

GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION HELD MONDAY

26th NOVEMBER, 2007

Meeting chaired by Murray Lowe, Chairperson of the Congregation.

1. **WELCOME** The Chairperson Murray Lowe, welcomed 117 members to the meeting.
2. **DEVOTIONS** were led by Brian Clarkson based on Romans 13: 8 -14, and focussed on relationships and working together. Brian also used John 17 - Jesus' prayer.

APOLOGIES were received from: Pam Bunney, John Muir, Joy Jackson, David Jackson, Sue Laub, Glenn Laub, Alison Dingwall, Margaret Harmer, Lindsay Harmer, John Battisson, Margaret Williams, Alan Robison, Evelyn Fleming, Geoff Saxton, Scott Bailey, Natalie Blizzard, Bill Morgan, Jessie Morgan, Walter Skilton, Deb Campbell, Gary Campbell, Mirini Lang, Russell Lang, Janette Pocklington, Ruth Dayment.

'CONSENSUS' Murray explained the Consensus method of 'voting', and advised that this would be used at this meeting.

3. **MINUTES** of the meeting held September 7, 2007 were accepted following questions:
Item 7: Congregation Outreach Project.
Graeme Frecker will address this question in Matters Arising.
Item 9: Broadcast Ministry - 'Worship disciplines'
Item 8: Elders Update
The report given by Julie Ross is available for those wishing to read it.

3.1 Matters Arising

Graeme Frecker [Chair of Church Council] addressed Item 7 in the September 7, 2007 minutes and advised that he has spoken with Bill Morgan, Convenor of the COP Task Group, and Bill has indicated that he will bring a report to Church Council and advise where the excess funds will be allocated.

4. APPRECIATION FOR SERVICE GIVEN TO THE CHURCH

Chairperson, Murray Lowe gave a visual presentation recognising the contribution made by a number of people to GWUC. **Some who had given long time service and are retiring:**

- ☐ Mavis & John Ambrose - for their work with Playgroup
- ☐ John Baines - Planned Giving Convenor
- ☐ Bev Cameron - Leisure Time Coordinator for nine years
- ☐ Malcolm Chamberlain - Elder for 50 years. [Malcolm coordinated the Elders Door Stewards and Communion Roster for 20+ years]
- ☐ Liv Cameron - Church Council
- ☐ Evelyn Fleming - GWUC Presbytery Representative for 11 years
- ☐ Vida Foo - Worship planning 9.00am service
- ☐ Ross Lennon - Convenor Property Committee & Handyman Extraordinaire & Sound Technician
- ☐ Graham Peters - Treasurer and Church Council
- ☐ Noreen Rodgers - Sunday School Teaching for over 40 years
- ☐ Alex Skilton - Church Council Secretary
- ☐ Walter Skilton - Church Council, and Chair Children & Families Committee
- ☐ Roger Vass - Church Council [Past Chair]
- ☐ Mary Ward - Convenor Welfare Committee for 5 years.

These people were thanked most sincerely for their contribution and the meeting responded with acclamation.

4. **APPRECIATION FOR SERVICE GIVEN TO THE CHURCH continued:**

and some who are leaving GWUC.

- ❑ Jay Robinson - who is about to take her first placement at Frankston UC.
Jay - Elder, Worship Leader, Worship Planning Group, Christmas Alight, Working With Children, Music, Liturgical Dance Group, and numerous other involvements.
A letter received from Jay was read to the meeting.
- ❑ Bruce Robinson - has been involved on the Fete Committee, Property Committee, Sound Technician and Youth.
- ❑ Stephanie Robinson - Youth, Liturgical Dance

- ❑ Jean Tulloch - a member for 35 years. Leisure Time, Food Safety Committee, Property Committee. *Jean, Graeme and family are moving to Rosebud.*

- ❑ Iris Pederick - a member for 49 years. Elder, Church Council, Organist, Choir Leader, Coordinator of Music Roster, established and conducted Deo Volente - and **much, much more!**
- ❑ Leon Pederick - a member for 49 years. Church Council, Property Committee [Cleaning and Mowing Roster], Planned Giving Committee - leading some Planned Giving programs, Sammy Stamp coordinator - and **much, much more!** *Iris and Leon are moving to Geelong.*

Murray extended the grateful thanks of the GWUC church to all of these people for their tireless work and contribution to the life of GWUC.

The meeting responded with acclamation.

5. **WORSHIP PLANNING FOR 2008 - including Proposal re Children and Families Worship**

Carolyn Blakemore, Alanee Hearnshaw and Kerry Leister presented an outline of the proposed changes to worship for Children and Families, including a change of Sunday School times.
A Discussion Paper is attached to these Minutes.

Questions were asked and answered and Consensus showed a warm response to the proposals.

Rev. Greg Fry spoke to the meeting highlighting:

- the need to explore worship in different ways
- provide a range of services
- the need to work through issues re changes
- we can't keep going forever the way we are
- decisions will not be made quickly
- the need to share thoughts

The meeting strongly supported the Committee in their continuing work.

6. **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY COORDINATOR -extension of appointment**

Graeme Frecker addressed the meeting and spoke of the work done by Carolyn Blakemore. Church Council met two weeks ago and it was agreed that Carolyn's position should continue. The Church Council strongly in favour and a Duty Statement has been prepared. Graeme presented the following motion:-

"That the Congregation celebrate the work of Carolyn Blakemore in her Ministry to Children and Families on behalf of the Congregation, and resolve that she be offered a three year extension in her position of Ministry to Children and Families Coordinator [0.25 EFT or 10 hours / week] from 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2010."

