

MINUTES FOR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE BEAUMARIS UNITING CHURCH – ST MARTINS

Wednesday 19th September 2018

Meeting Started: 7:33 pm

Meeting Concluded: 9:05pm

Opening: Suzy Toovey led the devotion by talking to three of Bruce Prewer's Reflections from his first publication *Australian Psalms (1979)*. These included "The Bountiful God" Psalm 104, then "Faith, Hope & Love" & Psalm 121 "God's Strength"

Attendance: J. Small, A. Davies, M. Thorburn, C. Parker, P. Stewart, G. Hinde, N. Toovey, S. Toovey. J. Graham,

Apologies: W. Hinde, Rev. Scott Finlay, F. Green.

Acceptance of the draft agenda: Accepted unanimously once amended by including the Minister's Report

Minutes of previous meeting: have been circulated. Proposer. N.Toovey Seconded S.Toovey. Agreed by consensus.

Business arising from minutes:

1. John Angwin's suggested in a letter to Church Council that it should be the congregation rather than the Church Council that decides on whether the church allows same gender marriages in our church. Scott said each Minister and each congregation has the right to determine whether they are prepared to hold same gender marriages. Scott suggests that due to the sensitivity of the situation the Church Council should take a recommendation to the congregation for them to own the decision. Nick Toovey proposed that the Church Council supports same gender marriages be held in our church and that we take this recommendation to the congregation and hold a congregational meeting to take a vote. C. Parker seconded the proposal. The Church Council agreed unanimously.
Scott said he is prepared to marry people of the same gender. If the congregation won't allow it he will be happy to hold the ceremonies elsewhere.
Suzy Toovey proposed and seconded by Nick Toovey that we hold a Congregational Meeting on Sunday 21st October after the worship service. At the meeting the Church Council will put forward the recommendation that "same gender marriages be conducted at Beaumaris Uniting Church - St Martins." Agreed by consensus
2. Review Hire Rates for BUC – St Martins facilities Marg T will propose rates at next meetings.
3. Purchase of a new projector & daylight screen

Reports:

Minister's Report – Rev. Scott Finlay Sent by text. He'd like us to change the date of the "This Is Your Life" till after church until Sunday 28th October Bring a plate for lunch. Moved P. Stewart and seconded C. Parker. Agreed by consensus

Date: for Church Congregational Meeting on Sunday 21st October following the service. Scott to do a précised version of the Bill Loader slide presentation at the start of the congregational meeting.

1) Property –Manse Report submitted by Marg Thorburn and distributed by email.

M. Thorburn proposed and seconded by P. Stewart that "if the current tenants indicate they will be staying if the rent remains the same, then we should apply, through Presbytery, for a continuation 12-month lease as from 30 October 2018. However, if the tenants advise they will be vacating then a similar application for a new lease should be submitted." Agreed by consensus

2) Hall Rentals – M. Thorburn proposed that we:

- Get rid of the second-tier rate (i.e. don't charge a different rate for second + hour)

- Have one rate for the classroom nearest the foyer & the kindergarten
- Have two rates for the hall, depending on time of week used:
 1. One rate for 9am – 10pm Monday through Friday
 2. A second rate for all other times (weekend)

Revision of Hall rental Rates for 2019:

- 1) Small Room or Kindergarten \$22/hr + gst = \$24.2/hr
- 2) Hall 9am-10pm M-F \$26/hr + gst = \$28.6/hr
- 3) Hall 4 pm – 10pm Sat/Sun/PH hall \$30/hr + gst = \$33/hr
- 4) Church - \$30/hr + gst = \$33/hr
& \$55 + gst = \$60 for use of the grand piano

M. Thorburn moved that the revision reports be accepted. Seconded by N. Toovey. Unanimously accepted.

As part of implementing the new pricing schedule for 2019 it would be good to accompany this with a few 'upgrades'.

Upgrades recommended:

- Repair of plaster work, beading along junction between ceiling and walls and cracks in brick wall in Jessie Miller Menzies and Scarfe 'classrooms'.
- Painting of the two classrooms + foyer. Subject to approval by council of quotes
- Recovering of blue chairs. Subject to approval by council of quotes.
- Provision of 4 'dining chairs with arms' around low table in foyer – approved.
- Update website with new photos and pricing policy as appropriate + phone no.'s including promotion of grand piano for concerts.
- Enable calendar & license agreements to be accessed via website with a password made available to relevant personnel?

M. Thorburn moved that the upgrades be accepted. Seconded by J. Graham. Unanimously accepted.

3) **Purchase of a new projector & daylight screen** – P. Stewart spoke to this issue. The quote received was unsatisfactory in some respects e.g. it included a motorised screen. The screen proposed should be larger. T. Morris said structurally screen should be suspended on surface, wanting to avoid extra cost of an in-ceiling mount if structure above ceiling needs altering. Signals from it were quoted to go to one point but Philip thinks the signal should go to the current sound desk as well. This requires extra wiring. P. Stewart suggested we get a further quote and request an outline of the details of the projectors including a requirement for a short focal length projector so it can be placed forward of the ceiling fan. Rev Scott Finlay has a supplier to recommend. Wendy, Scott and Philip to follow up on our requirements and obtain quotes for these.

Business arising from reports:

All dealt with as reports were delivered.

