

GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
HELD MONDAY MAY 11th 2009

Meeting chaired by Rev. Greg Fry, until the election of a new Chair of the Congregation.

1. **WELCOME** Rev. Greg Fry welcomed 110 members to the meeting.
APOLOGIES were received from: Frances LaFontaine, John LaFontaine, Peter Thorpe, Diane Thorpe, Joy Smith, Evelyn Fleming, Keith Boundy, Mary Ward, Graham Ward, Margaret Lemke, Carmel Stork, Elwyn Pederson, Vida Foo.
2. **DEVOTIONS** given by Beverly McGlead, based on Romans 12: 1-8. 'Faith at work'.
3. **CORRESPONDENCE**
3.1 A letter received from Graham Lockhart was read to the meeting.
Due to taking up a supply ministry position at Hastings, Graham tendered his resignation as Chair of the Congregation. *A letter of acknowledgment has been sent to Graham.*
4. **ELECTION OF CHAIR OF CONGREGATION**
Rev. Greg Fry called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Congregation.
Beverly McGlead, seconded Herb Fleming nominated Graeme Frecker.
There were no further nominations - the nomination was put to the meeting.
The meeting voted with an overall majority. The meeting responded with acclamation.
Rev. Greg Fry then vacated the Chair.
Graeme Frecker took the Chair, and thanked the meeting for their vote of confidence.
5. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES** of the meeting held Wednesday 17th December, 2008 were taken as read. Moved: Doug Newbery, seconded Bobbie Rooks. Confirmed
6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**
will be followed up in Church Council reports - Agenda item 8.
7. **MINISTRY TEAM REPORT** - Rev. Greg Fry
Greg extended thanks to the church family the support and practical help given to him and his family following the death of Judy's sister.
He then highlighted the following:
 - Combined service - 10.00am - Sunday May 31 and then at 6.30pm Alanee and the Young Adults will be sharing the gospel with the local community.
 - Anniversary Service - 10.00am - Sunday June 28. There will be a whole church 'mail out' early June.
 - Healing Service - 7.30pm - Tuesday June 2.
 - Lenten Studies - attended by 35 people. Group will continue meeting on Thursday night at Fry's home.
 - Friday morning group - meeting with Ineke. Going well - needs more space! Hopefully after May 15 will be in new hall extension!
 - July 1st - Alanee and a group of young adults begin a program - Documentary nights
Alison Dingwall - Ministry to Seniors - highlighted the following:
 - Senior's Service - Sunday 17th May - 2.30pm.
 - Sunday 24th May - Christian Ecumenical Sunday - we will have visitors from other churches. *Need 2 more people from our church to be visitors to St Luke's Mt Waverley.* Commissioning of those involved will take place on Sunday May 17 at 9.00am & 11.00am services.
Graeme Frecker thanked Greg and Alison for their reports.

8. CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

8.1 Approval of 2008 Accounts

Roger Vass [Interim Treasurer] distributed the audited accounts, and moved "that on behalf of Church Council the 2008 Audited Accounts be received by the Congregation." Seconded: David Jackson

Roger then expressed thanks to John Yates [Yates Partners] who audited the accounts pro-bono, and moved "that a vote of thanks be expressed to John Yates for his work in auditing the accounts."

The meeting responded with acclamation.

Roger then spoke to his written report, which was also shown on the screen. The report will also be published in the next edition of Newview. The report is attached.

Some highlighted points:

- planned giving down
- open plate down
- rent and interest slightly up
- fund raising 'local church' down
- ministry team costs on track
- administration costs down
- mission and service giving reduced
- property expenses about on track
- worship, welfare budgets etc on budget.
- maintenance costs were listed.

Graeme Frecker extended thanks to Roger for his detailed report.

Questions were asked and answered.

Motion was put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

The meeting thanked Roger with acclamation.

8.2 Mission and Service giving

Roger advised the meeting of the changes following discussions with Presbytery.

8.3 Planned Giving Program

Beverly McGlead, Chair of Council advised that the next program will be discussed at the next meeting of Church Council, and at Church Council Executive meeting. There is also to be an Elders & Church Council retreat/workshop on May 23rd at High Street Road UC.

8.4 Ministry Team - balance of 2009 and beyond

Roger Vass reminded the meeting that the Budget that has been prepared is a 6 month budget.

He highlighted:

- cannot afford to fund further ministry
- financial perspective - cannot afford to fill 2.5 ministry team. We would need \$20,000 extra.
- budget has been operating for at least 5 years in the negative.
- no money to support $\frac{1}{2}$ time ministry for balance of 2009. What do we do?

There followed a wide ranging discussion with questions:

- when was the last planned giving program?
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years ago
- should we be looking at an immediate planned giving program?
should be reviewed now
- should we have another special appeal to raise the \$20,000?

8.4 Ministry Team - balance of 2009 and beyond- continued . . .

- can we use rent from 19 Southdown Avenue to fund this ministry?
19 Southdown is not ours to make decisions about. It is primarily up to Synod - and discussions will take place with them.

Roger Vass moved: "that the point 0.5 position be allowed to lapse for the next 6 months, from the end of June 2009." Seconded: Herb Fleming.

John Kenez in speaking to oppose the motion requested that it be put to the meeting that this meeting be asked to vote on "extra giving."

