five years. His vision for the church was to build on our rich heritage of making a difference in the broader community of Bracken Ridge and surrounds. The church building underwent a renovation in 2005 in order to bring it up to community standards and make it more functional as a meeting space for the many groups and communities that use it each week. Brent finished as Senior Pastor at the end of 2014, but remains in the church family .

2015

Dan Lyons was called as Senior Pastor at the start of 2015 with a real passion for evangelism – connecting ordinary people with an extraordinary God. He brought a relational, inspiring, humorous approach to leading and preaching and related well to a wide range of people. Dan finished his term as Senior Pastor at the end of 2017.

2019

At the beginning of 2018, David Chatelier was appointed Interim Senior Pastor while a search took place for a new Lead Pastor. David Luthy commenced work as the new Lead Pastor in September 2019 and we look expectantly into the future that God has for us together!

2022

After dealing with the lockdowns of COVID (& subsequently beginning church online), there was a clear sense that God was calling the church into a new season. With a new staff team, the church was led through a period of prayer & discernment to understand God's leading. Our mission was now that we were to be a church that would experience & share the life, freedom, & hope found in Jesus. God was calling us to carry this out through multiple ways including church planting, and significant building developments.

Mission,
Values,
& Vision

Mission

W H Y D O W E E X I S T ?

We exist to
experience and
share the life,
freedom, and
hope found in
Jesus.

LIFE - Knowing Jesus

FREEDOM - Becoming Like Jesus

HOPE - Eternity With Jesus

2 CORINTHIANS 3

WHERE THE SPIRIT OF
GOD IS, HE BRINGS...

Life

2 Corinthians 3:6

Freedom

2 Corinthians 3:17

Hope

2 Corinthians 3:12



Values

H O W W I L L W E B E K N O W N ?

AT BRACKEN RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, WE VALUE...

Family

We believe that church is more than a place.
It's a family where we find our true sense of belonging.

Grace

Everyone is welcome at our church.
No matter what your past, you are welcome with us.

Diversity

We don't all look the same and we celebrate that!
We see beauty in being united and loving in our diversity.

Authenticity

We believe in being genuine with one another.
Church is where we can be our most real and honest selves.

Advancement

We believe the church should be on the move.
We won't get complacent or comfortable. We will go wherever God calls us.



Please always
sanitise your hands
before entering.

Sanitol

Vision

W H E R E A R E W E G O I N G ?

THE CHURCH WE SEE...

The church we see is a church that is equipped and empowered by the word of God. A church where the Bible is taught in ways that change people's lives and is practical to everyday life. A church where the gospel is proclaimed and lives are transformed!

We see a church where prayer permeates everything that we do and we see the power of God first hand. A church where we pray with faith and authenticity, and we celebrate His answers to our prayers.

We see a church that is bold and courageous in sharing faith. A church that both invites people to "come and see" who Jesus is and "go and tell" others about Him in our spheres of influence.

We see a multiplying church. A church that multiplies by seeing new followers of Jesus, as well as seeing new churches planted to advance the kingdom of God.



We see a church where everyone can find a home. A church where we find family and experience community no matter who we are. A church where we know one another deeply and share in each others triumphs and tragedies.

We see a church of all generations, where all generations are valued and we choose to learn from, invest into, and bless one another.

We see a church that builds bridges into its local community. A church that is known as a blessing to our local community.

We see a church that reaches people across cultures, both locally and globally. A church that follows the great commission to make disciples of all nations.

Projects

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE
KEY PROJECTS TO HELP
US ACHIEVE OUR VISION?

God spoke to us
and called us to
BUILD & SPREAD



A Season Of Building

(5 Y E A R S)

