

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



2021

ANNUAL REPORT



OFFICE BEARERS

MINISTER

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Laura Beckett

SECRETARY

Maree McDonald

TREASURER

Ian Cox

COUNCILLORS

Graeme Adamson (retired 21 March 2021)

Peter Anderson

Laura Beckett

John Coppock

Ian Cox

Valerie Gill

Maree McDonald

Jeanette Noy

Lyndell O'Brien

Cheryl Power

Wilf Sawatzky (retired 21 May 2021)

Lorraine Woolley

CHURCH SERVICES COMMITTEE

Acting Chair: Cheryl Power

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Chair: Peter Anderson

Deputy Chair: Jack Morgan

CONTACT & CARE COMMITTEE

Chair: Lyndell O'Brien

Deputy Chair: Joy Arnot

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Chair: Lorraine Woolley

Deputy Chair: Neil Blood



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



CHAIR OF COUNCIL: LAURA BECKETT

2021 continued to be a challenging and demanding year for the St Michael's Council and congregation as we navigated a second year of restrictions and lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Church Services

The church was reopened for in-church services at the end of November 2020 with significant precautions in place. The Council was cognisant of the need to keep our community safe when attending in person and so followed all Department of Health COVID-19 management guidelines and regulations. Flexibility was required as the church was opened and closed on a number of occasions throughout 2021 due to government lockdown orders.

In regard to in-church services, I wish to sincerely thank Lyndell O'Brien, Chair of Contact and Care, Cheryl Power, Acting Chair of Church Services and all the volunteers that assisted in welcoming everyone safely back to church.

In addition, the Council and Rev Dr Margaret Mayman recognised the importance of maintaining our online services for those who did not feel safe, or were unable to return to church given our online community extends across Melbourne, Victoria, interstate and overseas.

Margaret continued to collaborate with videographer, Jackson Raine, music manager, Rhys Boak, and our office team to provide online and 'in person' services. This was a major undertaking and a significant investment of time for Margaret and the Council was very appreciative of her commitment.

During 2021 our online service provided regular weekly access to 400-500 people to participate in a regular worship service. There were 54 videos produced and uploaded to YouTube and our Facebook page with a total number of 22,140 views. The Council and Minister received regular positive feedback on these services from across Australia and overseas.

In addition to the online church service, Lorraine Woolley, Chair of Programs and her committee worked diligently to bring online programs to the wider community and deliver programs to the in-church community. I want to thank Lorraine and her team for their diligence and perseverance in keeping us all connected.

Council Election and Governance

The Council continued to meet monthly either via Zoom or at the office of St Michael's. Due to the significant restrictions placed on the church we were unable to hold the 2020 annual Council election and had a number of Councillors due to retire. The Council was therefore grateful to those Councillors who agreed to serve longer than their original terms and stayed on the Council during 2021.

This year we accepted with regret and gratitude, the resignations of two long serving members; Graeme Adamson and Wilf Sawatzky. We thank them both for their support and significant service to the church.

Fortunately, we were able to hold the 2021 Council election in November with newly elected members of Council commencing their term in January 2022.

As part of its remit the Council reviewed its governance structure. For many years, the work of the Church has been undertaken by the Deaneries and managed by a Dean and Deputy Dean. For newcomers to the church the term Deanery was confusing and so the Council approved a name change.

It was noted that under the governance structure the Deaneries report to Council, so it was more appropriate that they be renamed committees of Church Council. The Dean and Deputy Dean title was changed to Chair and Deputy Chair of their respective committee. The committees of Council are Church Services, Contact and Care, Property, Mingary and Programs.

A Council Strategic Planning workshop was held on Saturday 11th December. Margaret, members of Council, representatives from church committees and the newly elected members of Council joining in 2022 were present. In total 48 people were in attendance.

The session was conducted by Terence Corkin who has been assisting St Michael's and the Council for some years with its planning and governance processes. The aim of the workshop was to review and refine our strategic directions to guide our way forward and continue to progress our Strategic plan. It was a very successful session with a follow up report from Terence Corkin continuing to assist the Council with its strategic work.

Conservation Management Plan

The work with Purcell architects and Synod Property Services on the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) continued throughout 2021. Two Council working groups were formed to provide feedback to the architect. The first group covered values, vision, and future use and the second group covered building condition and maintenance.

Each working group met with the architects and Purcell staff on a number of occasions. In addition,

meetings were held with members of the Household Committee to receive and discuss the Church's Condition Report.

The Condition Report provides a detailed and prioritised list of infrastructure and building related items that require attention in the medium to long term. The completed CMP will provide the church with a policy framework to make informed decisions on major projects, work on the future uses of the church, and to undertake a structured regular maintenance program. More detail is provided in the Property Committee Report.

I want to thank and acknowledge the excellent work of Peter Anderson, Chair of Property and Glen Tonkes, Finance/Operations Manager who were both significantly involved in all matters pertaining to the maintenance of the church property and the CMP.

Mingary Restructure

For over 20 years, the Mingary Counselling Service has been a key community outreach of St Michael's Uniting Church, enabling people from all walks of life to access affordable, secular counselling. St Michael's is justifiably proud of Mingary and its contribution to social wellbeing. The St Michael's community has supported it enthusiastically and generously over many years.

However, since 2016 the Service has been operating with a substantial, ever-increasing deficit. The Treasurer and Finance Committee have been diligently monitoring the church's overall finances and were clear to Council that the impact of these ongoing deficits on the congregation's reserves was not sustainable.

In response the Council conducted a review of its overall financial position which led to an exploration of strategies to reduce the costs of running Mingary.

Discussions with the Executive Director of Cairnmillar, resulted in a fortuitous opportunity to restructure the service to the mutual benefit of St Michael's and Cairnmillar. The restructure was fully considered and unanimously agreed to by the Council.

The new structure transferred the responsibility for the provision of staff, interns and management services to the Cairnmillar Institute, at no cost to St Michael's. The significant savings to St Michael's was welcomed by the Council. Our contribution to the counselling service was the ongoing commitment of providing a pleasant, accessible CBD office space and warm, welcoming reception.



