



Minutes of the Congregational Business Meeting

22 February 2015

1. **Attendance:** Eliz Cook, Ian Cook, Merryl Gahan, Paul Gahan, Paul Holdway, Nathan Nettleton, Samara Pitt, Alison Sampson, Sylvia Sandeman, Shelley Taylor, Steven Wong
2. **Apologies:** Gilbert Joyce, Yvonne Joyce, Margie Welsford. Lauren Wambach, Robbie Toesland, Rita Wang.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

3.1.Motion: That we now approve as an accurate record the minutes of the congregational business meeting held on 17 August 2014.

Outcome: Some minor corrections to be made to the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

(i) Ian should be referred to as Interim Treasurer.

(ii) Clarification of meaning of “historical markers” in Hosts Report.

Amendment to read – Sylvia’s report provides historical markers of decisions made in the Host meeting.

Approved resend minutes with these amendments.

4. Reports

4.1.Senior Pastor’s Report - Nathan

Report presented by: Nathan

Details of any discussion:

Motion: That the congregation accept the report as tabled and thanks Nathan for his work with us.

Outcome: Approved

4.2.Associate Pastor’s Report - Alison

Report presented by: Alison

Details of any discussion:

Motion: That the congregation accept the Pastor’s report as tabled and thanks Alison for her work with us.

Outcome: Approved

4.3.Host Group Report

Report presented by: Sylvia

Details of any discussion: Ian commented how all three reports (Pastor’s, Associate Pastor’s & Hosts’) overlap but are written from different perspectives and show a lot is happening in the church community.

Samara asked if the Host Group was looking at a form of reviewing itself. Sylvia advised coincidentally this was raised at last Host Group meeting and the Hosts are exploring how this could be done.

Samara commented on how well the various workshops were conducted and asked if there were any steps to follow up after the workshops.

Alison mention the Funeral Workshop may have assisted some of our parishioners who attend another church to feel a sense of direction as to how they would like their funeral service to be conducted.

Nathan is preparing a document on how people can prepare for a funeral service. Following “An Introduction to Islam”, summary notes were distributed to participants.

A workshop on “Christian-Jewish Grassroots dialogue” is scheduled for 17 May 2015.

Sylvia wanted to restate the Hosts Decision regarding the future of the Laughing Bird site and that the decision be recorded in these minutes.

In the Minutes of 06.10.14 it reads – ‘We agreed that the site and its domain name belong to the church, but if Nathan leaves AND the church no longer wishes to maintain the site, Nathan will be given first right of refusal on taking it over.’”

Motion: That the congregation accept Host Group’s report as tabled and thanks the Host Group for its work with us. .

Outcome: Approved

4.4.Pastoral Review (Nathan)

Report presented by:

Details of any discussion: Professional development should be 1 hr for Nathan in report. Evident that Nathan needs to take some annual leave.

Motion: That the congregation accepts the Pastoral Review as presented and thanks Anne Spence for conducting the review.

Outcome: Approved

4.5.Property Report – Church (Ian) and Manse (Paul Gahan)

Report presented by: Ian & Paul

Details of any discussion: There is only a blocked drain to clear for the Manse.

The data projectors & LED lights have been installed.

Ian advised there is a drop in the last power bill and a working bee is scheduled for 22 March 2015.

11 Cromwell Rd has been advertised for auction indicating that there is laneway access from our church. Nathan has written to the real estate agent that the laneway agreement we had with 11 Cromwell Rd had been revoked in 2013 and that it is unconscionable to advertise that the laneway access is available.

Nathan and Alison will retype a flyer to be handed out at the auction.

Paul Gahan and Ian to attend the auction on Saturday 28 February at 2pm.

Motion: That the congregation accept Property Reports as presented and thanks Ian and Paul Gahan for managing the property.

Outcome: Approved

5. Financial Matters

5.1. Financial Report from July 2014 to December 2014

Report presented by: Ian

Details of any discussion: Sylvia asked Ian about expenditure for Worship Resources. Ian advised \$3,000 had been received as a gift and this was used for wine.

Motion: That the Church accept the Financial Report as tabled and thanks Ian for his handling our financial affairs.

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Outcome: Approved

5.1.1.. Matter Arising from the Financial Report

Issue: [here](#)

Details of any discussion: Alison asked if there is there anything we should be budgeting for.

Ian advised re-asphalting the back of property would cost about \$8,500 to \$11,000. We may need a thin layer of asphalt in front of the church driveway. The hall floor and the kitchen possibly need attention.

We may need to think about restorative work in the Manse in the next 12 months. Jenny had brought attention to Ian that some of the rooms look shabby especially the lounge room, and that water damage on the roof had caused some parts of the ceiling to peel.

The mat in the Church hall is no longer sitting flat and could be a safety issue. As a matter of urgency, Nathan will make enquiries into repairing the mat or getting new carpet to be used as a mat.

5.2. Statement of Understanding: Alison

Background: When Alison's appointment moved from an honorary to a paid basis, her *Statement of Understanding* came under review. After discussing the symbolic implications of various ways of understanding and expressing the arrangement, it was agreed that the "appointment consists of 0.2EFT which is paid, and 0.2EFT which is honorary and is gratefully received by the church as a gift from Alison" and that "remuneration for the paid component will be per the BUV recommended stipend." A copy of the revised *Statement of Understanding* will be distributed to the church

Details of any discussion: Delegated to Host Group to polish up *the Statement of Understanding* for Alison

Motion: That the congregation endorse the revised *Statement of Understanding* as approved by Host Group

Outcome: Endorsed.

6. Commitment to Ongoing Reconciliation

Background: In 2014, church leadership recognised the need for our church to engage in further work of reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. An invitation to form a group to think about this was issued to the congregation, and interested members – Samara, Margie, Sylvia and Alison – met to discuss ideas and develop an action plan. With one minor addition, the action plan was approved by the Host Group on 11 February 2015, and circulated to the congregation on 13 February 2015. It is now being presented to the church meeting for formal adoption.

Report presented by: Alison

Details of any discussion: Nathan stated it is a good document. Alison commented that of the 15 steps listed in the document we are already heading that way.

Motion: *That in the spirit of the apology and commitment made to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sisters and brothers at the BUV Assembly in March 1998, the South Yarra Community Baptist Church commits to the practical steps set out in the attached document to grow in understanding of and relationship with indigenous Australians.*

Outcome: Approved and to be reviewed at the next Church meeting.

7. Church Giving: Discussion of possible recipients

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. Donations currently go to the Indigenous Hospitality House in Carlton, the TransFormation Program at Whitley College, and Dagoretti Corner in Kenya. A final decision will be taken on this year's recipients at the August AGM, but suggestions are invited now.

Details of any discussion: Samara would like if it is possible for everyone to visit the Indigenous Hospitality House and have the giving included in our reconciliation plan.

Jenny advised Dagoretti Corner started from ground up. She has visited the place twice and the money goes straight to those people in need.

Outcome: No new missions proposed at this stage and to be reviewed at the August AGM.

8. Other business without notice.

None.

9. Next Meeting: AGM: 16 August 2015