

**THE SALVATION ARMY WOODROFFE COMMUNITY CHURCH
RELOCATION STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Executive Summary of Program Proposal
March 25, 2008**

Executive Summary

The Salvation Army Woodroffe Community Church has had many discussions about relocation over the past several years. In 2004, the Corps Officer presented three options to the congregation: relocate, renovate or church plant. The decision was to remain at the same location and build on existing ministries.

However, after that time, so many concerns emerged about the property and the building that DHQ arranged for Morden Engineering to do a building assessment. The Morden report of September 2006 revealed that maintaining the current facility was not financially feasible. Approximately \$1.5 million would be needed to simply bring the building up to code and make other repairs. There were more discussions and surveys of corps opinion and ideas. There was an emerging voice for reinventing Woodroffe as a more outward looking church in a new, growing community. At a congregational meeting on January 28, 2007, the Corps Officer announced the Mission Board decision that we would relocate. There was no apparent negative reaction; there were concerns but it was accepted that this was the most practical decision to make. There was a certain excitement about opportunities for a renewed ministry.

In May, 2007, a committee was convened with membership including experience and expertise in, and commitment to addressing issues of finance, fundraising, property search, construction, program development, communication and, of course, prayer support. A congregational meeting was called to explain the establishing of the Relocation Steering Committee (RSC) and the process that would be followed to develop a comprehensive plan. On Rally Day in September 2007, the RSC Chair gave an update to the congregation, explaining the consultation process that would take place over the next six weeks.

The consultation explored the purpose and possibilities of each ministry and program unit in the church under the clusters of: Spiritual Growth; Pastoral Care; Fellowship; Musical/Drama Ministries and Outreach. There were focus groups, individual interviews, written and electronic surveys, involving 275 individuals from Sunday School children, to senior congregants to youth attending a Friday night outreach program. In many groups, there was an excitement about having 'permission' to talk about visions and dreams for engaging the community, for seeking our souls within many sectors of the population. Many of these visions were textured with practical detail about activities,

friendly building design and, most importantly, commitment to both strengthening church assets and reaching out to others.

The collated and analyzed results of this consultation were presented to Mission Board with eight specific recommendations to move forward on all fronts including preliminary property search; program development; leadership development, and development of a financial plan.

This report was taken to the congregation on December 2, 2007. The congregation confirmed the decision to relocate. The next step for the RSC was to develop this Program Proposal with all its program and property detail. In the meantime, Mission Board is overseeing the development of a purposeful plan for integrating ministry and for strengthening leadership.

The focus of all this planning is the creation of a strong, contemporary Army presence in Ottawa West with the integration of congregational ministry and community services. This is seen as a phased process; that is, to purchase property, to sell the current property, to meet in a school or other suitable building while engaging the community, and to begin building within a year or so. There is no plan for an extravagant building. Rather, Woodroffe want to be known as a community center of choice for residents who want to explore their spirituality, access personal and practical support and contribute their strengths and experience.

At this time, the Mission Board recommends that DHQ/THQ:

1. accept this Program Proposal as a viable document for planning the relocation of Woodroffe Community Church;
2. identify resources to work with Woodroffe CC to finalize plans for property search, accessing financial/fundraising resources, and for program development.
3. promote discussion between Woodroffe CC and Salvation Army Social Services, through the Area Commander, to explore moving/opening 'satellite' services to a relocated church.