Under the new structure, counselling has moved from a low-cost service to a free service and vocational and cognitive testing will attract extremely low fees. The relationship between St Michael's and Cairnmillar is now managed by the Mingary Committee as a subcommittee of Church Council.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed and signed by Cairnmillar's Chief Executive Officer, Professor Kathryn Von Treuer and the Council.

The MOU will be reviewed and updated yearly.

This change had a significant impact on St Michael's staffing. The tasks previously undertaken by the Director of Mingary were assumed by Cairnmillar staff. The Council acknowledged with great appreciation the 21 years of service given by Dr Lynette Kramer, the prior Director of Mingary.

The Council was grateful that we were able to find a way to continue the Mingary Cairnmillar Counselling Service in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner.

St Michael's Day Service

St Michael's Day 2021 was not held in church due to a lockdown in Melbourne. An online service was beautifully and sensitively developed to promote healing across our community. I wish to acknowledge the wonderful work of Margaret, the volunteers and members of the Contact and Care network who kindly agreed to speak and reflect on their conversations on resilience and kindness. This led to the theme for St Michael's Day – "Lament, healing, and hope". Accompanied by beautiful music arranged and chosen by Rhys Boak, and video content of our church and spring garden provided by Jackson Raine. This created a memorable event.

Thank you

Finally, I wish to extend my thanks to Margaret who continues to set such a high standard for us all. The challenges of ministering to an extended St Michael's community whether in church or online were significant, yet Margaret managed it with great care, perseverance, and skill. Her weekly uplifting and thought-provoking service continued to help us navigate the difficulties we faced in the second year of a pandemic.

I also thank each member of Council for your ongoing commitment and participation to the work of the Council. We were faced with significant challenges but stayed true to our mission to provide services to our community. My special thanks to Maree McDonald, Secretary and Ian Cox, Treasurer, for their constant support and preparedness to work long hours. I would also like to thank the office staff for their incredible help and assistance to the Council and especially thank Glen Tonkes, Manager of Finance/Operations.

It has been a pleasure serving in the role of Chair of Council for 2021 and I commend this Annual Report to you.

Laura Beckett
Chair of Council

MINISTER'S REPORT



REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

We approached 2021 full of hope that we were emerging from the coronavirus pandemic that had so profoundly shaped our lives in 2020. Church was back in church. We were connecting with friends and family. There were days with neither new cases nor loss of life. However, 2021 did not continue to live up to its promise and before long we were into the challenging experience of lockdown, partial lockdown, out of lockdown that would mark the year.

In 2021, we held 55 services. 32 were both in church and online, while 23 were online only. Even in the times when we could open the church, things were very different with QR check-in requirements, mask wearing and other COVIDSafe practices. For most of the year, we were not able to enjoy morning tea together and many in our community did not feel safe to return to church for health reasons.

The lockdowns, especially the period from mid-July through to November were particularly difficult for many people. We had coped heroically with the adversities of 2020 but by mid-2021 emotional and physical resilience were lower, and the severity of the Delta variant and delays in the delivery of vaccinations were sources of stress for many people.

However, St Michael's people continued to look after one another as they had done through 2020 and once again we offered opportunities for connection with Zoom morning tea and online studies. We were able to continue to offer online services throughout the year which were an important source of connection and encouragement for our congregation and for others across Melbourne and beyond.

Online or in person, the community of St Michael's continued to "be the church" throughout the year. This was led by our gifted and committed Church Council supported by others in the Deaneries (which were renamed Committees during the year). The Council undertook several significant governance tasks which are covered in the Chair's report. The second year of the pandemic meant that we were not able to engage in the outreach to our local community that we had planned for in the year that was supposed to be "post-Covid."

As the year ended, I reflected on my role as minister in all that had been through two years of pandemic and the still unknown future that lay ahead. COVID-19 has left us wary of making plans but attention to the future mission and vision of St Michael's remains important.

In theological college, I was taught that there were three essential aspects of ministry: priestly, pastoral, and prophetic. There was no mention of the role of leadership, of the responsibilities of administration, or the conservation of heritage buildings, let alone reimagining congregational life in a global pandemic! Yet all of these are part of what it means to be a minister in the third decade of the 21st century.

Though the language of "priest" may seem odd to an egalitarian congregation such as ours, our tradition recognises that some people are called to a vocation which includes attention to the Sacred in the creation and leadership of liturgy, including celebration of the sacraments, and reflecting on the scriptures through making connections between faith and life. The "pastor" shares pastoral care with others in the congregation as we work together to create and sustain a community of compassion and care. At St Michael's we are fortunate to have a dedicated team of carers. Welcoming and including newcomers is also an essential aspect of pastoral care.

Exercising "prophetic" ministry was challenging during our housebound COVID lives but through worship we paid attention to matters of social and ecological justice. I was able to be involved in wider community efforts addressing the proposed federal Religious Discrimination Act and the Victorian Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act. St Michael's people worked with Wesley Uniting Church to host an excellent online event "Shining a light on asylum in Australia" with Sr Brigid Arthur and Pamela Curr AM.

As significant as the roles of priest, pastor and prophet are, I also find myself reflecting on leadership. Contrary to popular belief, leadership doesn't require 'followers.' Brené Brown defines a leader as "anyone who takes responsibility for finding the potential in people and processes, and who has the courage to develop that potential." In the context of a Christian church, a leader resources and encourages people to reflect on their context and their life as a community in light of the gospel, guiding the congregation to articulate its vision, and encouraging people to see that they have the future in their hands.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the gifts of time, talents, energy and money that sustain our common life now and into the future. It is unwise to name particular people because there are so many who keep St Michael's flourishing, but I do want to express my thanks to Chair of Church Council Laura Beckett and members of the Council; my colleagues in worship, Rhys Boak and Jackson Raine; and my office colleagues Glen Tonkes and Alana Pryor-Leong.

Our society has numerous social clubs and service organisations which contribute to human thriving. As the church, we are called to deeper patterns of relationship, to daring lives of discipleship, as we recognise and name the Sacred in ourselves, in one another, and in the world around us. I am thankful for your companionship on the journey.

The very minute we think we 'have' God, God will surprise us. As we search in fire and earthquakes, God will be in the still small voice. As we listen in silent meditation, God will be shouting protests in the street. God is warning us that we had best not try to find our security in any well-defined concept or category of what is Godly - for the minute we believe we are into God, God is off again and calling us forth into some unknown place.

