

GWUC Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group

MINUTES

28 November 2024, 10am, Room 2

1. **Welcome** to all **Devotion:** Margaret, based on “Anyway” from *Food for Thought*.
2. **Present:** Vida Foo, Rev Ian Ferguson, Annette Wojak, David Morgan, Margaret Fraser (Chair)
Apologies: Pam Bunney,
3. **Minutes of last meeting** on 10 Oct 2024 - agreed
4. **Matters Arising from last meeting**
 - a. COP2024 – Margaret confirmed that all COP donations and cover letters have been sent, with acknowledgements received from all 5 projects. *Action:* Margaret to produce an electronic folder of COP document Templates ready for 2025 use. *Action:* Margaret to Send mid-year reminders to projects to request their written report before end October. Speakers to come March-April to church service, in collaboration with ministry team.
 - b. COP editing of COP 2025 procedure documents. Annette presented the 2 draft documents, reduced from four, and highlighted some points for clarification. *Action:* Annette to complete these edits then send to David for insertion of links and conversion to .pdf. Revised documents to be approved by CC asap ready for uploading to wiki. Promotion of COP 2025 to begin in March. Thanks to Russell Crawford for his assistance with the editing.
 - c. UCA Social Justice statement regarding Victorian Treaty, received by Ian. See <https://justact.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Sheet-on-statement-to-support-Victorian-Treaty-August-2024.pdf> OSJMG agreed to send a letter of support as requested by the First Peoples Assembly. *Action:* Margaret to prepare the letter based on the draft provided by UCA VicTas Justice and International Mission Cluster. David to present the letter to next CC mtg for approval and then to email it to mark.zirnsak@victas.uca.org.au Suggest that Info about the letter be reported to congregation by CC at next Cong Mtg.
 - d. Material Aid – Annette. Ladies handbags (Nov) – great response, delivered 27/11. Current effort for Empty Christmas Tree going well.
 - e. **UCA** regulations re approval of COP expenditure – David researched and circulated info from UCA regs and highlighted relevant sections. His opinion is that the regulations do not require congregational approval for COP donations, but that it is preferable to gain congregational engagement in this way. Under (c) Responsibilities of a Congregation,” (vii) meeting as required to transact business that belongs to the Congregation” we believe that this is covered by the COP brochure handed out and the Congregational Meeting to approve the recommended COP projects ; In addition, under Responsibilities of Council, (x) “preparing and presenting to a meeting of the Congregation an annual report concerning the life and work of the Congregation including its worship, mission and service, and making recommendations with regard to the program for the ensuing year;” we believe that inclusion of the COP process in the report provides for Congregational information and agreement. No further action needed if we continue current COP practices.
 - f. Ideas from JustAct (JIM) for our consideration –Deferred to Feb 13 meeting. *Action:* David.
 - g. Christmas – charity promotions are in hand and being advertised in Bulletin and Noticeboard - empty Christmas tree, Charity gifts, Christmas Bowl.
 - Ian suggested that persons preparing Prayers of the People be invited to use the Christmas Bowl advent prayer points. Margaret has info.
 - Christmas Shoeboxes are part of the Samaritans Purse charity and Kimberly Easton has led this project for some years, with assistance from the 5pm service group. It was cancelled for 2024 and Kimberly has informed Margaret that she is no longer able to continue organizing this on her own. Due date for delivery of boxes conflicts with fete preparation. Kimberley has offered to guide/advise someone new to this project. There are options for how it could be managed. *Action:* Annette to contact Kimberly to investigate if we could include Shoeboxes as a Material Aid project.
5. **Noticeboard, Bulletin and Kingsway updates.** Annette and Margaret. Final COP 2024 materials to stay on Noticeboard. Christmas materials to be added asap. Margaret has purchased a First Nations Treaty calendar and will put this on the Noticeboard after Christmas to highlight this matter.
6. **Correspondence**

IN

 - Christmas catalogues from UnitingWorld “Everything in Common” and Tearfund “Useful Gifts” extra copies.
 - UnitingWorld, Thanking GWUC for \$18,956.55 during the 2023-4 financial year (incl. donations from both individuals and COP2023). On Noticeboard.
 - Christmas Bowl promotional materials – to be put up in December. *Action:* Margaret to liaise with Joanne and confirm actions with Ian.
 - Justice & International Mission (JustAct) newsletters – various

- Frontier News Nov 2024, Frontier Services
- Africa News, Africa Inland Mission. *Action:* Margaret to contact AIM to discontinue the church subscription to this magazine. Our contact not known.
- Invitation to “Nanyubak in Photographs” at Monash Civic Centre, 17 Dec, 6-7.30pm, to showcase the new 1st Nations mural in Oakleigh. RSVP 12/12.
- Newsbeat, the online magazine of our Presbytery. Sent to Margaret who will check for any ideas to report to OSJMG.

OUT

- COP donation letters sent out to the five COP recipients, responses received from all

7. Today’s Business

- a. Review of 2024, Are there other priorities? It was agreed that our group is too small to take on much more, but we may be able to attract new people for specific projects, eg help with Shoeboxes. *Actions:* All to think about others who may be interested to join OSJMG, Vida suggests that we promote the local activities of OSJMG within our congregation (flyers to include pics, article in Kingsway?, Leisure Time newsletter?) and at local community events, eg, Lunar New Year. Margaret to prepare a calendar of our 2024 activities for planning discussion at Feb mtg, aim to use our time strategically
- b. Honey selling well – Current Balance is \$981.17. Will send next \$1000 donation to Asylum Seeker Centre soon. New batch will be prepared in January.
- c. GWSC breakfasts – continuing on a weekly basis in 2025. More staff members are coming for pancakes.

8. Any other business

- a. Meeting concluded with a light lunch and social time at Piatella’s Café at 11.30am – 12.30pm

9. Meetings

- a. 2025, Room 2: Next meeting 10am Thursday 13 Feb 2025, Apology: Vida
- b. Other meetings: April 3, June 5, August 7, October 2, November 27