



Minutes of the Congregational Church Annual General Meeting

16 August 2015

1. Attendance and Apologies

Present at 3pm : Eliz Cook, Ian Cook, Samara Pitt, Alison Sampson, John Sampson, Sylvia Sandeman, Shelley Taylor, Lauren Wambach, Steven Wong
Apologies: Liesl Fillipi, Dom Fillipi, Merryl Gahan, Paul Gahan, Jenny Gillan, Gilbert Joyce, Yvonne Joyce, Nathan Nettleton, Rita Wang, Margie Welsford

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Presented by: Steven

Motion: That we now approve as an accurate record the minutes of the congregational business meeting held on 22 February 2015.

Moved: Ian

Seconded: Sylvia

3. Reports

3.1. Pastor's Report – Nathan

Report presented by: Circulated by email.

Motion: That the congregation accepts the Pastor's report as tabled and thanks Nathan for his work.

Moved: Eliz

Seconded: Samara

3.2. Pastor's Report – Alison

Report presented by: Alison

Motion: That the congregation accepts the Pastor's report as tabled and thanks Alison for her work.

Moved: Lauren

Seconded: Samara seconded.

3.3. Host Group Report

Report presented by: Sylvia

Discussion: Sylvia advises the sign boards will be ready soon with "Welcome" displayed in many languages. Alison will check with the Boon Wurrung Foundation on the correct greeting for "Welcome" in the Boon Wurrung language.

Motion: That the congregation accepts the Host Group's report as tabled and thanks the Host Group for its work.

Moved: Eliz

Seconded: Lauren

3.4. Property Reports: Church (Ian) and Manse (Paul G)

Reports presented by: Ian

Discussion: Ian advised the recent Rate Notice has our church property valued around \$4 million. He believed \$5 million is closer to the mark and the property is in good condition.

No major work required.

Motion: That the congregation accepts the property reports as tabled and thanks Ian and Paul G for their work.

Moved: Ian

Seconded: Samara

3.5. Membership Report: Shelley

Report presented by: Shelley

3.5.1. Motion: That the congregation confirms the acceptance of John Sampson into its membership.

3.5.2. Motion: That the Membership Roll be approved as presented, with the changes noted.

First Motion Moved: Sylvia

Seconded: Shelley

Second Motion Moved: Lauren

Seconded: Samara

Discussion on Membership Report: Shelley advised there are 22 members and 3 on reserve. The distribution is evenly spread gender-wise.

Question asked - what is a reserve member? A reserve member is a person who wishes to retain their association with us, but whose changed circumstances prevent them from regular participation in the church. They are noted separately on the roll so that their presence doesn't inflate the numbers required for a quorum, and they don't have vote.

3.5.3. Motion: That the congregation accepts the Membership Report as tabled and thanks Shelley for her work.

Moved: Eliz

Seconded: Samara

3.6. Financial Reports

Reports presented by: Ian

3.6.1. Financial Report for the 2014-2015 financial year

Motion: That the congregation accepts the financial report as presented and thanks Ian for his work.

Discussion: Ian advised we made a small surplus and offerings up.

We have approximately \$40,000 or less in the bank.

The hall hire is up from the previous year, so prevented a loss.

Moved: Sylvia

Seconded: Lauren

3.6.2. Budget for the 2015-2016 financial year

Motion: That the congregation accepts the budget for the 2015-2016 financial year as presented and thanks Ian for his work.

Discussion: Ian stated we had budgeted for a significant loss

He advised we will need to re-polish the floors in the manse when vacated which hasn't been done for over 6 to 8 years. There will need to do some painting but he is not sure if the walls need a wash down.

The stove oven needs to be replaced and rearranged. The enamel is damaged.

Thought was given to knocking down the chimney in the manse to increase the amenity of the dining room. However, it was deemed to be too expensive
Ian estimated \$15,000 needs to be spent on the Manse, but he may only need to spend \$5,000 without coming back to the church for approval.

He has budgeted a bit more for offerings and is not concerned if we are in deficit.

Moved: Ian

Seconded: Sylvia

3.6.3. Recipients of our Annual Giving

Background: Each year, the church gives away 10% of its facility hire income to ministries elsewhere. This is usually split between three recipients: one local, one elsewhere in Australia, and one overseas. Currently donations go to Dagoretti Corner in Kenya, the Indigenous Hospitality House, and the TransFormation program at Whitley College.