Carter Heyward in *Our Passion for Justice*

CHURCH SERVICES COMMITTEE



ACTING CHAIR: CHERYL POWER

After many years of service, the last few proving particularly difficult, Graeme Adamson tendered his resignation as Chair of Church Services and Cheryl Power agreed to take on the role in an acting position until a more permanent replacement could be found. Graeme had an almost unbroken record of attendance at church whilst he was Chair and deserves our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the role he played over such a long period of time in ensuring church services ran smoothly and in the way church members expected and found meaningful.

Online Services

As has already been noted by others, the COVID-19 pandemic profoundly affected many aspects of our church services, perhaps the most significant being the undertaking to provide weekly worship online. This was a mammoth effort for our Minister, Manager of Music and Technical Services team, involving long hours of work to ensure that the recordings of all the components of the service were of high quality. The final product, the church service, was subsequently very professional, and very well received by a new “cyber congregation”, as well as members of St Michael’s.

Communion Serving and Preparation

The protocol followed for serving Communion was changed in order to ensure that the elements can be given in a COVID-safe way. Members are now asked to come to the front of the church to receive gluten-free bread and individual glasses of grape juice, offered by Servers in a non-contact approach. Roving pairs of Servers take the elements to those unable to come forward.

The elements are now prepared immediately before the service in the vestry. Special thanks to Lyn and John Coppock who have been the mainstay of the preparation team.

Security

Sterling service has been provided by Robert Cleghorn over the year with Steve Austin providing help when needed. The nature of this role and the form it should take is being reviewed to ensure the well being of the congregation and Minister at all times.

Offering

Electronic pay stations and wooden boxes for cash collection have replaced the passing of collection plates as a required COVID-safe measure. The boxes are collected after the service and the contents transferred to a lockable wallet and counted and banked by office staff on Monday.

Welcomers

A smaller but dedicated team have continued to meet and greet people attending church and provide assistance if required. In 2021, they carried additional responsibilities, helping people to check-in using the QR Code or manually recording names and phone numbers for contact tracing. Welcomers also ushered people to seats marked by purple ribbons, ensuring that social distance was maintained where possible.

While there are no longer orders of service to hand out, nor a collection to take up, their role in managing logistics and ensuring a warm hospitable welcome for everyone was more important than ever.

Special Acknowledgement

During the pandemic Lyndell O'Brien spent many hours drawing up procedures and rosters to ensure St Michael's services were fully compliant with COVID-19 regulations. It was obvious that this commitment could not continue so a more thoughtful delineation of relevant duties and responsibilities between the two committees was made. As a result there has been a reallocation of some of the responsibilities borne by Contact and Care, so that the Contact and Care team can fulfill their essential role, and Church Services can fulfil theirs. A huge thank you to Lyndell for stepping in and ensuring we were both compliant and caring in our interactions.

Cheryl Power
Acting Chair

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

CHAIR: PETER ANDERSON

DEPUTY CHAIR: JACK MORGAN

Property Committee: Neil Blood, Ken Gosbell, Maree McDonald, Margaret Mayman (ex officio), Glen Tonkes (ex officio).

COVID-19 restrictions continued to affect St Michael's activities during 2021, including all aspects of property management. Projects that were meant to be completed or well underway remained as works in progress at the end of the year.

As the church was closed for extended periods building maintenance was reduced. Nevertheless, works carried out during the year included:

- Replacement of the garden sprinkler electrical system,
- Replacement of refrigerator in the choir vestry,
- Replacement of Mingary-garden fountain water pump,
- Repairs to roof tiles and flashings damaged by severe weather,
- Routine safety testing of the fire sprinkler system,
- Replacement of the system and modems operating the lights,
- Annual safety audit of power points, electrical circuits, and appliances.

Quotes were obtained for replacement of the existing quartz halogen spotlights in the church ceiling with LEDs. Action was postponed so that the entire lighting system could be considered as part of the CMP.

Property expenses for the year amounted to \$180,286 - \$37,714 under budget.

Future Maintenance Reserve

During the year \$50,000 was transferred from the operating budget into the Reserve.

Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

It was intended that the CMP would have been completed in the second half of 2020. COVID-19 restrictions completely derailed the original timetable. On-site visits and inspections by Purcell architects and their associated specialist firms took place in January/February 2021. Meetings were held with Purcell and Synod Property Services to establish the conservation context and St Michael's vision for future uses of the church building. At this point various factors resulted in a cessation of CMP activities for the remainder of the year.

120 Collins Street Revitalisation Project

Initial discussions with Investa, owners and managers of 120 Collins Street, had been held in early/mid 2020. Confirmation was finally received in May 2021 that the project was to go ahead. Relations with Investa became difficult which resulted in a lack of communication for several months. This situation

improved when Investa appointed a builder and a project manager enabling direct discussion to take place. Robust negotiations were undertaken by Synod Property Services to protect St Michael's interests; particularly safeguards against damage to the church building during demolition/construction and ensuring that adequate insurance was in place. This was achieved and work commenced before the end of the year. Preliminary work indicated the need to investigate possible damage caused by water seepage along the northern rear wall of the church. It also became evident that the existing 120 Collins Street retaining wall along St Michael's north boundary encroached onto church property.

Essential Safety Measures (ESMs)

These are requirements under the Building Act and Code. ESMs cover all aspects of building safety, including fire protection and alarm systems, adequate provision for building egress in case of emergency, adequate toilet facilities, adequate disabled access and minimisation of trip and fall hazards. ESMs are not new but compliance has become increasingly rigorous and difficult. This is a major issue for all churches but particularly those which occupy heritage buildings. There are several aspects of St Michael's which do not comply. Our ability to modify the building to comply with safety standards is constrained by Heritage Victoria requirements.

Safety compliance is an ongoing issue; in the meantime, Church Council decided to close off the upstairs gallery and at least temporarily decline requests for hire of the church building.

Preliminary work began on strategies to minimise trip and fall hazards – in particular, the fitting of step nosings and handrails.

