

# GWUC Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group

## MINUTES

13 February 2025, 10am, Room 2

**Welcome** to all and thanks for attending.

**Present:** Rev Ian Ferguson, Annette Wojak, David Morgan, Margaret Fraser (Chair)

**Apologies:** Vida Foo, Pam Bunney

**Devotion:** Margaret – Franciscan Blessing for Justice and Peace. A sympathy message to Pam was recorded following the death of her husband Malcolm.

**Minutes of last meeting** on 28 Nov 2024. Accepted.

### 1. Matters Arising from last meeting

- a. Editing of COP 2025 procedure and application documents now completed by Annette. David has saved them on Wiki OutreachSocialJustice page.
- b. An electronic folder of COP 2024 documents for future reference was compiled by Margaret and is saved at <https://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/COP2024Admin>
- c. UCA Social Justice statement regarding support for Victorian Treaty. 19/1/25 Draft letter sent to Church Council for approval and signing. The letter was approved by CC and was sent to UCA Social Justice Officer, Mark Zirnsak. Following this, the CC was approached by *Crosslight* about using GWUC as one of 4 congregations which have sent letters supporting Treaty. Alison Clarkson talking to them on 14/2/25. Margaret has emailed information to her.
- d. As suggested at the Oct meeting, Margaret placed an item in the January Bulletins explaining the work of the OSJMG and seeking new members.
- e. A calendar of 2024 O&SJMGM goals and activities has been prepared by Margaret for use in our planning for 2025.

### 2. Ongoing Projects – update

- a. Material Aid – **Action: Annette** will continue to coordinate this project in 2025.
- b. Honey Money - Margaret & David F to continue. \$900 donated to ASWC on 18/12/2024. New honey bottled on 27/12/24. Cash payments to remain but will trial electronic transfer as a cashless option for those not carrying cash. **Action: Margaret** to organize electronic transfer signs and notice in Bulletin.
- c. Pancake Breakfasts at GWSC – Every Thurs morning during term. Funding for this project is from general GWUC funds and Grill'd, less than \$2000/yr. Cheryl Swain is retiring as the person preparing the pancake mixture so a replacement is needed. **Action: David** and team to advertise for a new helper.
- d. Welfare Committee – Ray will be finishing up soon and a review of the position is underway. Advertising for a new coordinator will occur asap. We need to improve information to the congregation about the benefits of GWUC Welfare to clients, helping the congregation to feel more connected. **Action: Ian** to discuss this with Fay and provide information, eg. statistics and a representative case study to be circulated to the congregation to go into Kingsway. This could act as the feedback/reporting from Welfare as required of all COP recipients.
- e. EcoTask Group – David also liaises with relevant Presbytery and Synod groups about these matters. **Action: David** to plan article for Kingsway with David F.

### 3. Occasional Projects – update

- a. KOGO Knitting project – advertise this as an ongoing project in March. Items to be delivered direct to GW library or the office. **Action: Pam** to coordinate.
- b. Christmas shoeboxes – **Annette** has had initial discussions with Kimberley Easton. Date for collection of shoebox items and preparation likely to be August.
- c. Pancake Day – Pancake morning tea for congregation to be held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, organized by Jan Clear and Inclusive MG. Proceeds to Uniting.

**4. Noticeboard, Bulletin & Kingsway updates.** Please see Noticeboard and emailed Bulletin & Kingsway items. Victorian Treaty calendar and flags added to board.

**Action: Margaret** to add COP2024 thank you letters to noticeboard.

### 5. Correspondence

IN:

- Oct edition of JustAct newsletter was issued in Dec.

- Letter advising of fire at Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre and the appeal for urgent donations – as shared in weekly bulletin
- Thankyou letter/email re COP donation from Uniting for Asylum Seeker Welcome Ctre, GWUC Welfare, Kids under Cover, UnitingWorld, Choir of Hope.
- Newsletter from Community in Mission (Uniting), new initiative encouraging local congregations with mission work. **Action: Margaret/Ian** to follow up.
- Uniting World newsletter with details of the Lent Event project, including some resources.
- Email from Susan Karoly seeking support for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre's Feast for Freedom at a 5pm FEAST service before 30/4/25.  
<https://www.feastforfreedom.org.au/how-to-feast> **Action: David M/Chris W/Susan Karoly**

#### OUT:

- Annual Report to CC, as circulated.

#### Crosslight Articles of Interest

- Dec 2024 Sammy Stamp story **Action: Margaret** to contact Margaret Duncan about promoting stamp donations for Sammy Stamp.
- Dec 2024 Idea of Coffee Cup Fundraising, where people donate the cost of a cup of coffee to support a project for people facing homelessness.  
**Action: Who** would like to follow up this idea?
- Oct 2024 Possible COP project? – Moderator's Emergency Response Fund
- Dec 2023 Rev Salesi Faupula will become Moderator in mid-2025. He is from Tonga and has a background in multicultural ministry and active mission work. It would be good to hear more about his life and goals. **Action: ??**

#### 6. Today's Business

- OSJMG: Current OSJMG have agreed to continue in 2025. Thanks - Pam Bunney, Ian Ferguson, Vida Foo, Margaret Fraser, David Morgan and Annette Wojak. We are still not sure about all the "Outreach and Social Justice" work currently happening in GWUC and who is taking responsibility for various projects. We need to know what falls within this Mission Group and which groups we are supporting. **Action: Margaret/David** to ask CC for clarity. Based on the 2024 Calendar of OSJMG activity, and given the small number in our group, priorities and expectations for 2025 were discussed. It was agreed that:
  - We maintain the COP project, accepting that it takes up the lion's share of our time. It is a valued tradition within GWUC and gives purpose to the fete.
  - That we work hard to build up the numbers in our group so that we can diversify our goals. Margaret's appeal in the Jan/Feb weekly Bulletin did not result in any new members, so we see that Vida's "tap on the shoulder" approach may be more effective. If we can recruit new members, we need to delegate project work to them. **Action: We all** need to apply ourselves to this.
- COP: Planning and task list for COP 2025. Applications open Sun 6 April - Sun 25 May. The COP2025 Selection Panel was agreed to be Annette Wojak, Vida Foo and Margaret Fraser. Guidelines state that we have a minimum of 3 members, but we are aware that during the period May-July, there may be some absences from the Panel, leaving 2 members at any one time.  
**Action: Margaret** to advise John Snare about revised COP documents (done 14/2/25).  
**Action: Margaret** -Contact all five COP24 recipients and seek feedback (written or speaker) to provide information and encouragement to the congregation.  
**Action: Margaret (in March)** to use weekly Bulletin and Kingsway and possibly a spoken item to inform congregation about COP application processes and forms, the dates and to encourage them to submit applications. Ask Joanne to provide hard copies if requested.
- COP Sunday: It was decided that we would scale back from 2024, but would still make the service have a mission focus, followed by a Frontier Services BBQ. Speaker for March 30 service. **Action: Margaret** to contact UnitingWorld about getting a speaker. If not available, contact Rev Salesi Faupula, Matt Julius. Frontier Services BBQ - **Action: Margaret** to contact Frontier Services for a kit, and to ask Faye Wagon if she is able to lead organization of the BBQ.
- JIM: Ideas from JustAct newsletter for consideration? David. Held over until next meeting.

7. Any other business. None raised.

8. Meetings - Room 2 is booked for Thursdays: **April 10** (not April 3), June 5, August 7, October 2, November 27. NB.David M away 15/4-6/6.