

GWUC Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group

MINUTES

26 June 2025, 10am, Room 2

Welcome to all. Michele's first meeting, glad to have you.

Present: Pam Bunney, Annette Wojak, David Morgan, Michele Stringer, Margaret Fraser (Chair)

Apologies: Vida Foo (away 20/6-30/6), Rev Ian Ferguson (conducting a funeral)

Devotion: Margaret – based on editorial by Rev David Fotheringham in April 2025 Crosslight and Psalm 37. Do not fret, Trust God, Do what is Good.

Minutes of last meeting on 10 April 2025

1. Matters arising from last meeting

- John Snare (Congregation Chair) continues to be advised of COP2025 Selection Panel activity, and has allocated 15-20 mins for our COP presentation at the Meeting of the Congregation after 10am service on 27 July.
- Further information from the 5 COP 2024 recipients was displayed on noticeboard and included in Bulletins.
- MF attended the Palm Sunday march for Justice and Kindness in city on 13/4, as advertised in Just Act newsletter. Excellent speakers and diverse participants. Very positive vibe and well supported. **MF to investigate Grandmothers for Refugees**, which had a good presence at the rally.
- 1st Nations: Monash Council organised 2 events to celebrate National Reconciliation Week, May 26 outside GW library, and May 28 at Wheelers Hill Library. A NAIDOC Week event will be held on Saturday July 10, 10am – 2pm. This is a joint Monash library and Monash Interfaith Book Club meeting and bookings are required. MF to attend and perhaps Vida. Both have been advertised in church bulletin.
- New members for OSJMG – ongoing need for new members as extra issues and projects continue to arise.
- Posters from organisations should be A4 not A3 to fit on our noticeboard. MF has not attended to this as yet.

2. Ongoing Projects – updates as needed

- a. Material Aid - Annette. Continues to be well supported. Currently collecting for Welfare. *Need to include Material Aid offering with collection money for a blessing by minister once per month on 3rd Sundays. **AW will talk to ministers and DM will add this to Door Steward roster duties.**
- b. Honey Money - Margaret, last batch prepared on 1st May. New helpers: Yolandy and Patrick Lovell now assisting. Next batch will be prepared in mid-July. AW has added a notice near honey about direct transfer of honey payments.
- c. Pancake Breakfasts at GWSC –David. Going well. Rain today caused a quick move but students still came and all pancakes were enjoyed.
- d. Welfare Committee –New coordinator Tamara Maguire – Ian.
- e. EcoTask Group – David. Eco banner fell down last month but DM has fixed it. Property committee will be installing batteries to the solar panel system. The Uniting collection bins near driveway are well supported with goods from congregation and community members. Much appreciated by Uniting.

3. Occasional Projects – update

- a. KOGO Knitting project –Pam. Plenty of completed goods and the project is going well. Closing date for knitted items is end of July. **Pam to deliver them. AW/PB - Could some of these items be included with the Material Aid blessing in July?**
- b. COP 2024 recipients Choir of Hope performance at nursing home. **Vida** please report at next OSJMG meeting. Thanks.

4. Communication: Noticeboard, Bulletin & Kingsway and verbal notices –

- a. COP 2025 info put on noticeboard, in Bulletin and in Kingsway, and several verbal announcements made to encourage applications.
- b. Newsbeat (Presbytery newsletter) article “Wisdom of Welcome” by Rev Dr Robert Johnson was reprinted in last Kingsway.

5. Correspondence IN

- a. [A Vision for a Just Australia – Uniting Church Australia](#) was prepared prior to the Federal election, an inspirational set of Social Justice foundational issues for our UCA congregations to be challenged/inspired by. Excellent resource, **recommended reading for all OSJMG. Discussion deferred to next meeting.**
- b. JUST ACT, April and June newsletters. **PB and MS will subscribe** to these digital newsletters. **All OSJMG to bring relevant ideas to our next meeting.**
- c. Kids under Cover sent an informative Impact Report related to our 2024 COP donation. We are not permitted to share identifying details of the included Case Study but **Michele will write a Kingsway article** based on the report to inform the congregation about the outcomes. **MF** to email letter to MS.
- d. Possible Dreams International (PDI) requesting our support for their Fun Run on 10 May. We are unable to support this cause at present.
- e. Newsbeat newsletter from Presbytery, NB pps 8-9 re Harmony Day activity at Mt Eliza. MF to circulate the newsletter. **All to consider the Mt Eliza article.**
- f. Letter from Mark Zirnsak asking congregation to support the 1st Nations Treaty. Same letter as in late 2024, more resources attached. **MF to contact AnnN.**
- g. Letter and survey from Act for Peace (National Council of Churches) 10 June 2025, seeking input regarding mission and justice plans and programs within congregations. Survey has 37 questions. **MF to forward to DM for Church Council consideration/advice. MF to circulate to all OSJMG.**
- h. Letter from Moderator, Rev David Fotheringham, to all ministers and church councils, 12 June 2025, urging support and action about the Yoorrook Justice Commission report. **DM** to circulate to All OSJM. **Please read the letter and be ready to discuss at our next meeting.**
MF to contact Monash council and other sources seeking further local indigenous history.
MF Enquire about the lack of acknowledgement of 1st Nations in the Marriott windows brochure.

Correspondence OUT:

- a. MF sent a brief monthly report to Church Council's May and June meetings.
- b. MF Response to the Church Council draft Organisational chart, as circulated by email to coordinators. **David will advise** any relevant outcomes to OSJMG.

6. Today's Business

- a. COP update:
 - Applications closed on Sun 25 May.
 - One late application was accepted, so we have 4 applications from the congregation plus one/two from the COP Panel (as stated in COP Procedure 3.7).
 - COP Selection Panel change. Vida resigned in order to submit an application, Pam was co-opted. David M has updated the copcom@gwuc.org.au email.
 - Consideration of applications almost completed. **A COP Panel meeting to discuss recommendations to follow this meeting today.**
 - Preparation of Recommendations and Brochure. **Send to John Snare and Church Council's July meeting. Applicants to be notified** of recommendations.
 - **Presentation** of Recommendations to Congregational Meeting (brochure, funds distribution and endorsement) will occur on 27 July.
 - Following the Meeting of the Congregation, COP Panel will:
 - Notify all applicants and project contacts of the meeting outcomes and the planned payment process.
 - Place item in bulletin to inform congregation of COP projects to be supported in 2025.
 - Liaise with Fete committee to promote the selected COP projects – noticeboards, flyers/bulletin/Other?
- b. Justice and International Mission (JIM):
 - Ideas from JustAct newsletter for consideration? David - Postcard ministry JUST ACT, other? DM is putting "Fact Sheet" resources in noticeboard box. We could ask Joanne to link some sheets to the Bulletin email distribution and/or some could be included in Kingsway. To discuss further.
 - Results of 2025 Issues survey (insert in June 2025 newsletter) – interesting for us to consider/compare for our own goals.
 - JIM Cluster is seeking volunteers to assist in distribution of monthly mail-outs of newsletters, at Parkville. No action on this.

7. Any other business – none raised

8. Meetings - Room 2 is booked for Thursdays at 10am: Next meeting is August 7, then October 2, November 27

Away dates: MF 1-4 July, DM 14 July - ~late August,