Future Uses of the Church Building

Towards the end of 2021 it became apparent that St Michael's needed to develop a Master Plan for the future use of the church building. Such a plan would need to encompass any alteration to the building itself, safety compliance requirements, heritage constraints and of course, cost. Preliminary discussions with Purcell architects took place in December - development of a Master Plan becomes a major issue for 2022.

Summary

As indicated above, several serious property issues remained as work in progress at the end of the year to be carried forward into 2022.

- Finalisation of the Conservation Management Plan,
- Issues arising from the demolition/construction work associated with the 120 Collins Street project, Development of a Master Plan for the future use of the church building, including occupancy/safety compliance issues,
- Identification and possible rectification of any damage caused by water seepage on the north boundary, including legal advice,
- Seek legal advice regarding encroachment by 120 Collins Street across our north boundary.

Peter Anderson
Chair - Property Committee



"Love one another"
Jesus Saves

and so do vaccines.

www.stmichaels.org.au



THE FIRST PERMANENT BUILDING
FOR DIVINE WORSHIP IN VICTORIA
WAS ERECTED ON THIS SITE BY
INDEPENDENTS.
THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE
ORIGINAL CHURCH WAS LAID
ON THE THIRD OF SEPTEMBER 1894
BY HENRY HOWARD, OF HOBAKT
REV. WILLIAM WATKINS, D. MINSTER
JOHN PASCO, SECRETARY-TREASURER

CONTACT AND CARE COMMITTEE

CHAIR: LYNDELL O'BRIEN
DEPUTY CHAIR: JOY ARNOT

The year of 2021 for St Michael's was one of ongoing changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We began the year with the church being open for Sunday services for about five months, followed by short and then long term closures, with reopening taking place early in November.

These ongoing changes led to the Contact and Care Committee needing to regularly adapt many procedures, to comply with changed Government regulations. Along with the church office staff, we endeavoured to provide as COVIDSafe an environment, as possible.

We also needed to endeavour to keep in contact with and support the people of our congregation.

Contact and Care Program

The program, of a large team of Contact People keeping in touch with a group of people, which was initially developed during 2020, continued into 2021. It was most important to endeavour to keep the people of our congregation, as connected as possible and to try to overcome the feelings of isolation, which many people were experiencing.

Many of the valuable connections that were made between people, as well as experiences which people had, were compiled anonymously into a booklet called 'Lament, Healing and Hope'. The feelings and thoughts about 'Hope' to sustain us, to renew and retain connections and to rebuild community, were warmly expressed. The themes for the booklet and the process taken to develop it, were shared during the St Michael's Day online service and the booklet was forwarded to all subscribers, via the eNews.

We thank all the Contact People who committed themselves to the very important program of keeping in touch with and connected to, other St Michael's people.

Some of these contacts are continuing to this day, as quite a few of our people are unable to attend services, in person.

The continuation of the online services is so very important to many of the members of the congregation, as well as to many other people. We have a considerable online community.

We thank Margaret and all the members of the team responsible for producing these highly valued services, for their excellence and great value.

Pastoral Care

Margaret continued to provide support to many people by telephone or Zoom, during 2021.

We were saddened by the passing of valued St Michael's people in 2021 as well as for others who experienced family bereavements. In each case the Contact and Care Team made contact with the families by phone and sent cards or flowers. Vale notices were written for each of the St Michael's people who passed away. These were read in church, when possible, included in the weekly eNews and forwarded to families by email, if they wished for that to happen.

Throughout the year, the team continued its very important work of keeping in touch with, and supporting many people who were going through difficult times, health wise or in other ways.

We thank the Programs Committee for recommencing the “Zoom Cuppa” Program following the online service, on some of the Sundays during the later periods of lockdown. These sessions provided a very important connection, for all those who participated.

Prayer Tree

Leader - Catherine Jones.

The St Michael’s Care and Prayer Group, known as the Prayer Tree, has six members, who have all signed the Contact and Care Community Covenant, with particular reference to the aspect of confidentiality.

The group members not only keep people in prayerful thoughts, but actively support them, if the people being remembered wish, in caring or practical ways.

In 2021 there were fifteen requests for prayer support from St Michael’s people and from people who have read information about the Prayer Tree on St Michael’s website. Two of those people were from overseas.

We sincerely thank the members of the group for their care and support of people who made a request for prayer support. We also thank Catherine for her very caring and supportive leadership and in the sharing of quotations, poems and articles, relevant to the very important role of the group.

Welcome Teams, Ushers and First Aid Team

During 2021 the Contact and Care Committee was responsible for organising the teams for Welcoming, Ushering and First Aid, during the approximately seven months that we were able to have in-church services.

With resources provided by the church office, which ensured we had all the latest government regulations and signage available, as well as supplies of masks and hand sanitiser, we were able to ensure we were maintaining the required regulations.

We were very grateful to and appreciative of, the members of the congregation who carried out the Welcoming, Ushering and First Aid roles, many of whom were on duty almost every Sunday.

There were many changing regulations to keep up with and abide by, in relation to vaccination status, QR codes, written records of attendance, wearing of masks and encouragement of socially distanced seating.

We thank every member of the congregation who carried out these important roles and provided a very warm welcome, to all those who attended.

Newcomers

During the Notices, mention was frequently made about the ‘White Cards’ in the pews.

People who were Newcomers to the church and who wanted to find out more about St Michael’s, were invited to complete a card and place it in an offering box. The office staff advised the Minister and the Chair of the Contact and Care Committee of these requests, which were followed up as soon as possible.

It was planned to have meetings about 'Exploring Belonging' for Newcomers in 2021, but COVID-19 regulations regarding meetings prevented these from taking place. Once the regulations allow, these meetings will be scheduled in 2022.

Nametags

A new system for requesting a Name Tag was established and many requests were made. The office staff provided the Name Tag for the following Sunday.

Baptisms

The Baptisms of six children took place early in 2021, between January and May. Some of the Baptisms had been held over from the previous year.

We thank Carole Phillips for the personal contacts she makes with the baptismal families, prior to and on the day of Baptism. Carole undertakes a very important pastoral role in making these connections and providing support to all the families.

Morning Tea and Coffee in the Hall

Meeting together as a welcoming community following the Sunday service, is a very important aspect of our gathering. This provides an opportunity to have a catch up chat or to get to know each other better, as well as to welcome newcomers.

