



AGM Minutes

17 August 2014

1. **Attendance:** Eliz Cook, Ian Cook, Paul Gahan, Merryl Gahan, Nathan Nettleton, Samara Pitt, John Sampson, Alison Sampson, Sylvia Sandeman, Shelley Taylor, Rita Wang, Steven Wong.

2. **Apologies:** Garry Coates, Jill Edwards, Jenny Gillan, Gilbert Joyce, Yvonne Joyce. Lauren Wambach, Margie Welsford.

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 16 February 2014.

Outcome: Approved.

3.2. **Motion:** That we now approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Special meeting held on 8 June 2013.

Outcome: Approved as names distributed.

4. Reports

4.1. Pastor's Report - Nathan

Report presented by: Nathan

Discussion: In response to a question about what SWERNI is, Nathan advised it is the Stonnington West Emergency Relief Network Inc and that he has been its President since its inception over 17 years ago. SWERNI is a network of local welfare agencies who distribute funds from the Commonwealth Emergency Relief Program allocated for our neighbourhood.

Motion: That the congregation accept the Pastor's report as tabled.

Moved by: Nathan

Outcome: Approved.

4.2. Pastor's Report - Alison

Report presented by: Alison

Discussion: Alison advised that in March she presented a paper at the New Wineskins National Research Symposium on how to incorporate children into the liturgy. Since the Symposium, she has turned her paper into a book chapter for publication.

Motion: That the congregation accept the Pastor's report as tabled.

Moved by: Nathan

Outcome: Approved.

4.3. Host Group Report

Report presented by: Sylvia

Details of any discussion: Sylvia mentioned her report provides historical markers of decisions made in the Hosts' Meetings.

Motion: That the congregation accept Host Group's report as tabled.

Moved by: Sylvia

Outcome: Report accepted.

4.4. Property Report

Report presented by: Ian

Details of any discussion: The grating at the car park entrance has been replaced. We have closed the access to the rear neighbours property from our carpark. Some plumbing work has been done. The PA amplifier has been replaced with a refurbished model. The installation of new LED lighting and data projectors in the hall will take place next month. There are some bigger maintenance items on the manse (floor resurfacing etc.) that will need to be done when there is next a opportunity at a change of occupants.

Motion: That the congregation accept Property report as tabled.

Moved by: Ian

Outcome: Property report accepted.

4.5. Membership Report

Report presented by: Shelley

Details of any discussion: Over past 12 months membership has decreased by two.

David Jackson removed from the Roll as he has moved overseas. Sadly, Lindsay Nicholson, our longest serving member has been “called to higher service”.

Motion: That the Church accept the membership report as presented, with the changes noted.

Moved by: Shelley

Outcome: Report accepted.

4.6. Discernment and Support Group Report

Reported Conclusion:

As part of the BUV process for Alison to consider ordained Baptist ministry, the Discernment Support Group (which consisted of Margie Welsford, Merryl Gahan, Nathan Nettleton, Samara Pitt and Sylvia Sandeman) met with Alison six times. We received additional feedback from a number of congregation members.

We discussed the following topics: Alison’s relationship with God, her general attitude to work around the church, her gifts, her pastoral skills, her leadership and her mission work.

The DSG is united in its support for Alison’s application for ordination. We are convinced that she has received a call from God to ordained Baptist ministry, as evidenced by her own clearly detailed description of the call and recognised and affirmed by others in her family and congregation. We also believe that she is gifted in ways that will serve the church, and is committed to growth.

Motion: That the congregation endorses this conclusion and thanks the DSG for their work.

Moved by: Samara. *Seconded by:* Shelley & Sylvia

Outcome: Congregation endorses conclusion & thanks DSG.

5. Financial Reports

5.1. Financial Report for the 2013-2014 financial year

Report presented by: Ian

Details of any discussion: Surplus of \$3,000 at start of month as we didn’t buy the data projectors yet. Ian acknowledges support financially for Alison’s inclusion as associate pastor. Just under \$40,000 in various accounts which we hold with Baptist Financial Service.

Motion: That the Church accept the financial reports as presented.

Moved by: Ian

Outcome: Financial report accepted.

5.2. Budget for the 2014-2015 financial year

Report presented by: Ian

Details of any discussion: Budget derived from last 12 months experience. Hosts have approved Budget with deficit – support Alison for ordination, buying data projectors for this year and we are receiving a bit more income from manse.

Ian stated with \$40,000 in bank no need to worry about deficit.

Nathan thinks manse maintenance more likely to happen at the end of 2015.

