



LEVEL 3: UNIT RESOURCES

Respond > Alternative Futures > Unit Options

Having utilised the materials within **Building Together** some Units may be looking at their future and questioning the viability of the Lodge or Chapter. This Thread, together with support material (which will expand in due time), highlights routes that have been taken by Units as alternatives to Closure – **BUT HIGHLIGHTS GOOD PRACTICE SHOULD A UNIT DECIDE THAT THE OPTION IS TO CONSIDER CLOSURE.**

Traditionally, a Unit that struggles to engage an active membership and secure enough members attending to be quorate will eventually drift to closure. This does not have to be the case, should members wish to embrace change (operating until no longer viable is an option if that is what members want).

The most common options are summarised below:

Items of good practice will be added over time; in the meantime, any member wishing to discuss the options below should contact their Provincial Membership Team.

1. Working with the Provincial Membership Team to reinvigorate the Unit

This will require work and commitment from the Members using the materials within Building Together, it won't be a "quick fix" but does present you with options.

2. Re-purposing as a Special Interest Lodge or Chapter

This will also require engagement with the Provincial Membership team and work by Unit Members. Just because you are a Special Interest Unit does not mean members will appear.

3. Looking to Merge with another Lodge or Chapter

If two Units are located near each other, they may consider joining and, through the merger, become a stronger membership base. Such mergers only work when all members are committed to the process and accept that some of their own unit's unique aspects and traditions may not be carried over to the Merged Unit.

The Provincial Team can play a key role in facilitating and supporting merger discussions and completing the appropriate paperwork.

4. Relocation of the Unit to another Masonic Jurisdiction

Occasionally, Provincial offices receive enquiries to ask if any Units are considering Closure and if there is scope to relocate and repurpose them, as opposed to the costs associated with the construction of a new Lodge or Chapter. This is rare, but should members be willing to consider their Unit being saved, albeit moved somewhere else, this could be an option.



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5. Staged Closure

Operating Until No Longer Viable, working with the Provincial Team to ensure no members are lost to Freemasonry when the Lodge Closes