

**Meeting of GWUC Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group (OSJC)**  
**10am Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**

**MINUTES**

WELCOME and thanks for attendance

PRESENT: Annette Wojak, David Morgan, Vida Foo, Margaret Fraser, Rev Ian Ferguson

APOLOGIES: Rev Chris Waddell

PRAYER: Margaret led a prayer for the new year.

1. **SELECTION of chairperson:** Margaret accepted this role.

2. **NOTES from initial meeting held 20 Sept 2023,** accepted.

As recorded in GWUC wiki - [CouncilAgenda20231016](#) > [CouncilMinutes20231016](#)

3. **ACTIONS ARISING from 20 Sept 2023 meeting**

3.1 **Name change** approved by Church Council. – we are now “Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group”, referred to as OSJC.

3.2 **Update of notice board** – by MF and AW. We have

- removed old and irrelevant items,
- removed the word “Community” and added “Social Justice” to the existing “Outreach”
- Publicised the recipients of the 2023 Fete proceeds, and the amounts donated to each, with thanks given to the congregation
- Featured the current Material Aid project/s, eg Share the Dignity, Welfare, empty Christmas Tree with items going to Broadmeadows.
- Featured Christmas projects, such as Christmas Bowl, other charities such as Tearfund and UnitingWorld offering “Useful Gifts” such as goats and chickens and the Shoebox project which our 5pm service group organized.

3.3 **Bulletin and Kingsway items** – items were added for Oct, Nov and Dec to advise about new committee, Material Aid, and inviting new project ideas and new committee members. Trying to encourage new ideas and all-age and all-service involvement.

3.4 **Material Aid collections** - AW will organise this. Very positive responses to November “Share the Dignity” (approx 20 handbags) and December “Empty Christmas Tree” appeals. Investigating Harvest Festival idea for March/April. An annual calendar of projects would be helpful - note Neil Peters’ list of past recipients.

4 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Margaret Fraser email - proposed changes to noticeboard
- David Morgan email - OSJC’s possible involvement with Pancake Day
- Wendy Flahive email and letter Dec 12, 2023, possible COP project, see 5.2.
- John Snare (Cong. Chair) email Dec 18, - review of COP administration
- John Snare (Cong. Chair) email - seeking urgent advice re selection of COP committee
- John Snare (Communications) email Jan 4 seeking update of Outreach on GWUC website
- David Morgan email seeking responses to idea of drink container recycling, plus responses
- David Morgan (Church Council) requesting submission of OSJC Annual Report by 31/1/24

## 5 OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 **Priorities for meeting** - The Agenda has been ordered to reflect current priorities.

### 5.2 COP 2024 administration

a.

We agreed to call for projects from the congregation for 2024. We felt that the advantages of personally invested congregation members outweighed the problems.

We agreed to not have a separate COP committee, but for OSJMG to decide the allocation.

We agreed to take the allocation to a congregation meeting for approval.

- Old COP procedures **documents must be updated by end March** (MF & DM to email a process for this soon, with all OSJC members to respond by email)
    - o Old COP Overall Procedure to be substantially updated (<http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/CopOverallProcedure>)
    - o Old COP Assessment Criteria document needs some updating and inclusion of latest government requirements, but the majority of it is still relevant. See <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/CopAssessmentCriteria> in the light of ACNC external conduct reporting requirements as outlined at <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/ACNCExternalConductReporting>
    - o Old COP Application Form to be updated asap, with new timelines and a reminder that we are seeking local, Australian and International projects. Successful projects will be requested to provide a speaker for 2025.
  - Timelines
    - o Update relevant procedure and selection documents by end of March
    - o Open COP applications at start of April
    - o Close COP applications at end of May
    - o Selection process to be completed by mid-July
    - o Report recommendations to Congregational Meeting in July/August
  - John Snare (Cong.Chairperson) to be advised about above decisions asap (David)
  - Need to check UCA regs re what financial decisions need to be made by the congregation. This is in relation to the OSJC making decisions for future COP money without placing it before a congregational meeting for prior approval.
- b. Request for \$4000 for Birthing Kits project for Solomon Islands – Wendy Flahive, Johnsonville UC. May be simpler if we encourage individuals to support this as it may not satisfy the ACNC requirements as a COP project. DM to contact Wendy regarding best process for individual donations. MF to publicise Project in bulletin and Kingsway.
- c. Invite 2023 COP fund recipients to attend a service in April or May to speak about their work. VF to liaise with Welfare and Friends of Ermera, MF to liaise with Frontier Services and UnitingWorld. Best for them to attend in different services. Include photos if poss.

5.3 **2023 Annual Report for OSJC** due to Church Council by 31 January '24. MF to do.

### 5.4 Website and wiki update required –

- a. The church website is out of date re Outreach - <https://gwuc.org.au/mission/community-outreach/> MF will send info re new committee and our mission to John Snare. AW will also send all current Bulletin items regarding Material Aid and COP projects to John.
- b. The previous Asylum Seeker Support Group is no longer functioning. Our ongoing honey sales support the Uniting Asylum Seeker Project and some of their services are the same. MF will contact John Snare to update the database with this info.
- c. DM will update the wiki.

## **5.5 Mission and Scope of the Outreach and Social Justice Committee (OSJC) –**

- a. The OSJC will adopt the following words as our mission:
  - supporting and advocating for social justice, international, national and community projects outside of GWUC, including our Congregational Outreach Projects,
  - encouraging members to pursue their outreach and social justice passions
  
- b. In the absence of an active OSJC for some time, some individuals and groups have continued to work faithfully with or without support from this Mission Group. OSJC has requested Church Council to clarify this so that all groups/projects can be included, supported and monitored under the appropriate Mission Group, as was intended in our 2009 On the Way Together restructure and the Church New Structures 2013V2 document.  
There will inevitably be some blurred lines and we don't want to discourage any existing efforts. This may require sensitive discussion with the four Mission Groups and individuals within GWUC so that we all work within the agreed framework.

Following advice from Church Council, OSJC will make contact with all projects/groups allocated to this Mission Group, to offer support and a way of maintaining contact with Church Council and the broader congregation.

6. **Placement of drinks container on church property** to collect refundable containers as a fundraiser. This possible project will be put aside for now.
  
7. **Topics for upcoming Bulletins and Noticeboard** - to maintain interest in OSJC efforts. Material aid projects to be publicised (AW). Items collected to be included with offering. MF to add 2024 COP material to noticeboard, including some 2023 fete photos. MF will ask Ray/Faye to provide info about ongoing Welfare materials – to go into Bulletin.
  
8. **Occasional speakers at 5pm service** to focus on promotion of Social Justice matters  
DM to consult with the group regarding this idea.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Encourage new members for this committee, in consultation with others.

MF will compile a list of Social Justice concerns and possible activities for OSJC as they arise.

It was agreed that we book the community display space in the Monash Library for one month to showcase some OSJC projects. VF to make enquiries.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

In future, bi-monthly meetings will be held at the church (or on Zoom).

Next meeting to be held on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 10am.**

N.B. COP application process to open following this meeting.

MF to book a meeting space and advise committee.