Peter Baker foreshadowed a further motion if the motion was lost "that a motion be put to appeal to the congregation for an immediate appeal to raise the \$20,000."

There was a broad and wide ranging discussion, during which a number of people spoke in support of retaining the 0.5 position, after which the motion moved by Roger Vass was put to the meeting.

The motion was defeated unanimously.

Peter Baker proposed that the point 0.5 position be continued from 1st July 2009 to 31st December 2009, and that an immediate appeal be made - 'following the Elders/Church Council retreat' - to the congregation to raise \$20,000 to cover the costs, and continuation of the position into 2010.

A broad discussion followed:

- appeal to congregation to increase giving by \$500 per week.
- we need surety of funds
- approach Synod to allow us to rent 19 Southdown Avenue on the open market.
- we need to "sell the dream" of our mission - not sell a 'bail-out' option.

The following motion was put to the meeting; Moved John Yates, seconded Kaye Mackinnon "that the point 0.5 position be continued from 1st July 2009 to 31st December 2009 and that the funding for that be underwritten from the Deferred Maintenance Fund."

The motion was carried substantially.

Kaye Mackinnon then moved: "that the congregation be informed clearly, and immediately about the resolution passed at this meeting with a view to raising \$20,000 immediately." Seconded Margaret Williams.

Motion put to the meeting. Carried.

Herb Fleming moved: "that the meeting instruct the Church Council at the Retreat on May 23rd to seriously consider the Planned Giving Program and the long term composition of the Ministry Team." Seconded: John Battisson.

Beverly McGlead advised the meeting that on the retreat agenda was 'consideration of spreading the burden/lightening the burden of the ministry team.

Beth Hancock foreshadowed a motion, that we ask the Church Council at the retreat to begin a process of reviewing the composition and role of the ministry team and the resources to make this happen"

Following discussion the following motion was put to the meeting - moved Beth Hancock, seconded Kaye Mackinnon: "that this meeting instruct the Church Council at the Retreat on May 23rd seriously consider the planned giving review and to begin a process of reviewing the composition and role of the ministry team - in the light of the work that the congregation has discerned through the vision of the "On The Way Together' process. The motion was carried without dissent.

Some further questions were then asked:

- ministerial staff contracts - how long do they run? Can they be broken?
Carolyn Blakemore contracted until end of 2010.
Alanee - not on contract - on placement. Can be discussed with Presbytery.
Alison Dingwall - contract times will be checked.

The Chair, Graeme Frecker advised that the question is taken on notice and will be discussed at the Retreat.

8.5 On The Way Together progress

Brian Clarkson spoke to this and highlighted:

- we need to take our decisions seriously
- own what we went through
- throw our discipleship behind it.

8.6 Approval of maximum number of Elders

Beverly McGlead [Chair of Council] moved: "following a recommendation from Church Council that the maximum number of Elders at Glen Waverley Uniting Church be 60."

Seconded: David Jackson.

Carried.

8.7 Property Report

Warren Greenwood, Convenor of Property Committee addressed the meeting and highlighted:

- this building is a shared environment, could 'everybody' leave rooms tidy.
- volunteers needed for lawn mowing roster
- new photocopier in office [locked colour / charges will be made to individual budgets]
- tank project - 8 or 9 very tired men have put in a huge effort to install the tanks. A report will follow in Newview.
- Hall extension - not quite ready. Manses and Hall extension costs ALL FULLY covered by the proceeds of the sale of 5 Berkley Court.
- Broadcast Ministry to Beeac - ALL FULLY covered by Bomar and grants.

8.8 Building Development Report

Ross Lennon - "don't hold your breath for 16 May finish!" - but shortly.

Graeme Frecker thanked Ross Lennon for his work as Project Manager.

The meeting responded with acclamation.

8.9 Fete Monies

Alanee Hearnshaw advised the meeting that following some research they asked the meeting that the funds previously directed to an orphanage in Nairobi be now directed to Nakuru.

Motion, moved Alanee Hearnshaw, Seconded John DeRavin

"that following Church Council's recommendation, this meeting approve that the money previously directed to assist our youth in work in Nairobi, be now directed to assist our youth to work in Nakuru Baby Orphanage, The Walk Centre, United Methodist Church.

Carried.

9. ELECTION OF CONGREGATION REPRESENTATIVE TO PORT PHILIP EAST PRESBYTERY

Current Representatives: John Hurst, Brian Clarkson, Graham Lockhart.

As mentioned in Item 3, Graham Lockhart has resigned from this position.

The meeting was asked to appoint a third representative to Presbytery to take Graham Lockhart's place.

Beth Hancock nominated Alison Dingwall, Seconded Margaret Williams.

There be no further nominations, Alison was duly elected.

The meeting responded with acclamation.

10. ANY FURTHER BUSINESS

10.1 A letter was received from Frances LaFontaine expressing concern over the 4.30pm service.

This letter is to be passed to Church Council for inclusion on the Agenda for their next meeting.

11. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chair, Graeme Frecker closed the meeting, expressing thanks to all who attended, and to all those involved in the On The Way Together process. Also thanks to the Ministry Team for all their work during a busy time. The meeting responded with acclamation.

The Grace was said together.