For many weeks during 2021 government regulations prevented our meeting together in the Hall over a 'cuppa' of tea or coffee. At those times we met together for a chat in St Michael's Walk or inside the church.

It was a great pleasure for everyone, when regulations changed to permit us to meet together in a COVIDSafe way in the Hall. In total we were able to meet together in the Hall for nineteen Sundays during 2021.

We sincerely thank Val Gill and Margaret Dowsett for undertaking all the necessary organisation, keeping all the required records and for working with their teams to serve the welcome 'cuppa' in a COVIDSafe way.

These gatherings have provided a very important means of reconnecting.

In conclusion, we would like to sincerely thank everyone who has been part of the Contact and Care Team in 2021, for the commitment and care you gave, to ensure that so many of our St Michael's people continued to feel connected and supported.

When restrictions eased it was a great joy that we were able to reconnect by gathering at church, in the Hall, in parks or other safe places, or to continue to keep connected in ways, with which people felt comfortable.

Lyndell O'Brien
Chair - Contact and Care



PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: LORRAINE WOOLLEY
DEPUTY CHAIR: NEIL BLOOD

Committee: Pamela Blood, Gabriele Buzatu, Val Gill, Peter Kahane, Chris Kelly, Simon McCall, Margaret Mayman (ex-officio)

Statement of purpose

The Programs Committee supports the governance and oversight responsibilities of the Church Council by:

- Undertaking responsibilities delegated to it by the Church Council,
- Developing policies to guide the work of the Programs Committee,
- Ensuring Safe Church procedures are followed,
- Supporting for achievement of strategic directions – Mission & Vision

The year 2021 began full of hope and plans were underway for programs to commence again. Unfortunately, the first short lockdown in February was an ominous sign of what was to come.

Program Committee Membership

Election of Deputy Chair: Val Gill indicated that she wished to step down as Deputy Chair but would continue as a member of the committee. Val was thanked for the contribution and the leadership role she has exercised in programs. It was pleasing that Val wished to continue on as a member of the committee. We were grateful to Neil Blood for accepting to step into this position.

Neil Blood was elected as Deputy Chair; Peter Kahane was approved as a member of the Committee.

St Michael’s “Zoom Connect”

We became aware that our church community was missing the social interaction of after church morning tea in the hall. In response we commenced a “Zoom Connect” on Monday afternoons from March to May, hosted by different members of Council and congregation with Margaret often joining in. Thank you all those who volunteered to host the afternoon “Zoom Connect” sessions.

After Church “Zoom Cuppa”

From August to October (duration of the lockdown) the “Sunday Zoom Cuppa” continued to meet the objective of connecting to our community and beyond.

Feedback indicated it was enjoyable to have a variety of presenters from Council and our members. Thanks to all who stepped up to lead an after church session. We appreciated the technical skills of both Simon and Margaret and their availability to host the sessions for which we are grateful.

Vision: being a nurturing and dynamic community using technology to connect with each other in this time of separation.

Goal: to strengthen our community, especially during the pandemic, by connecting with our members and friends including people who join us through our various online portals.

Melbourne UCA Justice Advocacy Coalition

St Michael's has been part of this group since 2020. It was decided to form two working groups (St Michael's and Wesley) to look at support for Asylum Seekers in the community. The event was planned to be in St Michael's Hall in October. It was changed to a Zoom online event: "Shining a Light on Asylum in Australia"

Hosted by Margaret Mayman and Alistair Macrae (Wesley).

With Presenters: Sister Brigid Arthur & Pamela Curr.

Goal: building partnerships with wider UCA organisations working for social and ecological justice.

Mindfulness Meditation - promote health and wellbeing

Facilitator: Karen Ellis

Mindfulness Meditation sessions recommenced in May. Unfortunately, only two sessions were held before renewed lockdown caused the program to be put on hold. Online Mindfulness Meditation was available on our website.

A New Public Squares Project

Remaking the Public Good launched by Australia remade – spaces to come together to share ideas. Trained facilitators/hosts Yana Canteloupe and Neil Blood planned to host three sessions at St Michael's.

Disappointingly the program had to be cancelled because of lockdown. Thanks to Yana and Neil for the time and effort they invested in this new initiative.

Marcus Borg "Beyond Belief"

Presented by The Searchers: Simon McCall and Peter Kahane

The initiative of "Beyond Belief" was in response to positive feedback of "Painting the Stars" series in 2020. Through June and July six mid-week Zoom video sessions with breakout rooms were presented, hosted by Simon and Peter.

Participants registered through the church office and received material and questions prior to each session. The response was positive, participants being drawn from around Melbourne and beyond. The series was very popular and requested to run it again. Thanks to Simon, that happened over two weekends.

We appreciate the time invested in presenting this program and technical expertise of Simon and Peter who revised the questions.

Strategic Direction: Supported the vision of a theologically progressive group.

The goal: meet needs of membership and wider audience using technology.

Church of All Nations (CAN Community Support Agency)

Council affirmed interest in establishing deeper connections. Lorraine, Margaret, Val & Lyndell expressed interest. Our congregation responded generously to the Christmas appeal for gifts for children and older adults delivered in December.

Women's Poetry Discussion Group

Presenter: Pamela Blood "The inspiration and motivation was the poetry Margaret used in the services during COVID-19 through the Contemporary Readings". The group was designed to meet in person but encountered another lockdown and put on hold. After some discussion Pamela felt that the Women's Poetry Group could work online thanks to the offer of Margaret to be the tech host (or Zoom host).

The first online session was held in October followed by one in November, registrations averaging 17. Participants received helpful notes and copies of poems to be discussed. The format of the sessions and on-line experience received positive and encouraging feedback. Margaret being part of the group was appreciated as well as her technical assistance in the break-out rooms.

Aim: to combine the interest of women, spirituality and poetry

Vision: to be a nurturing and dynamic Christian spiritual community

Men's Discussion Group

Guest: Fr Martin Fleming; Presenters: Simon McCall, Neil Blood and Peter Kahane

The male members of the committee took up the idea of having a program for men. Twelve attended the session with Fr Martin Fleming, the Priest at St Ambrose Church, Woodend, reflecting on his experiences over 15 year as an Army Chaplain, followed by a Q&A. Feedback was positive, having a good Zoom atmosphere and a feeling that 'it was worth attending'. Fr Martin is open to future sessions. Thanks to Simon as facilitator supported by Peter and Neil.