Nathan suggests resurfacing hall floor during summer 2015 as hall is empty.

Electrician can do data projectors and lighting at same time.

Budget covers iPad, data projector & installation.

Motion: That the church endorse the budget for the 2014-2015 financial year as presented.

Moved by: Ian

Outcome: Budget approved

5.3. 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.

Details of any discussion: Nathan advised the TransFormation program happens on Saturdays, so a group from church could visit Transformation on that day.

Samara invites us to visit Indigenous Hospitality house. Approval to keep annual giving as it is. Opportunity anytime to flag proposals.

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, and the TransFormation program at Whitley College.

Moved by: Host Group

Outcome: Approved

6. Elections

6.1. Treasurer

Nomination presented by: Host Group

Details of any discussion: Ian not signatory to any accounts. Ian does book keeping and acts as an internal audit process with him not handling money & minimises amount of work which Ian does. Ian happy to continue.

Motion: That, on the recommendation of the Host Group, the congregation approve the appointment of Ian Cook as its Acting Treasurer for the period until the 2015 AGM.

Outcome: Appointment of Ian as Acting Treasurer approved.

6.2. BUW Delegates

Nominations presented by: Host Group

Details of any discussion: Alison happy to go to Gathering. Shelley & Ian to remain as delegates. Merryl & Steven happy to remain as backup and Alison will need to be registered as backup

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

Outcome: Approved.

7. Necessary Tasks

Explanation: 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.

Published List:

Music Director: Jenny Gillan

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

Birthday Cake Baker: Yvonne Joyce

BUV Witness correspondent: Sylvia Sandeman

Camp Committee: Eliz Cook, Shelley Taylor, John Sampson, Sylvia Sandeman, Alison Sampson

Chair of Host Group: Sylvia Sandeman

Children's Materials: Alison Sampson

Contact Directory Production: Nathan Nettleton

Correspondence secretary: Shelley Taylor

Garden: Jan Coates

Hall Hire Bookings and Invoicing: Eliz Cook

Hall set up: Nur Warsame

Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies Purchaser: Sylvia Sandeman

Kitchen Roster: Alison Sampson

Minute Taker for Church and Host Meetings: Steven Wong

Notice Sheet: Lauren Wambach

Weekly Bible Readings: Samara Pitt

Weekly website update: Robert Toseland

Offering Counters: Several people!

Offering Banker & Bill Payer: Shelley Taylor

Property maintenance: Ian Cook

Manse maintenance: Paul Gahan

Packing up the hall after worship: Sylvia Sandeman, Paul Holdway, Robbie Toseland, Mark Moroney.

Congregational sommeliers: Alison and Paul

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,

Lauren Wambach, Rita Wang, Yvonne Joyce.

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

Outcome: All people endorsed plus Rita and Eliza will take on task as offering counters.

8. Next Meeting: 15 February 2015

Nathan's Pastoral Report - AGM 17 August 2014

As I came to write this report, I was thinking about some of my peers who are pastoring churches that forever seem to be embarking on various bold new ventures. Even though a lot of those ventures might quickly fizzle and die, they must make it a lot easier to think of things to write an annual pastor's report! We're not one of those kind of churches. Much of our strength is in fact in our stability and our lack of hurry and novelty. Changes do happen and new things do develop, but usually they happen in ways that emerge naturally and organically from the stable patterns of our common life, and so they don't draw attention to themselves as radical new things. This has been reinforced by the early results of our Mission Review. Respondents have been affirming the strengths of the ways we presently engage with the wider world and proposing ways of strengthening those things rather than any significant changes of direction. It is an honour for me to be pastoring in a church that feels so good about what it does without appearing dangerously deluded.

Although our stability is a hallmark and a strength of our life, there has, of course, been one very significant change in our life in the past year, and that is Alison commencing work as a pastor among us. I fully concur with the view that I have heard expressed by a number of people that Alison has stepped into the role even more impressively than we expected. After a couple of early hiccups, I believe that Alison and I are working our good patterns of working together in a job that mostly sees us working separately. I am still not very good at remembering that I do now need to tell someone else what I am doing and who I am visiting, etc., but I don't think anyone has been too spooked by getting pastoral visits from both pastors in the same week!