Discussion: No suggestions have come up since our meeting in February 2015. Sylvia noted they are small and effective ministries.

Motion: That we give away 10% of our facility hire income for the past year and again split it between three recipients: Dagoretti Corner in Kenya, the Indigenous Hospitality House in North Carlton, and the TransFormation program at Whitley College.

Moved: Shelley

Seconded: Sylvia

4. Commitment to Ongoing Reconciliation

Background: the church meeting in February, we affirmed an action plan of steps to reconciliation with the First Peoples of this land, and decided to review this plan and our progress at each church meeting. So, how are we going?

Discussion: Point No:10 to acknowledge the presence of traditional custodians at public events. Sylvia suggested we could do this at the start of our meetings.

The indigenous plants can be planted when the sign boards go up.

We have moved from saying traditional owners to traditional custodians in our liturgy.

Samara mentioned the land is God's. The land owns us and that it is not a property relationship with the indigenous people.

No. 8 has been done. Similarities in use of incense and water acknowledged in our Worship booklets

No 13. Advertising indigenous events. Samara has been advertising events on email

The Boon Wurrung Foundation would like a meeting about putting up their art work. This will be followed up.

We will re-visit our action plan in our February 2016 congregational church meeting.

5. Elections

5.1. Interim Treasurer

Nomination presented by: Host Group

Motion: That, on the recommendation of the Host Group, the congregation approves the appointment of Ian Cook as Treasurer until the 2016 AGM and that the word "interim" be taken out of the motion.

Moved: Sylvia.

Seconded: Shelley

5.2. BUV Delegates

Nomination presented by: Host Group

Motion: That the congregation endorses Shelley Taylor and Ian Cook as our delegates to the BUV Gatherings, and Merryl Gahan, Steven Wong and Alison Sampson as back up delegates.

Discussion : This motion is subject to checking with Merryl. Alison will speak to Merryl.

Moved: Eliz

Seconded: Samara

5.3. Necessary Tasks

Background: There are numerous people who contribute their time and labour to carry out the various tasks necessary to the ongoing operation of our common life, prayer and ministry. Many of these tasks are largely invisible, and are barely noticed unless they are not done. There are always some that are overlooked when we make up the list, so we add to the list in the meeting. These are not elected positions, and the fact that people are named as doing them does not mean that no one else can express interest in taking on the tasks. In most cases, the people doing them would welcome help, and in some cases they would love to hand the tasks over completely. There are some people who are doing too many of these tasks, and we would love to see them shared around more equally. So if this list prompts you to think, "I could do that one day," don't be afraid to communicate that thought to the Hosts or the person presently in the role.

Published List:

Music Director: Jenny Gillan (until 25 October 2015, after which time the role will be split up and divided among pastors and volunteers)

Bank Account Signatories: Nathan Nettleton, Shelley Taylor, Paul Holdway

Birthday Cake Baker: Yvonne Joyce

Camp Committee: Sylvia Sandeman, Samara Pitt, with the assistance of Eliz Cook, Shelley Taylor, Paul Gahan and Ellen Holdway

Chair of Host Group: Sylvia Sandeman (and Alison Sampson)

Children's Materials: Alison Sampson

Contact Directory Production: Alison Sampson

Correspondence secretary: Shelley Taylor

Garden: Jan Coates

Hall Hire Bookings and Invoicing: Eliz Cook

Hall set up: Nathan Nettleton, Alison Sampson

Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies Purchaser: Sylvia Sandeman

Kitchen Roster: Alison Sampson

Minute Taker for Church Meetings: Steven Wong

Minute Taker for Host Meetings: Samara Pitt (and others)

Notice Sheet: Lauren Wambach (back up: Alison Sampson)

Weekly Bible Readings: Samara Pitt

Weekly website update: Robert Toseland

Offering Counters: Eliz Cook and several others!

Offering Banker & Bill Payer: Shelley Taylor

Property maintenance: Ian Cook

Manse maintenance: Paul Gahan

Packing up the hall after worship: Sylvia Sandeman, Paul Holdway, and everyone else who is able!