Vision: to be a nurturing and dynamic Christian spiritual community

In conclusion:

As I write the 2021 Annual Report documenting the achievements, in spite of the on-again, off-again lockdowns we endured, it was apparent how technology became a vital component of keeping us connected. To our administration staff working from home, thank you for your support, and the assistance for our online programs and meetings.

The committee met formally three times via Zoom. Most importantly, I express my appreciation for each member of our committee, Neil Blood for his support as deputy chair, Val Gill, Simon McCall, Pamela Blood, Gabriele Buzatu, Peter Kahane and Chris Kelly (recently retired from the committee). Each one has brought their gifts and graces to the tasks and opportunities we faced with creativity and skill. The guidance and encouragement of our minister Margaret has been inspirational and we have valued her insight and spiritual direction. Together, we have met the challenges to bring programs online to our St Michael's community and beyond and achieved our goal of keeping us connected during this COVID-19 time! Thanks and gratitude to you all.

Lorraine Woolley

Chair - Programs Committee

MINGARY-CAIRNMILLAR COUNSELLING SERVICE

The Cairnmillar Institute (CMI) collaborated with St Michael’s to take over the administrative running of the Mingary-Cairnmillar Counselling Service in May 2021. In the initial months, the focus was on shifting the administrative processes under one CMI umbrella, relieving St Michael’s of this role. This required liaison between CMI and St Michael’s staff, the interns and the supervision staff.

The Mingary Committee was established to assist with transparency and collaboration between the two organisations. There was a high level of change management in this process to allow time for the interns and the supervision staff to adjust to some procedural changes. In addition, a large focus was placed on stabilising the referral base as the number of referrals had dropped significantly resulting in the interns not receiving enough referrals to make their hours in placement. A level of containment was in place due to having to navigate COVID-19 lockdowns and there was a change in staffing as supervisors moved on and a new supervisor and agency representative had to be installed.

During the year the service was in a process of change – the following is reflective of where the service currently stands at the end of 2021:

- 1. Mingary-Cairnmillar now on track towards a return to a broad range of services offered both via telehealth and face-to-face including working with children.
- 2. Student clinicians across all streams of study working in the clinic offering a variety of approaches and diversity to match client needs.
- 3. Centralised reception and IT services through Cairnmillar.
- 4. Opportunity for registered psychologists to also add to services offered over time including group work.
- 5. Increased level of referral which will allow for expansion of days available over time.

Listed below is a breakdown of the numbers of client services provided by the Mingary-Cairnmillar Counselling Service throughout 2021:

MONTH	New Client	In person	Telehealth
Jan-21	0	0	0
Feb-21	4	3	5
Mar-21	3	45	10
Apr-21	8	61	6
May-21	3	60	9
Jun-21	14	78	5
Jul-21	44	28	185
Aug-21	16	7	239
Sep-21	18	0	243
Oct-21	18	0	208
Nov-21	3	0	212
Dec-21	0	0	139
TOTALS	131	282	1261

Elise Wald
Director of Clinical Services, Cairnmillar

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

CULTURE OF SAFETY CONTACT PERSON: VAL GILL

In April 2019 St Michael’s Council began the process of adopting and implementing all the policies and procedures that were required to be recognised as a SAFE CHURCH. We fulfilled all the necessary requirements.

The National Child Safe Policy Framework 2022, provides the foundation for the continued development of good policy and practice across the life of our Church.

In continuing to implement these processes, St Michael’s also complies with State and Federal laws.

Each year, St Michael’s Church Council is required to reaffirm the *Keeping Children Safe Statement of Commitment*. This was accomplished at our May Church Council meeting.

This is our commitment:

The St Michael’s Uniting Church is committed to providing safe places where people are cared for, nurtured and sustained. We have today reaffirmed the Keeping Children Safe Statement of Commitment. Through it, we recommit ourselves to the care, protection and safety of all people, particularly those who are vulnerable.

Church Council also reviewed the *Keeping Children Safe Code of Conduct* and the statement of commitment to induction and training.

Keeping Children Safe is a continuous process as we work together to ensure that St Michael’s Uniting Church is a safe place for all people.

Val Gill
Culture of Safety Contact Person



BAPTISMS
6



DEATHS OF
ST MICHAEL'S MEMBERS
5



MARRIAGES
15



WEDDING BLESSINGS
2

TREASURER'S REPORT

Year ended 31 December 2021

GENERAL OPERATIONS

As in the past, the congregation's operating revenue was derived mainly by a drawdown from the U Ethical Cash Management Fund, totalling \$754,170 for 2021.

Once again, the impact of the COVID-19 lockdowns throughout 2021 had a significant negative result on all revenue streams including offerings, room rental and weddings. The loss of revenue experienced throughout the year was in some part offset by St Michael's accessing the final stages of Job Keeper and the Victorian Business Support Grants.

Throughout the year the congregation closely monitored all areas of expenditure, enabling us to not exceed our 2021 budgeted target. The congregation was also able to make a transfer of \$50,000 to the Reserve for Future Maintenance.

Synod Mission Budget

The Congregation contributed \$65,000 to the Mission budget.

Wider Church

The congregation donated:

- \$10,000 to the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra – Mental Health Ministry,
- \$420 to Food Bank Victoria,
- \$433.65 to CAN Community Support ,
- \$1,100 to the Act forPeace Christmas Bowl Appeal

Personnel

Throughout 2021 St Michael's employed the following: Organist/Manager of Music, Technical Manager, Finance/Operations Manager, Administration Staff x 1.5 and 3 x casual Church Vergers/ Technical Assistants.

Administration

All funds expended were for the general administration of all St Michael's activities.

ST MICHAEL'S ACTIVITIES

Property

Funds expended during 2021 were for general repairs and maintenance and operational property expenses. Some of our regular operational expenses were reduced throughout the year as church wasn't 100% in use throughout 2021 due to the number of lock downs experienced. The majority of expenditure covers all that

is necessary in meeting statutory regulations of building property maintenance/code and compliance covering Fire safety and OHS. Insurance Cover on the church and manse was continued in respect to damage, public risk and personal accident for staff and voluntary workers.