One of the good things about the smooth way Alison has stepped into the role is that it has given people a greater confidence about the church's future stability. In the past, a number of people have expressed the view that the church might not be able to survive if I left. While there have been some crisis periods where that may have been true, I've always thought that view was greatly exaggerated. I can think of a number of excellent pastors who could replace me here, and who would probably jump at the opportunity, but I understand that it is more difficult for those of you who don't know many other pastors to imagine that. But in recent months, several people have said that Alison's new role has enabled them to imagine a healthy post-Nathan SYCBaps. I think that is a really good thing. A church is able to flourish much more healthily if it is not seen as dependent on one person. I am not feeling restless or sensing that it may be time for me to move on, but in light of this renewed confidence in our future, I do want to remind you that it is not all up to me when I go. It is my view that having been called by God and you to pastor here, I am here until it is clear that I am being called elsewhere. But I recognise that I might not be the first person to discern the emergence of a call to move on. You lot might realise before I do. So if there does come a time when you are feeling that it would be best for this congregation if I were to move on, please don't be afraid to say so.

	Average
Attendance at Church Activities	5h 6m
Sermon Preparation	4h 52m
Liturgy planning/writing	5h 46m
Strategic Planning & Design	0h 11m
Writing Projects	9h 45m
Pastoral Visiting (incl. travel)	2h 9m
Pastoral Phone Calls & Emails	1h 36m
Correspondence	0h 54m
Administration Tasks	2h 25m
Meetings (Internal)	2h 13m
Meetings (representative)	0h 29m
BUV & BWA work	0h 15m
SWERNI work	0h 35m
Professional Development	1h 0m
Professional Development	1h 46m
Practical Tasks	0h 54m
Other	0h 0m
Average Total Hours	39h 55m

The table of my average time use for the calendar year to date reveals three very notable changes from last year. Firstly, I am spending less time on sermon preparation. This does not mean that I am putting less work into each sermon. It means that I am preaching less often. Each new sermon usually takes between 7 and 10 hours to prepare, but the table averages them across all the weeks. Secondly, I am spending a lot more time on writing projects, of which there are two on the go this year. One is trying to complete the LaughingBird lectionary paraphrases. Some of you (especially Paul Gahan) have been on my back to get this completed and published. I have been trying to do that, and I think I now have only one passage to go before I begin a big proof read and edit. The other is the new series of studies for the Catechumenate. I could do this in less time if I saw it as only being for our church, but I think it will be worth publishing, so I am being a lot more perfectionist in my editing and polishing. Despite the recent strong affirmations of how important my writing is to the mission of our church, I feel slightly uncomfortable about claiming all the time spent on this project as part of my hours for the church. However, since my employed hours are supposed to average 27 per week, the reality appears to be that I am doing it on my own time anyway. The third change is the fact that I am averaging almost eight hours a week more than last year. This simply reflects the fact that this extra writing hasn't been offset by any success in cutting back other things (other than preaching). There is probably nothing that can be done about that: it is mostly my own decisions, and there are no obvious areas to make significant cuts.

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.

Nathan Nettleton

Associate Pastor's Report: AGM: 17 August 2014
South Yarra Community Baptist Church

I was appointed as Associate Pastor in February, a new role for me, and since then I have been feeling my way into its many dimensions. I have had conversations with many members of this congregation, and I am grateful for the trust you have shown in me, and the hospitality and stories you have shared with me. It is a privilege to spend time with each of you and to learn more about your histories, your values, and your hopes for yourselves and for the church.

Preparing sermons on a regular basis has been interesting. Many thanks to those of you who ask questions, query my position or seek clarification after each sermon. Your engagement challenges me to hone my thinking. Thank you, too, for your positive feedback. Your words fill me with courage, making it easier to stand in the pulpit each time. With God's help, I hope to continue engaging with the Scriptures and with the congregation in ways which prove fruitful for all of us.

In response to people's interest in starting a second small group, I facilitated the formation of a Table Church. We met for the first time in July. Adults and children shared a meal framed by prayers which include the glorious liturgical instructions *Wine is poured* and *Dessert is served!* We hope to meet once a month – keep an eye on the notice sheet for upcoming dates.

Our church engaged in a review of its mission this year. I was impressed by the thoughtfulness many of you showed as you talked about your understanding of mission and how it might be expressed in this church. Your insights have been collated and sent to the BUV. However, it is already clear from the responses that you largely share a vision for who we are and what we do. In particular, many of you identified that the church and liturgy resource the members of the congregation to do mission in other places; that the liturgy is healing and sustaining; that formal liturgy is a gift to the church and wider society which could be further explored and extended; and that traditional mission activities are not something we do together, or want to do together, but we do want to support each other in our endeavours outside the church. Once we have received the report from the BUV, we will reflect further on how these and other themes might be built upon.

