

GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION HELD MONDAY 26th MAY, 2008

Meeting chaired by Murray Lowe, Chairperson of the Congregation.

1. **WELCOME** The Chairperson welcomed 89 members to the meeting.
APOLOGIES were received from: Graham Peters, Judy Edmonds, Jenny Vass, Bev Lennon, Keith Boundy, Barbara Thompson, John Tuininga, Sandy Tuininga, Beverly McGlead, Judith Boucher, Jan Clear, Evelyn Fleming, Kaye Mackinnon, Ross Mackinnon, Amy Whittaker, Evelyn Ellemor.
2. **DEVOTIONS** Greg Fry led devotions based on Matthew 6, with a visual presentation, and focussed on 'our eyes are the window to the body - to the light that God brings'.

The meeting will use the Consensus method of voting.

An adjustment was made to the distributed Agenda - it will now include reception of the Annual Report of the Careful Kitchen Crew.

3. **MINUTES** of the meeting held 26th November, 2007 were taken as a true record. Accepted
Matters to be dealt with from those Minutes.

3.1 *Appointment of Congregational representatives to Port Philip Presbytery.*

Graeme Frecker [Chair of Church Council] reported on this matter.

John Hurst has been confirmed as one of GWUC representatives to Port Philip Presbytery.

Brian Clarkson nominated by Church Council as a second representative.

Regulations now changed and congregations larger than 250 confirmed members are entitled to a third representative.

Graham Lockhart is willing to be the third representative.

Graeme Frecker moved: "that Graham Lockhart be appointed a third representative of Glen Waverley Uniting Church to Port Philip Presbytery". Carried by consensus

John Hurst then gave a brief report on new Presbytery changes.

Induction of Presbytery Ministers & Officers will be at Noble Park UC, 1st June, 2008 at 3.00pm.

Change of structure of presbytery - 3 ministers now with more specific responsibilities, and able to move around more fully.

New presbytery will meet on the 19th of every second month, except when 19th is a Sunday.

Murray Lowe thanked John for his report.

3.2 *Actions of Church Council to address Resource Budget motion.*

Graeme Frecker spoke to this with a visual presentation. The resolution from the 26th November, 2007 meeting was to present a balanced budget. Roger Vass [Interim Treasurer] will report more fully on this

later in meeting. Graeme made the following points

- Regular income needed
- Contribution to Mission & Service- Synod has accepted a reduced contribution from GWUC. Will be \$100,000 for 2008. Contribution for 2009 under review.

- Decision map - for balance of 2008. As a result of "special appeal" able to continue current ministry team for 2008.
- Supply ministry arrangements for balance of 2008. Rev. Ineke Gyles will take on a part time role and during August and September will take on Alison Dingwall's duties, whilst Alison is on leave.
- Funding commitment will need to be made for 2009. This will be done in consultation and with advice from Presbytery. The decision will ultimately be the decision of the congregation, not the decision of Presbytery.
- Mission Statement to be prepared.

This report was given as a statement of what Church Council can do in response to the motion put at the November 26th, 2007 meeting.

Murray Lowe thanked Graeme and Church Council for their work.

4. **ELECTION OF SECRETARY and CHAIRPERSON OF CONGREGATION**

Murray Lowe vacated the chair.

Graeme Frecker took the chair, and thanked Murray for the commitment he had given in his two years as Chair of the Congregation. The meeting responded with acclamation.

U.C. Regulations - Term of Office - 2 years.

Nominations were called.

No nominations received.

Questions about the role of Chair were asked and answered.

Graeme Frecker then asked Murray to continue as Chair for the remainder of this meeting, and further elections will be conducted following worship on June 22, 2008.

Graeme put this to the meeting - 'Declare position vacant and held over until elections on June 22, 2008. Vacancy will be advertised in the Weekly Bulletin.' Meeting agreed

Election of Secretary

The position was declared vacant and nominations called for.

Margaret Williams nominated Faye Wagon. There were no further nominations.

Faye Wagon elected by consensus.

5. **MINISTRY TEAM REPORT** - given by whole team.

Lynette noted

- energy in team
- working with Rev. Steve Terrell
- involvement of Rev. Dr Warren Bartlett in team meetings.

Greg noted

- worship services are a developing process
- changes etc will be explored with congregation.

Alison noted

- 'Life for Living' seminar held 3rd May and its particular relevance to seniors
- Speakers all came from within our own congregation
- Reminder that a DVD of worship services are available to 'shut-ins'.

Alanee [in conjunction with Carolyn Blakemore] noted

- Easter camp for youth
- NCYC '09 preparations - lots of our youth involved in this
- 4.30pm service progress - increase in numbers of children attending
- State Youth Games - 60 youth from Mitcham & Glen Waverley attending
- BBQs have raised enough so far to pay for one delegate to attend NCYC
- Trivia Night raised \$1500 - for orphanage in Kenya. [Nikki Mann project]

6. 'ON THE WAY TOGETHER' - where to next?