Church Services

Expenditure on this area covered the costs of providing music for all 'in person' and recorded church services, general ministerial expenses and any other expense relating to church services and events.

Promotion, Publications & Programs

Covered all expenditure relating to advertising, out reach, education, Mingary and pastoral care.

INVESTMENTS AND RESERVES

Investments with the U Ethical Investments and the National Australia Bank continued during 2021.

U Ethical Growth Fund investment has been valued at current market value as at 31/12/21. The U Ethical Growth Fund has a total of 3,752,687 units (held at call) and a total of 160,007 units valued at \$1 million was withdrawn and transferred into the U Ethical Enhanced Income Trust throughout the year.

U Ethical Enhanced Income Trust is valued at current market value as at 31/12/21. The Balance as at 31/12/21 for the U Ethical Enhanced Income Trust and U Ethical Cash Management Account is \$3,713,456.

Income for 2021 derived from the U Ethical Growth Fund investment totalled \$906,246 (2020 \$769,429) and was transferred to the U Ethical Cash Management Fund to support the operating budget.

The UCA Property Trust (Vic), hold the following bequests for the benefit of St Michael's Uniting Church as at 31/12/21:

Dorothy Claire Harvey-Kelly: \$1,302,577

Applications can be made by St Michael's Uniting Church to the UCA Property Trust (Vic) for the release of these funds in accordance with the terms of trust and used for general purposes as nominated by St Michael's Uniting Church.

I would like to thank Glen Tonkes, Finance and Operations Manager, for his expertise and support, the St Michael's administration staff for their assistance and the Finance Committee for their valued contributions and support throughout the year.

Members of the Finance Committee

Ian Cox (Treasurer), Peter Anderson, Val Gill, Evelyn McLaren, Cheryl Powers and Max Telfer.

Ian Cox
Treasurer

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

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For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

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St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Statement of Income & Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue	3	1,124,287	1,148,428
Less Expenditure			
Personnel			
Employee benefits expense		336,642	443,730
Contractors and consultants		147,769	147,014
Administration			
Printing & stationery		28,226	29,821
Telephone & postage		6,499	9,010
Audit & finance costs		10,072	9,596
Other costs		17,668	16,925
Property			
Maintenance		65,945	106,428
Electricity & gas		24,088	29,419
Insurance		33,494	24,271
Cleaning materials		766	6,590
Property charges		55,993	122,816
Church services			
Music		42,721	60,472
Ministry		6,143	6,937
Sunday service, verger, flowers etc		20,239	44,928
Festivals		300	450
Promotions, publications & programs			
Advertising & promotions		23,774	40,304
Synod mission budget		65,000	65,000
Outreach programs		19,316	30,191
Mingary expenses		26,666	44,245
Rental expenses		1,783	2,601
Wedding expenses		11,377	7,735
Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year		179,806	(100,055)
Investing activities			
Movement in fair value of financial assets	3	3,200,026	298,260
Realised gains	3	61,098	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		3,440,930	198,205
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		3,440,930	198,205

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	248,002	247,201
Trade and other receivables	5	6,104	2,190
Financial assets	6	3,713,456	2,605,305
Other assets	7	6,876	22,866
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		3,974,438	2,877,562
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
U Ethical Growth Fund	6	25,218,807	22,951,041
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		25,218,807	22,951,041
TOTAL ASSETS		29,193,245	25,828,603
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	14,725	40,617
Employee benefits	10	75,949	126,095
Other liabilities	9	5,000	5,250
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		95,674	171,962
TOTAL LIABILITIES		95,674	171,962
NET ASSETS		29,097,571	25,656,641
EQUITY			
Reserves		25,731,231	23,461,103
Accumulated Surpluses		3,366,340	2,195,538
TOTAL EQUITY		29,097,571	25,656,641

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

2021

	Accumulated surpluses \$	UCA Growth Fund reserve \$	Future maintenance reserve \$	Niches Reserve \$	Gladys Barker Bequest Fund \$	Smeeth Family Fund \$
Balance at 1 January 2021	2,195,538	22,951,041	229,996	35,468	41,833	75,357
Surplus for the year	3,440,930	-	-	-	-	-
Income & funds allocated to reserves / transferred from retained earnings	(2,318,520)	2,267,766	50,004	750	-	-
Funds paid and allocated from / transferred to retained earnings	48,392	-	-	(142)	(15,820)	(15,820)
Balance at 31 December 2021	3,366,340	25,218,807	280,000	36,076	26,013	59,537

2021

	Marie McVeigh Fund \$	Mingary Fund \$	Illalangi Fund - Youth Projects \$	Music & Arts Fund \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2021	81,636	790	38,702	6,280	25,656,641
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	-	3,440,930
Income & funds allocated to reserves / transferred from retained earnings	-	-	-	-	-
Funds paid and allocated from / transferred to retained earnings	(15,820)	(790)	-	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2021	65,816	-	38,702	6,280	29,097,571

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

2020

	Accumulated surpluses \$	UCA Growth Fund reserve \$	Future maintenance reserve \$	Niches Reserve \$	Gladys Barker Bequest Fund \$	Smeeth Family Fund \$
Balance at 1 January 2020	2,267,939	22,653,672	200,393	34,510	40,836	73,560
Surplus for the year	198,205	-	-	-	-	-
Income & funds allocated to reserves / transferred from retained earnings	(364,175)	297,369	59,610	1,360	997	1,797
Funds paid and allocated from / transferred to retained earnings	93,569	-	(30,007)	(402)	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2020	2,195,538	22,951,041	229,996	35,468	41,833	75,357

2020

	Marie McVeigh Fund \$	Mingary Fund \$	Illalangi Fund - Youth Projects \$	Music & Arts Fund \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2020	79,690	54,927	46,779	6,130	25,458,436
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	-	198,205
Income & funds allocated to reserves / transferred from retained earnings	1,946	23	923	150	-
Funds paid and allocated from / transferred to retained earnings	-	(54,160)	(9,000)	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2020	81,636	790	38,702	6,280	25,656,641

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are a special purpose financial report prepared in order to provide accountability to the members of the congregation. The Church Council has determined that the church is not a reporting entity and therefore there is no requirement to apply the Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in the preparation and presentation of these financial statements.