Congregational sommeliers: Alison Sampson and Paul Holdway

Bread making: Nathan Nettleton

Sunday after worship "nibbles providers": Eliz Cook, Ian Cook, Merryl Gahan, Nathan Nettleton, Samara Pitt, Alison Sampson, Sylvia Sandeman, Shelley Taylor, Rita Wang, Francisco Naranjo & Francisca Cubillos

Church Taxi Service: John Sampson and others

Any additions from the floor:

Motion: That the congregation endorses all those who do the necessary tasks for our Church and thanks them for their service during the past year.

Moved: Eliz
Seconded: Ian

6. Date of next AGM

Background: August is the month that Nathan is most likely to be away at conferences each year. Therefore, the Host Group suggests that we move the date of the Annual General Meeting to September.

Motion: That we move the date of the Annual General Meeting to the third Sunday in September.

Discussion: The motion be amended to the Host group to decide dates for next congregational and AGM meeting.

Moved: Lauren
Seconded: John.

7. Date of next meeting

Question: Do we also need to move the date of the meeting currently scheduled for February 2016? Leave for the Hosts to decide.

Meeting adjourned at 4.10pm as insufficient numbers for a quorum and to recommence for voting after the service.

Quorum formed at 6.40pm. Vote taken unanimously with additional members present - Liesel Phillip, Dom Phillip, Jenny Gillan, Paul Holdway, Gilbert Joyce, Yvonne Joyce, Mark Maroney, Nathan Nettleton, Robert Toseland, Rita Wang, Margie Welsford

Nathan's Pastoral Report - AGM 16 August 2015

I am writing this report about 12 hours before my plane leaves for the beginning of my three and a half weeks away, so unfortunately I won't be at the AGM to answer any questions or clarify anything I've said. By the time of your meeting, the conference of *Societas Liturgica* (international association of liturgical scholars) that I am attending in Quebec City, Canada, will have concluded, as will the following meeting of the *English Language Liturgical Consultation* at which I am the Australian representative, and I will be preparing to board a plane for Mexico to begin the holiday part of my trip. Holiday and church work will overlap a little when I visit the Matanzas Baptist Church in Cuba who, like us, are a Baptist church with a more consciously liturgical and sacramental approach to worship than is commonly found among Baptists. I hope my visit might result in some sort of ongoing relationship between our respective congregations.

Preparing for this trip has been the most relaxed and stress-free preparation I have ever had for a longer absence from church. This is very much a sign of the healthy development of our congregation in the last few years. With the Host Group functioning well and Alison doing such an excellent job as a pastor, there are less and less things that are dependent on me or my knowledge for their operation, and that is a very good thing.

This is but one sign of the church being in what I think is a very good and healthy phase of its life. The wonderful spirit at the recent church camp seemed to reflect the good spirit that is characterising our whole gathered life at present. There have been a number of new things happening among us this year, most of which have had very little to do with me other than some permission giving, and that too is a very good thing.

Jenny will be greatly missed when she leaves us later in the year, but the wonderful benefits of her years among us will live on for many years to come. She has not only given us the gift of a lot of beautiful new music, but she has shaped us into a congregation that can sing it well. We wish her, Tony and the boys all the best in all that their futures hold.

	Average
Attendance at Church Activities	4h 49m
Sermon Preparation	4h 22m
Liturgy planning/writing	9h 4m
Strategic Planning & Design	1h 8m
Writing Projects	0h 16m
Pastoral Visiting (incl. travel)	2h 28m
Pastoral Phone Calls & Emails	1h 31m
Correspondence	0h 25m
Administration Tasks	3h 42m
Meetings (Internal)	3h 14m
Meetings (representative)	0h 24m
BUV & BWA work	0h 47m
SWERNI work	0h 42m
Professional Development	1h 19m
Reading and Research	0h 0m
Practical Tasks	1h 54m
Other	0h 0m
Average Total Hours	36h 4m

The table of my average time use for the calendar year to date reveals a couple of notable changes from last year. Firstly, I have spent less time on writing projects, and more on the liturgies. A significant chunk of this has been the preparation of the new projections slides for the services, and since each song or psalm only needs to be done once, most of this is a one-off this year. Secondly, my total hours are down by about three and a half hours a week, and although I'm still doing a lot more than the 27 per week I am supposed to average, it is at least going in the right direction.