In March I presented a paper at the New Wineskins National Research Symposium. The symposium was focussed on transforming Australian Baptist church life. Drawing from a paper Nathan and I co-wrote a couple of years ago, I talked about children and the liturgy and how to combine the two. The talk was well received and has led to copies of our liturgy books and other resources being sent to churches both in Victoria and interstate. Also as a result of the conference, the paper I wrote some years ago about kids in church reached the director of children and family ministries at the Anglican Diocese of London, and we have since 'chatted' on Facebook. What we do at our church is reaching and feeding people in many places – so be encouraged!

Since the symposium I have expanded the presentation and turned it into a book chapter for publication. Although this latter project was not done on church time, it is deeply rooted in what we do here at South Yarra and may lead to further enquiries.

Paradoxically, these first months as pastor have felt both very new, and very comfortable, to me. It has been a time of recognising who I already am, and growing into who I need to be. I am grateful for the opportunity, and for all your encouragement and support. Thank you.

I pray that it has been a time of growth for you, too, as together we seek and share the fullness of life.

Alison Sampson

Host Group Report – 2014

The Host Group for this year was made up of Elizabeth and Ian Cook, Shelley Taylor, Sylvia Sandeman and Steven Wong, with Nathan Nettleton (Pastor) and joined mid year by Alison Sampson (Assistant Pastor). We have continued to meet monthly but this year we have changed the day we meet to the first Wednesday of the month.

We were saddened this year by the death of the churches longest serving member - Lindsay Nicholson. We have come to realize all the jobs that Lindsay did that needed to be picked up by others. Last Sunday I folded the cloth that goes on the communion table – a small task – but one that I have seldom or never done as this was always done by Lindsay. Camp was also a place that we missed him – as he loved camp – and a number of people mentioned that they felt his presence with us. Paul even captured a photo of a cocky with coffee cups – which I said should have been titled - " Scratch Cocky" and Paul added this thought "Scratch Cocky – Lindsay with us". What a joy to feel the presence of the saints of our congregation with us.

The Host continues to over see the churches operation. In a small church it is necessary for all to undertake some task or tasks – small or large – and we are grateful to everyone that continues to make our fellowship possible. It has been with great delight that we have had Alison join the Host group and we – "the Hosts" – and "us" as a congregation have delighted in the contribution that she, as an Assistant Pastor, has made to our fellowship. We also saw the changing of the guard as Steven Wong became the minute taker for our Host and Church Meetings and we thank Eliz Cook for her faithful service in this role for the past few years.

The Host Group has been involved with the BUV Mission and Direction Consultants as we seek to identify and review, as a church, our goals for mission. Nathan had a preliminary meeting with this group and Chris Wanstall met with the Host Group and we spent a whole meeting working with her. During the year Alison has gathered data for this and received 14 responses from the congregation, which in June were sent to the Consultants. We await their response.

Another significant event was the completion of the review and appointment of our new Visiting Pastoral Overseers – Rosalyn Wright, Anne Spence, and Chris Barnden who we welcomed into this role at a service in November. We completed Jenny and Nathan's Annual Review and we thank Anne Spence for all her help with this. We also were able to have a visit of William and Grace Eyika from Dagoretti Corner in Kenya. This is the overseas recipient of our giving to ministries elsewhere.

We have organized our usual events, an Advent and Lenten Retreat, our Camp at Anglesea, Working Bees and the Anniversary Dinner. We have taken part with our church neighbours in celebrating the significant events in the Christian Calendar - Epiphany, (we were the hosts) the Agape Feast, Ascension Day and All Saints Day and soon we hope to celebrate with St Joseph's on an important feast day for them.

As always, we take this opportunity to thank Nathan for his work as Pastor to us, we are blessed to have his teaching and care. We thank Jenny for her contribution to the music of the church and for her sung interpretation of the Psalms. Finally we express our delight at Alison's response to the call of God to be ordained and for her pastoral presence in our midst.

Sylvia Sandeman
Chair of the Host Group

Property Report August 2014

The property remains in pretty good condition, with little needing to be spent over the past year.

The largest single cost was installing a new grating at the front road crossing – the old one ruined by construction vehicle access from our rear neighbour. We have subsequently refused further access to that neighbour and installed a removable Colour-Bond fence panel on our Eastern boundary, matching the other neighbour's roller door.

Plumbing costs are an ongoing part of any older building; we have had issues related to sewerage at the manse, water leaks in the church ceiling, and gas supply to one of the kitchen stoves.

Jan Coates has continued to look after the gardens and lawn – mostly unnoticed but work that we all appreciate and enjoy.

One working bee has been held with lots of waxing, window cleaning and dusting.