The church is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission and is classified as a basic religious charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the church's members.

The following is a summary of accounting policies that have been applied by the church in preparation of financial statements. The financials have been prepared on an accrual basis unless otherwise stated.

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Income Tax

The Church is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(b) Revenue and other income

Operating Grants, Donations and Other Gifts

When the Church receives operating grant revenue, donations or bequests, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance to AASB 15.

When both these conditions are satisfied, the Church:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant;
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement; and
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Church:

- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable Accounting Standards (for example AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138);
- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer); and
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(b) Revenue and other income

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the Church recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

Interest revenue is recognised on an accrual basis, taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Other revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Church expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Other income is recognised on the basis that the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration expected to be received in exchange for those goods or services.

(c) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

(d) Property, plant and equipment

The church uses land and buildings that the Uniting Church in Australia (Victoria) Property Trust legally owns. The church however maintains, insures and derives rental income from these assets. The assets are currently recorded in the Statement of Financial Position of the Uniting Church in Australia (Victoria) Property Trust as the Trust recognises legal ownership and beneficial interest. Any capital costs incurred by the church are expensed in the period they are incurred.

(e) Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the church becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is the equivalent to the date that the church commits itself to either the purchase or sale of the asset (i.e. trade date accounting is adopted).

Classification

Financial instruments are measured at fair value. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments.

(f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(g) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Church's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs.

Provision is also made for benefits provided to contractors.

3 Revenue

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Operating income		
- U Ethical Growth Fund income	906,246	769,429
- Offerings	66,851	64,968
- Rental income	5,400	5,250
- Interest income	2,242	54,221
- Weddings income	26,300	16,800
- Mingary Counselling	17,864	29,754
- Donations	6,314	19,803
- Other income	-	115
- Government stimulus	93,070	188,088
	1,124,287	1,148,428
Investing income		
- Fair value movement of UCA Growth Fund investments	3,206,668	297,369
- Fair value movement of UCA Enhanced Cash Trust - Wholesale investments	(6,642)	891
Total movement in fair value of financial assets	3,200,026	298,260
- Realised gains from disposal of UCA Growth Fund investments	61,098	-
Total Revenue	4,385,411	1,446,688

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

4 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Cash on hand	750	1,000
Cash at bank	247,252	246,201
	<u>248,002</u>	<u>247,201</u>

5 Trade and Other Receivables

CURRENT		
GST receivable	6,104	2,190
	<u>6,104</u>	<u>2,190</u>

The carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

6 Other Financial Assets

CURRENT		
U Ethical Investments	3,713,456	2,605,305
NON-CURRENT		
U Ethical Growth Fund	(a) 25,218,807	22,951,041

(a) U Ethical Growth Fund investments with a total of 3,752,687 units, are held at call with the Uniting Church in Australia. A total of 160,007 units valued at \$1 million was withdrawn and transferred into the Enhanced Income Trust throughout the year.

7 Other Assets

CURRENT		
Prepayments	6,876	22,866

8 Trade and Other Payables

CURRENT		
Trade creditors	11,094	33,186
Sundry creditors	3,631	7,431
	<u>14,725</u>	<u>40,617</u>

Trade and other payables are unsecured, non-interest bearing and are normally settled within 30 days. The carrying value of trade and other payables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

9 Other Liabilities

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Wedding deposits	5,000	5,250

10 Employee Benefits

CURRENT		
Provision for employee benefits	75,949	126,095

11 Contingent Assets

The Uniting Church of Australia Property Trust (Victoria) holds certain bequests for the benefit of St Michaels Uniting Church. Applications can be made by St Michaels Uniting Church to The Uniting Church of Australia Property Trust (Victoria) for the release of funds in accordance with the terms of the trusts.

These include a bequest from Dorothy Claire Harvey-Kelly with a value of \$1,302,577, as at 31 December 2021 to be used for general purposes by St Michaels Uniting Church.

The Uniting Church of Australia Property Trust (Victoria) also holds funds in trust for St Michaels Uniting Church to use on building renovations and maintenance. The value held in trust as at 31 December 2021 is \$69,406.

12 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

The COVID-19 Pandemic began in early 2020 and continues to affect organisations after December 2021. The future impact of the pandemic on the Church is unknown, however the council does not expect a material decline in revenue during the year ending 31 December 2022. On this basis the council are currently satisfied that the short term implications will not materially or adversely affect the Church ability to continue as a going concern.

Except for the above, no other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the Church, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Church in future financial years.

13 Statutory Information

The registered office and principal place of business of the church is:

St Michael's Uniting Church
120 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Statement by Church Council

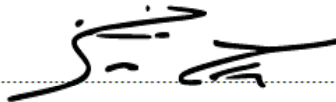
The members of the Church Council have determined that the church is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report is not required to be prepared in accordance with Australian accounting standards.

The Church Council of the St Michael's Uniting Church declare that:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that St Michael's Uniting Church is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- the financial report gives a true and fair view of the St Michaels Uniting Church as at 31 December 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the account policies out lined in Note 1 to the accounts.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Church Council.

Treasurer



Dated 21/06/2022



St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Church Council of St Michael's Uniting Church

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2021, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.


Saward Dawson


Peter Shields
Partner

Blackburn VIC

Dated: 21 June 2022

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contact@sawarddawson.com.au
sawarddawson.com.au



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St Michael's Uniting Church

Independent Audit Report to the members of St Michael's Uniting Church

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of St Michael's Uniting Church, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021, the statement of income & expenditure and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by church council.

In our opinion the financial report of St Michael's Uniting Church has been prepared in accordance with reporting framework adopted by church council, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Church's financial position as at 31 December 2021 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Church in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Church's financial reporting responsibilities to its members. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

The Church Council of the Church are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Church Council's responsibility also include such internal control as the Church Council determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Church Council are responsible for assessing the Church's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intend to liquidate the Church or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

St Michael's Uniting Church

Independent Audit Report to the members of St Michael's Uniting Church

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Church's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Church's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Church to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Saward Dawson



Peter Shields

Partner

Blackburn VIC

Dated this 21st day of June 2022

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