The motion was seconded Roger Vass.

6. Children and Families Ministry Coordinator - continued

Marnie Troini spoke to the motion and highlighted some of the work that Carolyn has been doing -

- connection with families inside and outside the church community
- a strong network with families of GWUC
- Weekly Bulletin emailed to families
- Family Newsletter quarterly
- Work with Christmas Alight
- The Schools Easter Event - and more

Marnie read a letter from Debra Campbell applauding Carolyn's work.

Plans were outlined for future work:

- Parent Education program [through small groups]
- Fund raising
- World Vision connection.

Questions were asked:

- Time allocation - enough?
- Should there be a review during the three years about the hours worked?

The meeting was advised that Bronwyn Lowe and Laura Morgan are involved in an Internship Program and they are helping out with Children and Families Ministry work. There are Budget constraints if hours are increased.

Following some discussion Consensus was sought.

Not complete Consensus.

Concern over workload and number of hours.

Graeme Frecker addressed the meeting and noted that the Duty Statement requires that a report be given [by Carolyn] to Church Council at least quarterly. It is possible to review hours after 12 months.

Consensus sought and received.

7. MINISTRY TEAM REPORT - given by Greg Fry.

- Advent planning in hand
- January - Rev. Wal Baker O.2 will end. [We have enjoyed Wal's magic!]
- Carolyn's O.2 appreciated
- Elwyn Pedersen will conclude as Seniors Worker next week. Alison has returned from leave.
- Broadcast Ministry going well. Beeac wants to share their resources with others in their community.
- Port Philip East Presbytery - as of January we will be part of this. Greg gave some details of the new Presbytery.

8. RESOURCE BUDGET - given by Graeme Frecker.

Graeme spoke to his visual report and spoke of the need to fill some vacancies:-

- Teachers for Hey Hey
- Leisure Time Coordinator
- Garden Irrigators
- Treasurer
- Auditor
- [Daytime] Sound operators
- Risk Management Officer
- Income 'raisers'

8. RESOURCE BUDGET - continued

He spoke of some of the initiatives happening:-

- Social Justice Network
- Kombi Krew
- Internships for trainee leaders
- Rejuvenation of the Eldership
- Beeac streaming
- DVD worship for 'shut-ins'.

Graeme then outlined some of the financial details:-

- Operating deficit \$50,000
- Uncommitted reserves will be used by mid 2008
- Expenditure in full year \$500,000
 - Ministry Team 40%
 - Mission & Service 22%
 - Property Maintenance 11%
 - Secretariat 11%

Possibilities for 2008

- Increase income by \$50,000
- Reduce Mission and Service by \$20,000 to \$100,000 and cease 0.4 supply from mid 2008
- Reduce Mission and Service to \$70,000
- Any combination of the foregoing . . .

Graeme then put the following motion:

"That this meeting ask the Church Council to:

- prepare a balanced budget for 2008 [annual expenditure = annual income],
- Discuss with Port Philip Presbytery that GWUC contribute substantially less than \$120,000 to Mission and Service in 2008,
- In consultation with Congregation and Presbytery recommend a ministry team appropriate to the mission of the church,
- Investigate ways to increase annual income".

The motion was seconded by Max Whittaker.

Discussion followed and questions asked:

- Have Synod MPRU been asked to "review" GWUC?
- We have a challenge in context of what we have heard tonight [about Children and Families Ministry]. We need to be centred, focussed. Can we have a 'one-off' approach to the congregation to be asked to "make-up" the deficit?
- Could the Weekly Bulletin include the Year to Date Budget, Monthly Contributions to keep the congregation aware of our finances. No detailed comments, just figures.
- Beverly McGlead is heading up a Committee to look at ways of increasing our income.
- Question asked about number of families on roll. About the same as 5 years ago.

The meeting was asked to vote. Consensus - strong support.

Further discussion followed:

- More communication about developments in future ministry team
- Mission and Service - disappointment at reduction in our giving
- Can we take each point separately to get strength of feeling on each point?

8. RESOURCE BUDGET - continued

Point of Order: 'Taking one by one is a waste of time!'

The meeting was asked to vote on 'treating the motion as a whole'. Consensus - strong support.

The motion was then voted on as a 'whole'.

Consensus - strong support.

One dissent.

The motion will proceed.

9. PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE

To replace Evelyn Fleming. No nominations received, but there is a level of interest from one person.

Some query as to how often the 'new' Presbytery will meet.

John Hurst is also a Presbytery Representative. Also Graham Lockhart.

If someone does offer can Church Council have approval to proceed?

Geraldine Fleming put the following motion:

"That should Church Council receive a nomination for a Presbytery Representative, before the next Congregational Meeting, Church Council be given permission to accept nomination and approve representative".

Consensus - strong support.

10. BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

Ross Lennon gave a brief report. Advice received today [26/11/07] that the builder received approval on the 8/11/07 and work should commence within fourteen days of this approval being given.

Appreciation was extended to the Building Development committee: Ross Lennon, John Colvin, Roger Vass, Warren Greenwood and Don Cormack.

11. NOTICES TO MEETING

- ❖ Advent Leaflets in foyer for pick up.
- ❖ 24 hour prayer vigil commencing midday Saturday 1/12/07 in Room 1/ Chapel.
- ❖ 8.00am service will still take place on Sunday morning 2/12/07.

12. CLOSING

The meeting closed with the saying of The Grace together.