I continue to feel privileged to be one of your pastors, and I look forward to what unfolds for us in the year to come.

See you all in September! Hasta luego (Until then).

Nathan Nettleton

South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Associate Pastor's Report: Annual General Meeting: 16 August 2015

The work of the church is not done by its pastors. It is done by the people. My work as a pastor is merely to equip you, to help you identify God's presence and calling in your life, and to pray for you, as together with the Holy Spirit we form the church and enter into the mission of God.

I am constantly encouraged by how so many of you lean towards God in your lives. Every week I witness to the ways you seek to love your enemies, those people who want to manipulate you or undermine you or run you down. I hear stories of suffering, and am moved by your courage as you face up to it, holding onto your sure and certain hope that the way of Christ is through the desert and on towards the cross. I give thanks for the welcome and hospitality you offer to the sick, the lonely, and the broken hearted: those who come through our doors, those whom you meet in your neighbourhood, and those you encounter in paid and voluntary employment. I am encouraged by the work you do for justice, in ways big and small. And I delight as together we sing in harmony, week after week, offering all that we are and all that we bring to God.

This year I have seen slow steady growth in faith, hope and love in so many of you, which has been borne out in your lives in countless ways. Much of this growth is personal, and cannot be named here, but be encouraged: God's work is happening right here, right now, among us.

As well as these quiet acts of witness, I have also engaged in more concrete tasks, including:

- Running a neighbourhood walk for our Lenten Retreat, and taking the children for a romp through some favourite Biblical stories in a local park as part of that walk.
- Integrating our annual covenanting service and our weekly meal into one service, and writing a special liturgy for that.
- Revising the host agenda into a liturgical format, as part of our ongoing move towards letting the Spirit of God, not the spirit of business and commerce, shape our decision making.
- Beginning to write a program for interested older children to engage more deeply with their faith. This is still being drafted, but should be finished within the next few months.
- Updating the congregational directory and photo wall.
- Hosting interested atheist school friends to dinner and a night of Christian stories. The second night will happen in late August. (The Host Group has endorsed this work as part of my time.)

I look forward to witnessing the blessings and struggles and surprises that the next stage of the journey will bring, both for you individually and for us as a church.

Peace,

Alison Sampson

Host Group Report February 2015 – August 2015

The Host Group model of governance has just completed its 6th year and we are looking to review the model in the next few months. The Host Group for much of the above time consisted of Eliz Cook, Ian Cook, Nathan Nettleton (Pastor), Alison Sampson (Pastor), Sylvia Sandeman, Shelley Taylor and Steven Wong and we continue to meet monthly in Nathan's home generally on a Wednesday evening.

However recently Ian Cook has stood down as a regular Host Group member but attends if we need financial advice or assistance and Samara Pitt has joined us. We thank Ian for all that he has contributed over the last 6 years – he is continuing to be treasurer with the assistance of Shelley and to oversee our maintenance issues. In both these areas he has considerable experience.

It has been a great joy to add Samara to our number and we are looking forward to her input into the group. When I consider the size of our church I am amazed at the number of willing Hosts and at the faithfulness of this group, who seldom miss meetings and all seek to pull their weight. My personal thanks goes to each Host member and to our faithful Pastors who between them have so many talents and skills - God has been very good to us in the gift of them.

Alison has continued to chair the meetings in order to gain experience in this area of church governance and I have enjoyed the break. She has also thought of a different way to do the meeting agenda's that she feels is more consistent with the culture we are aiming at. So at the last two meetings the agenda has followed the structure of the liturgy (gathering, celebration of past and confession, Word, offering, prayers, and sending out) and we are seeing how this works for us.

Things that have happened in the last 6 months

One of the very exciting events was **Paul's Art Exhibition "Painting the Word"** at Fryerstown with the use of Nathan's lectionary translation with each work. Many of us were able to travel to see it and be there for its launch. It has had a big impact on many people. Paul also put together a book that had all the paintings and readings in it which was a record of this event.

We have used Paul's wonderful Emmaus painting on our **invitation cards**, which we had printed and look great. They are available for anyone to use.

This year Alison led the **Lenten Retreat** and it was held at the church. We went on a reflective walk around the streets near the church. There was a specially written liturgy for it and for the first time the children were also included.

