

**GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
HELD MONDAY 12th APRIL, 2010**

The Chairperson of the Congregation, Graeme Frecker, chaired the meeting.

1. **WELCOME** The Chairperson welcomed 84 members to the meeting.
- APOLOGIES** Alison Barr, Peter Barr, Alex Skilton, Walter Skilton, Marjorie Bedford, Ted Bedford, Jan Clarke, Brian Clarke, Heather Hon, Cliff Baker, Geraldine Fleming, Mona Macklin, Marjorie Snare, Evelyn Fleming, Geoff Willis.

Chairman Graeme informed the meeting that Minutes and other papers were available from the steward's table. Although the Agenda is long, it is intended to make the congregation aware of the work of GWUC.

2. **DEVOTIONS** given by Graeme Frecker.
 'In diversity we are made whole'. Using a reading from Paul's letter to the Romans: Chapter 12 - Graeme gave us thoughts on the beauty of community. He led us in prayer.
3. **MINUTES** of the meeting held 30th November, 2009 were taken as a true record.
 Moved: Doug Newberry, Seconded: David Morgan. Carried

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

4.1 Action to fill vacant Ministry position

Graeme outlined the background to the report to be presented by John Hurst.
[Copy of report available for all members to read]

Chair of Church Council, John Hurst spoke to the written report.

Recommendation: Moved John Hurst, Seconded David Morgan:

'That the Congregation:

- proceed to appoint a Joint Nominating Committee
- instruct the Joint Nominating Committee initially to seek one full time Minister of the Word
- ask Church Council to recommend members of the JNC.

The motion was open for questions/discussion.

There was broad discussion. Questions were asked and answered.

Motion put to the meeting. A show of cards - generally in favour of the motion.

Graham Lockhart moved that the motion be changed to remove the word 'initially'.

This motion could not find a second and was not supported by the meeting.

Mark Easton moved that the motion be changed to remove the word 'initially' and insert the word 'preferably'. Seconded: Peter Baker

This motion was generally carried by consensus.

Further discussion followed and the original motion was then put to the meeting with the change:

'That the Congregation:

- proceed to appoint a Joint Nominating Committee

- instruct the Joint Nominating Committee to seek preferably one full time Minister of the Word
- ask Church Council to recommend members of the JNC.

This motion was carried by consensus.

Rev. Dr Fred Vanclay addressed the meeting re the attributes needed for a MOW in Glen Waverley. His comments were noted.

4.2 Building Committee Report

John Colvin spoke to his written report.

He reported:

- the work on the two Manses and Church extension is now completed.
- thanks were extended to the committee members: Herb Fleming, Roger Vass, Graeme Frecker, Warren Greenwood, Don Cormack, Ross Lennon, with special thanks to Ross for all his work.
- project completed on budget - all costs covered by the proceeds from the sale of the 5 Berkley Court manse.
- report to go to Iris & Leon Pederick, who gave a most generous donations towards the furnishings.

The meeting responded with acclamation.

Chairman, Graeme Frecker extended appreciation to John Colvin.

The meeting responded with acclamation.

5. **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL**

5.1 Annual Report from Church Council

John Hurst had prepared a comprehensive written report which was distributed prior to the meeting to those attending.

A copy of this report is available from the church office.

5.2 Financial Accounts for year 2009

Roger Vass - Interim Treasurer - spoke to his written report, previously distributed.

Moved Roger Vass, Seconded Warren Greenwood

'The annual accounts are presented for acceptance of Congregation subject to satisfactory audit.'

Carried by consensus unanimously.

Roger also advised that so far the fund raising [separate from Outreach fund raising] has raised just over \$5,000. Thanks given to Vida Foo for her work.

The meeting responded with acclamation.

5.3 Congregation Budget for July-December 2010.

Roger outlined the pattern of promised weekly giving.

We are operating on a one year budget for 2010, and this was approved at the November 2009 meeting of the Congregation.

6. **COMMENT FROM MINISTRY TEAM**

Rev. Greg Fry addressed the meeting and spoke of the last 12 months of incredible activity.

- On The Way Together program formation

- heavy load of pastoral care
 - link with Beeac
- and much more.

He expressed thanks to John Hurst for all his work with Church Council etc.
The meeting responded with acclamation.

Chairman, Graeme Frecker extended appreciation to all the ministry team.
The meeting responded with acclamation.