Greg Fry addressed this item, and reported that first conversations held Sunday May 25.

Thank you to Alison Dingwall for all the catering involved in this.

Steve Terrell [Presbytery Minister] was thanked for his commitment - he was here at 7.30am and still here at 6.30pm.

Responses will be typed up and available for all to read.

Alanee was commended for her involvement in NCYC '09 preparations, and mention was made of how many of the youth were also involved in these preparations.

The meeting responded with acclamation.

Lynette spoke of the journey 'on the way together' and hopes for the future. Process will include all people, through group discussions, visits to homes, email contact etc.

'Conversations' to continue - share further - look to the past - look to the future.

June 22 service and conversations will highlight GWUC assets, building blocks.

July -August - 'Isaiah Festival'

Later in year further conversations - 'how do we resource this?'

Julie Ross spoke to the meeting of the Isaiah Festival and how the story of the Israelites in the Book of Isaiah mirrored the story of the Christian church in the 21st century and especially our church here at GW.

Julie outlined the proposed program for the Isaiah Festival [copies of which were distributed to those attending].

7. CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS - given by Graeme Frecker [Chair of Church Council]

7.1 Supply Ministry arrangements post June 08. This was covered in Graeme's earlier report. [See Item 3.2].

7.2 Presentation of Audited Accounts - these will be presented to the meeting by Roger Vass [Interim Treasurer]. Graeme noted that GWUC has not had a Treasurer since December 2006, and Roger has ably taken on the role of Interim Treasurer. Previous Treasurer, Graeme Peters has continued to assist in monitoring the accounts and Helen Boucher has taken on the Accountants role. The meeting responded with acclamation.

Roger Vass then spoke to the prepared and distributed papers.

Roger moved 'that the congregation receive the Audited Accounts'.

Seconded David Jackson.

Agreed by Consensus

Roger then spoke to the 2008 Budget in detail.

Moved Roger Vass, seconded Graeme Frecker, "that Church Council recommends the adoption of the Budget by the Congregation".

Questions and discussion followed.

- Reduced giving to Mission & Service? The meeting was advised that this was discussed fully with Presbytery and it is hoped that the decision shows a balance between what GWUC is doing locally and with the wider church.
- Manse refurbishment? It was noted that 19 Southdown Avenue will need refurbishment sometime in 2009.
- Office Staff? Could this be reduced to part-time? Response - not unless the current five-year contract is renegotiated.
- Budget isn't balanced? There was wide and vigorous discussion following this question, and the meeting noted that there is not full consensus, therefore the following is noted:

'Recognising that there some are not in full consensus - that we pass this motion noting their concerns'.

The motion was then passed.

Roger advised the meeting that some of the programs happening at GWUC are covered by 'outside payment' - new manses [covered by sale of 5 Berkley Court], Beeac [Broadcast Ministry - covered by BOMAR], Intern ministry - Laura Morgan, Bronwyn Lowe [covered by government grant and some local business contributions], Tanks [covered by government grant].

Roger asked the meeting to pass a motion of thanks to John Yates who audited the accounts. The meeting responded with acclamation.

Question - 'process in preparing further budgets?

Graeme Frecker highlighted the need as a matter of urgency to come to some conclusion as to the future of this congregation - to clarify needs:

- future ministry - work needs to be done urgently now on seeking placements - not a "make-do" ministry.
- we are a congregation without a Congregation Chairperson, a Treasurer - *not just a money budget.*

7.4 Building Redevelopment Progress Report - given by Ross Lennon [in his role as 'site supervisor']

- work did commence on time
- foundations were originally poured in wrong place - but all resolved
- building progressing well and the single storey manse should be finished early August, and double storey manse late August/early September.
- We, as a congregation will need to help with final fit out - landscaping etc.
- Plans are in foyer for viewing.

Questions were asked and answered.

Murray extended thanks to Ross, and the meeting responded with acclamation.

8. EXTRAORDINARY CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

It is important to hold this as there are a number of vacancies.

9. FOOD SAFETY REPORT

The Annual Report from the Careful Kitchen Crew was received and tabled.

Murray thanked the CKC for all their hard and conscientious work and moved "that this report be received".

There were no questions.

Warren Greenwood noted that this congregation had been operating within the Food Safety Guidelines under Margaret Fraser's personal Food Accreditation, and for this we should be most grateful to Margaret.

Margaret is to run a training day for up to 15 people, and the Property Committee will subsidize delegates to this day. It is important that this training be done.

The Chair endorsed the program.

The report was received.

The meeting responded with acclamation.

10. Reminder - that letters for every church family, are on the table in the foyer. Take yours and any you can deliver.

A vote of thanks was given to Roger Vass for his work as Interim Treasurer. The meeting responded with acclamation.

11. BENEDICTION

The Grace was said together.