Correspondence:

- 1 IN: 25-08-2018 - Chris Barnett, Children & Families, Centre for Theology and Ministry - Port Phillip East Children & Families Ministry Update - September
- 2 IN: 30-08-2018 – David Southwell on behalf of the Communications Team UCA VicTas – RE- Pastoral letter from UCA President Dr Deidre Palmer and message from Vic/Tas Moderator Sharon Hollis. Distributed to the Church Councillors 0 18-09-2018.
- 3 IN: 30-08-2018 – Ellie Dodd, Baby Sensory Inner South and East Melbourne RE- venue hire

- 4 IN: 31-08-2018 – Helen Beeby and PPE Communications Team – Re Presbytery Newsletter “Newsbeat:” – September Edition - distributed to the church community via email by Philip Stewart on 2-9-2018
- 5 IN: 3-09-2018 - Ian Firth (Mr), Presbytery Secretary, Secretary Pastoral Relations Committee - Briefing note to Presbytery Chairpersons and Secretaries from Assembly. Distributed to the Church Councillors on 18-09-2018.
- 6 IN: 3-09-2018 - Ian Firth (Mr), Presbytery Secretary, Secretary Pastoral Relations Committee – RE Grow Mental Health Victoria (Community Group) seeking premises to lease
- 7 IN: 5-09-2018 - Ian Firth (Mr), Presbytery Secretary, Secretary Pastoral Relations Committee – RE - Seeking your feedback on National Volunteer Week resources
- 8 IN: 5-09-2018 - Ian Firth (Mr), Presbytery Secretary, Secretary Pastoral Relations Committee – RE – 2019 Lenten Grants. Distributed to the Church Councillors on 18-09-2018.
- 9 IN: 6-09-2018 - Ian Firth (Mr), Presbytery Secretary, Secretary Pastoral Relations Committee – RE – Ecumenical events. Distributed to the Geoff Hinde on 18-09-2018.
- 10 IN : 9-09-2018 – Paull Cross – 5 emails warning us not to trust a Michael Evans of Black Rock as he is a child molester and pedophile – note also sent to All Saints, Diabetes Australia and School relief Teachers
- 11 IN:13-09-2018 – St Michael and All Angels’ Anglican Church - re Blessing of the Pets Service on 7th October 2018. Distributed by email to the church community on 18-09-2018
- 12 IN:15-09-2018 – One Licence RE - ONE LICENSE Renewal Invoice Annual License, A-604605 for Nov 28, 2018 - Nov 27, 2019 for \$230– forwarded to M. Thorburn

Business arising from Correspondence:

1. A. Davies to follow up Paull Cross
2. Nick Toovey sent a thank you letter to Kiri Johnston following the very successful Uniting AgeWell Seminar held on 9-9-2018

General Business:

Lang Bequest - M. Thorburn proposed that the Lang family bequest of \$10,000 be used for the new projector and daylight screen and the new switchboard work. Seconded by C. Parker. Unanimously accepted.

Next meeting

Wednesday 24th October 2018 at 7:30pm. The meeting will be held in Meeting Room 2 at the Church.

Carol Parker is to lead the devotions.

SIGNED:

JENNIFER SMALL, Chairperson, Church Council

DATE: 24-10-2019

ALISON DAVIES, Secretary, Church Council

DATE: 24-10-2019

MARGARET THORBURN, Treasurer, Church Council

DATE: 24-10-2019

MANSE REPORT

15 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Manse sub-committee met on Thursday 9 August and discussed the current financial position and the action to be taken regarding the potential continuation of the current lease after 29 October 2019.

Advice has been received regarding the cost of Council Rates for the current financial year and potential Land Tax for 2019 and 2020. This has necessitated an increase in the reserves for these expenses. If the current level of disbursements was to be maintained a very significant increase in the rent post October this year would be necessary. This was agreed to be unrealistic in view of the current property market.

The sub-committee agreed that Margaret Thorburn and Geoff Wade should meet with the new Property Manager at Buxton's (Braeden Visser) to determine whether the current tenants intended to stay and whether any increase in rental was realistic.

Margaret and Geoff met with Braeden Visser at Buxton's on Thursday 16th August when he was requested to enquire of the tenants their intentions re post October this year. He was also asked re the possibility of a rent increase and he thought we could indicate to them a possible rent increase of \$25/week. He was requested to make these enquiries with the tenants.

Braeden advised us on Monday 10 September, that the tenants had advised if the rent was increased to \$825/week they would possibly leave as they did not believe it was warranted. Investigation of current properties for lease in the Beaumaris/Black Rock area indicated that the rental currently being charged is in the middle to upper range of similar properties. If we were to increase the rent and the tenants vacated, we would be faced with the prospect of a vacancy for some time and the lack of income would soon erode any increased income we may receive from new tenants. Further, there would be additional expenses involved in reletting. The Black Rock members of the sub-committee have been consulted and agree that to increase the rent now may be counter-productive and if the tenants are prepared to stay at the current rate then that should be the decision. Furthermore, the agent has stated "I do believe however in the current market, that \$800 is a good return for the property, so I would be hesitant to increase the rent any further to avoid a potential lengthy vacancy period."

Therefore, the recommendation is that if the current tenants indicate they will be staying if the rent remains the same, then we should apply, through Presbytery, for a continuation 12-month lease as from 30 October 2019. However, if the tenants advise they will be vacating then a similar application for a new lease should be submitted.

Margaret Thorburn & Geoff Wade