For the **Church Anniversary this year**, rather than have a church lunch at midday, we tried a new idea of having the meal as part of the worship service similar to the way St Martin's has the evening meal on Maundy Thursday. Again we had a special liturgy just for this event. For the most part all went well but if we do it again there are a few things we would do a little differently. However I personally liked the idea of the celebration as part of the feast.

The Council of Christians and Jews met with us for a session on 17th May. Two representatives came and it was an interesting time of exchange and information about the Jewish and Roman Catholic faith communities.

The **Church Camp** was again held at Anglesea – 27 people came, which was wonderful particularly as a number of our regular campers were not able to come this year. This is a time

when we can worship together and get to know with each other better and be together as a family. Also we enjoy new activities. Many thanks to those who lead sessions

After worship hospitality has continued in the new form for the last 6 months – this seems to be working well and it is great to be able to invite all who visit to “the feast”. One of the good things that has come from the new format, is that many more people help set up and also pack up the church at the end as people can see that things need to be done.

Junior Catechumenate – this is being developed and has had quite a bit of work done on it.

New Church Directory has been completed and circulated. It is in alphabetical order by Christian names.

Photos on the notice board and saints wall have been updated and we now have own church saints – Frances and Lindsey – on the Saints Wall.

The large rug in the sanctuary has had a significant repair – we were able to have the outside section removed - where it had stretch and people were in danger of tripping on it - and rebacked and then re - edged. An excellent job was done. It looks great and this was significantly cheaper than replacing it. We were also able to get a section in a similar coloured carpet for the children’s area.

Nathan and Eliz have reviewed the rents and the rental agreement form. The new rates have been adjusted based on the CPI and will be given to all new renters, however some former tenants may continue at the lower rate so they continue there tenancy. Tenants will be charged for the use of the data projector but not the piano.

Procedure Manual – this is being put together as various items are written. It is kept in Nathan’s office.

Church Sign Boards – this has been under review and is at the final stages of approval before being sent to the sign writer. Nathan has done a lot of work on this but it has taken longer than expected as each time we reviewed it we think of additional things that we wanted to say. Both boards will be replaced.

There may be things that I have missed but this should be enough. If there are things that you would like to do or have considered please talk to a Host.

Finally I would like to note that during this last 6 months we have had a number of new folk that have started attending our church on a regular basis and this is a great delight to the Hosts.

We welcome you

Sylvia Sandeman
Host Group Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – JULY 2015

Over the last 12 months, our overall membership has remained the same. John Sampson was welcomed into the official membership of our congregation on Sunday 10 May 2015, pending confirmation by this meeting. Jan Coates resigned from membership on 27 May 2015. Garry Coates did not covenant with us this year so he has been moved to the Reserve roll.

2014 Statistics (AGM)

14 Females

11 Males

25 Members Total

2015 Statistics (AGM)

13 Females

12 Males

25 Members Total

These changes leave the following as the Membership Roll proposed for approval by the meeting:

Membership Roll – South Yarra Community Baptist Church – as at July 2015

Members Covenanted for the Current Year - 22

Eliz Cook	Nathan Nettleton
Ian Cook	Samara Pitt
Dom Fillipi	Alison Sampson
Liesl Fillipi	John Sampson
Merryl Gahan	Sylvia Sandeman
Paul Gahan	Shelley Taylor
Jenny Gillan	Robert Toseland
Paul Holdway	Lauren Wambach
Gilbert Joyce	Margaret Welsford
Yvonne Joyce	Rita Wang
Mark Moroney	Steven Wong

Reserve Members - 3

Garry Coates	Tony Gillan
Jill Edwards	

We currently have one adult enrolled in the Catechumenate:

Adult Catechumens

Michelle Osler

We also have 12 Junior Catechumens:

Junior Catechumens

Tara Fillipi	Acacia Nettleton
Jarrah Gillan	Jessica Quake
Oliver Gillan	Lachlan Quake

Ellen Holdway	Alex Wambach
Olivia Holdway	Maxie Wambach
Zoe Holdway	Nancy Wambach

Proposal a) *That the congregation confirm the acceptance of John Sampson into it's Membership.*

Proposal b) *That the Membership Roll be approved as presented, with the changes noted.*

Shelley Taylor, Membership Secretary, 31 July 2015