7. ON THE WAY TOGETHER -ACTION IN MISSION

- 7.1 Community of Faith - Ross Mackinnon reported that the Community of Faith group has initiated the following activities:
- Combined 10.00am services with guest preachers on the 5th Sunday of the month.
 - Lenten Studies prepared by four GWUC members: Peter Baker, Pamela Longmuir, Rohan Wickramaratne, Kelly Skilton.
 - Post Lenten study on Brian McLaren's book "Everything Must Change".
 - Elders involvement in preparing and leading Holy Week services.
 - Elders leading and preparing Prayers for Others in morning services.
 - An annual preaching plan.
 - Currently looking at the suggestion that GW move permanently to two morning services - 8.00am and 10.00am, as happens over the Christmas break. Comments on this would be appreciated from members of the congregation.
- 7.2 Inclusive Community - Jan Clear reported that the Inclusive Community group would like some more members, as there are currently only three.
- New group started, "Munch with a Bunch". Have had one gathering at a private home. Next one will be at the church on Mother's Day, May 9th to which all who eat alone are invited.
 - Craft exhibition planned for 2011.
 - Pancake Day - February - a great success. This year held at the church [previously at GW railway station]. Raised over \$300.
 - Christmas Alight a great success.
 - Welcoming procedures to be tightened up.
 - Looking at ways to establish some new FISH groups.
- A full copy of Jan's written report available from the Cong. Secretary.*
- 7.3 The Hub - Judith Greenwood reported:
- The Hub has 40 volunteers
 - operates every Tuesday and Thursday 10.00am-2.00pm
 - being used by 'strangers' and church members
 - there have been some lovely encounters
- A full copy of Judith's written report available from the Cong. Secretary.*
- 7.4 Outreach Missional Group - Lyn McDonald reported on the activities of this group.
- Playgroups - Christian Play Groups have been happening led by Kimberly Easton and Kaye Mackinnon. Operates Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday.
 - Asylum Seekers Project - support for those living in 19 Southdown Avenue.

- East Timor Tank Project - support for Meagan Lowe, Judy Lowe and Jan Hart with this project. Over \$3,000 raised.
- Selecting the COP recipients for 2010 - this is currently happening.
- Support for the Kombi Krew
- Support for the 'Close the Gap' event.
- An added extra - keeping in contact with Laura Morgan, currently working at Maningrida, Arnhem Land NT.

Outreach Missional Group's prime focus is being an operating group and being ready to support, help, facilitate projects/activities that occur.

Information and communication about the group's activities are given on a regular basis through the Bulletin, Newview, and face to face. There are also display boards in the foyer.

If you have an idea for a project please contact the group.

8. COMMENT FROM ELDERS - Ross Mackinnon

Ross reported that all those nominated for election as an Elder were elected. He then spoke of the change in the Uniting Church with Parish Councils and Elders Council being replaced by one Church Council for each congregation. This did not happen at GWUC, and special permission was sought to have a Church Council of 25 members, the majority of whom must be Elders. An Elders group continued.

The role of Elders changed, and this has been a learning experience.

Elders now;

- have a Convenor and a Minute Secretary
- meetings are held each month
- a learning segment has been introduced at each meeting
- are updated on what is happening in the Ministry Team, Church Council and the four Missional Groups
- three elders are Presbytery representatives
- Chair and Deputy Chair of Church Council are elders
- active in the four missional groups - two of which have Elders as Convenors
- three elders involved in coordinating our three playgroups
- the President of UCAF is an Elder
- "Tanks for Timor" was instigated by an Elder
- three Elders are completing accreditation as Lay Preachers
- Elders are taking leadership roles in worship
- Elders are leading and preparing Prayers for Others in morning worship
- Elders help prepare and lead Holy Week services and Lenten studies.

Ross then advised the meeting that an oversight had occurred in the election of Elders held Sunday April 11. Shirley Harding's name was not on the ballot paper.

Regret was expressed that this had happened. Suggested solution:

- given that Shirley is willing to continue, and
- given that the Congregation elects Elders, I would like to move that this Congregational meeting affirms Shirley Harding's Eldership for another term.

Chairman, Graeme Frecker asked the meeting to signify their consideration of this motion. Unanimous consensus.

Ross Mackinnon formally moved "that Shirley Harding be elected to Eldership".

Motion seconded: John Hurst

The meeting responded with unanimous consensus and acclamation.

9. COMMENT FROM PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE

Alison Dingwall advised the meeting:

- Representatives to Port Philip East Presbytery are: John Hurst, Brian Clarkson, Alison Dingwall.
- Presbytery has been undertaking the On The Way Together process for Envisioning the Future of Port Philip East Presbytery with particular reference to the Life-Giving themes adopted by SynOd in 2008.
 - encountering Christ in Community
 - Living God's transforming story
 - Spirited listening, giving voice
 - Engaging diversity
 - Liberating stewardship.
- Merricks Camp - Jay Robinson spoke about this UCA campsite which is being redesigned.
- NCYC - Hannah Dungan spoke about the next NCYC in Brisbane, 29th Dec 2010.
- PPE Website - David Peel introduced the PPE website: <http://www.ucappeg.org> Prayer points should be submitted one week ahead of time. Date for GWUC is 22 August 2010.
- Some reports were received about various outreach and support programs from PPE congregations to their local communities and beyond.
- A new Presbytery Task Group has been formed on the Specified Ministry of Pastor. Alison Dingwall and Ross Mackinnon have been asked to join this group.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Next meeting of the congregation will be the 1st Monday in July, subject to COP applications being finalized.

10.2 Rev. Ineke Gyles informed the meeting of the death of Bill Williamson - the funeral to be held on Friday 16th April at 2.30pm.

11. CLOSURE The meeting closed with the saying of The Grace together.