A new prayer station based on seasons/environment was installed last year, the result of much creative thinking and work from Nathan, Paul Gahan and other artisans.

We are about to install new LED based lighting tubes in the church to resolve an earth leakage power issue as well as installation of video projection equipment to replace the now dated overhead projectors.

Earlier this year Paul Gahan accepted responsibility for maintenance of the manse property.

Thanks to all who have helped with the little things that keep our property neat, clean and in good order.

Ian Cook

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – JULY 2014

Over the last 12 months, our overall membership has decreased by two. David Jackson has not participated in the life of this congregation for over 12 months and has gone overseas, so his name has been removed from the Roll, and sadly, our longest serving member, Lindsay Nicholson, was “called to higher service”.

2013 Statistics (AGM)

14 Females

13 Males

27 Members Total

2014 Statistics (AGM)

14 Females

11 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 2014

Members Covenanted for the Current Year - 22

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

Reserve Members - 3

Jan Coates
Jill Edwards
Tony Gillan

We currently have three adults enrolled in the Catechumenate:

Adult Catechumens

Michelle Osler
Nur Wasame
Minnie Zeng

We also have 12 Junior Catechumens:

Junior Catechumens

Daniel Coates	Acacia Nettleton
Matthew Coates	Jessica Quake
Oliver Gillan	Lachlan Quake
Ellen Holdway	Alex Wambach
Olivia Holdway	Maxie Wambach
Zoe Holdway	Nancy Wambach

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

Shelley Taylor, Membership Secretary, 3 August 2014

South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Profit & Loss [Budget Analysis]

July 2013 through June 2014

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	Selected Period	Budgeted
Income		
Offerings	\$48,191	\$45,000
Car Park Rental	\$19,734	\$22,008
Hall Hire	\$12,982	\$16,200
Manse Rental	\$5,856	\$4,080
Camp Surplus/deficit	\$157	-\$622
Laughingbird Gifts	\$1,344	\$1,200
Easter Sunday Cruise	\$5	\$0
Interest Received	\$921	\$1,200
Workshop	-\$50	\$0
Other Income	\$80	\$120
Total Income	<u>\$89,218</u>	<u>\$89,186</u>
Cost of Sales		
Gross Profit	<u>\$89,218</u>	<u>\$89,186</u>
Expenses		
Employment Expenses		
Wages & Salaries	\$53,425	\$48,608
Superannuation	\$5,699	\$8,052
Long Service Leave	\$409	\$840
Workers' Compensation	\$199	\$0
Insurance	\$3,958	\$3,800
Gifts	\$4,000	\$4,000
Maintenance Church	\$6,878	\$5,000
Data Projectors	\$0	\$3,996
Maintenance Manse	\$578	\$2,004
BUV Contributions	\$1,842	\$2,400
Cleaning	\$3,010	\$3,120
Utilities	\$2,450	\$2,700
Worship Resources	\$1,871	\$2,004
Office Expense	\$829	\$996
BUV Dinners & functions	\$310	\$360
Kitchen Supplies	\$0	\$204
Website Expenses	\$30	\$360
Property Taxes	\$720	\$700
Total Expenses	<u>\$86,206</u>	<u>\$89,144</u>
Operating Profit	<u>\$3,012</u>	<u>\$42</u>
Other Expenses		
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>\$3,012</u>	<u>\$42</u>

South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Profit & Loss [Budget Analysis]

July 2014 through June 2015

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	Budgeted
Income	
Offerings	\$56,000
Car Park Rental	\$20,000
Hall Hire	\$14,000
Manse Rental	\$11,000
Camp Surplus/deficit	-\$1,300
Laughingbird Gifts	\$1,200
Interest Received	\$1,000
Other Income	\$100
Total Income	<u>\$102,000</u>
Cost of Sales	
Gross Profit	<u>\$102,000</u>
Expenses	
Employment Expenses	
Wages & Salaries	\$62,000
Superannuation	\$7,000
Long Service Leave	\$1,500
Workers' Compensation	\$500
Insurance	\$4,200
Gifts	\$3,200
Maintenance Church	\$2,000
Data Projectors	\$5,500
Maintenance Manse	\$4,000
BUV Contributions	\$2,000
Cleaning	\$3,200
Utilities	\$2,800
Worship Resources	\$2,000
Office Expense	\$1,000
Pastoral supervision	\$1,000
BUV Dinners & functions	\$500
Kitchen Supplies	\$200
Website Expenses	\$200
Property Taxes	\$800
Total Expenses	<u>\$103,600</u>
Operating Profit	<u>-\$1,600</u>
Other Expenses	
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>-\$1,600</u>