New Parents Room

New Under Cover Area

New Church Cafe

New Playground

Preparation For New Children's & Youth
Facility

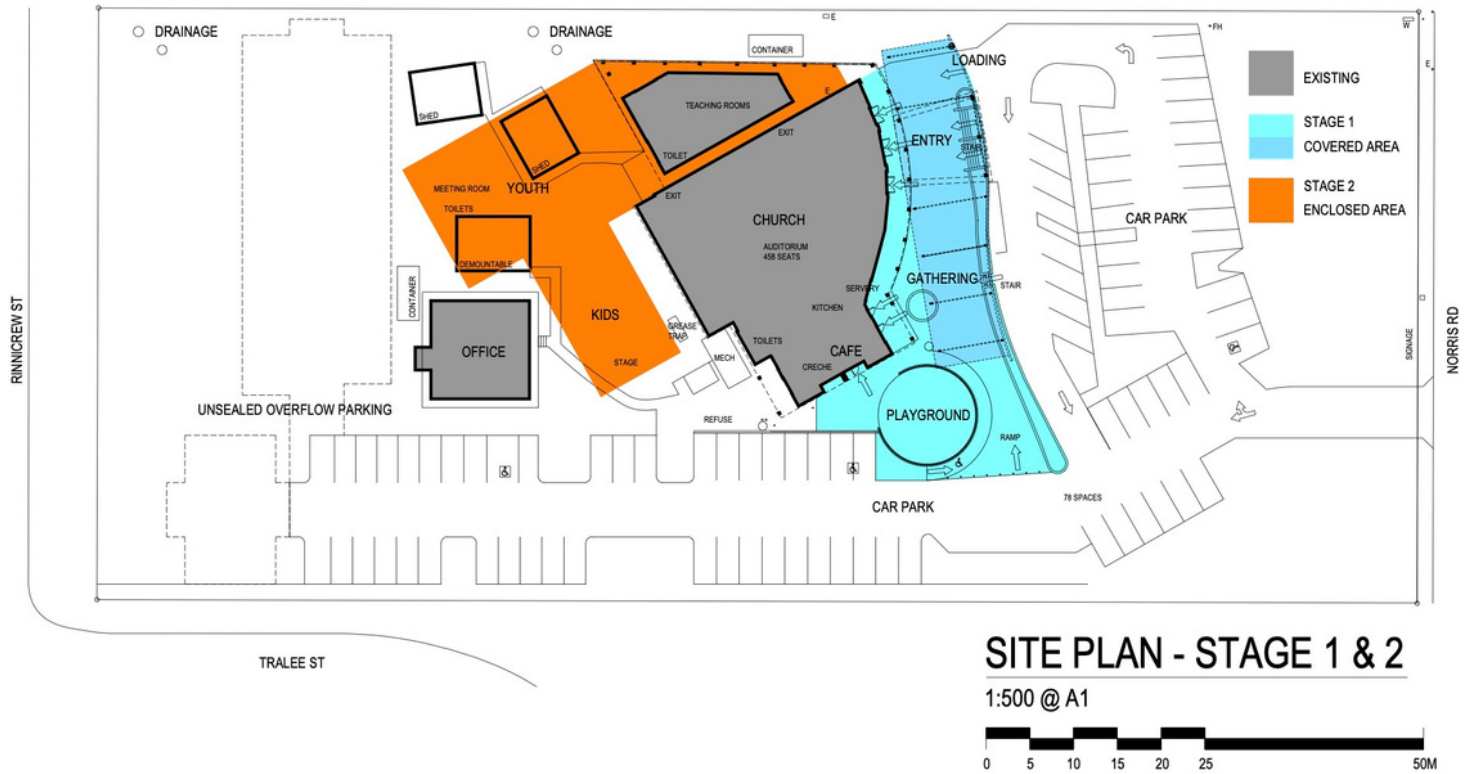
A Season Of Spreading

(5 Y E A R S)

Becoming Multi-Campus (whether through
planting, revitalisation, etc.)

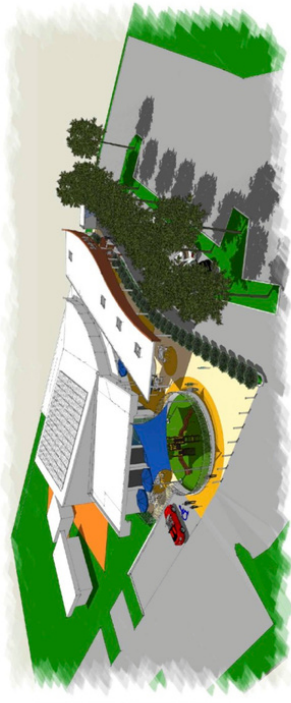
New Children's & Youth Facility

Building For The Future



Stage One

As we pursue our Vision for the future, we need a facility that will help to make this a reality.



We invite you to pray earnestly about what God might have you give to make this come to fruition.

To give directly to the building fund, please use the details below...
ACCOUNT NAME: Bracken Ridge Baptist Church
BSB: 704 913
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 400039012
REFERENCE: Building Fund

Constitution



LIFE | FREEDOM | HOPE



LIFE | FREEDOM | HOPE

FOR GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION, PLEASE
COLLECT A COPY OF OUR "ABOUT US" BOOKLET