

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AND CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS
SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2021
MINUTES

Introduction and Welcome

The Chair of the Church Council Laura Beckett welcomed all to the meeting.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Minister Rev Dr. Margaret Mayman acknowledged the elders of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation.

Attendance

There were approximately 100 people in attendance.

Election of Chair of the Congregation

John Coppock was nominated by Simon McCall and Ian Cox

- A motion was put to elect John Coppock for one year
- Motion Carried

Election of Secretary of the Congregation

Maree McDonald was nominated by Alan Wilson and Peter Kahane

- A motion was put to elect Maree McDonald for one year
- Motion Carried

Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM Held on 16 June 2019

The Minutes held at the AGM on 16 June 2019 were confirmed by Laura Beckett and Graeme Adamson

- A motion was put to confirm the Minutes of the AGM of 16 June 2019
- Motion Carried

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

The Treasurer Ian Cox referred to the financial reports consisting of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020. The Treasurer noted: that the congregation contributed \$65,000 to the Synod Mission Budget; expenditure incurred by the Property Church Services and Programs Deaneries; the sale of the Manse in Camberwell and the purchase of a more suitable Manse within 5 km of the city; and the church's investments and reserves. The Treasurer thanked the members of the Finance Committee and the administration staff.

- A Motion was put by Ian Cox and Simon McCall to accept the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.
- Motion Carried

Appointment of Auditors for 2021

- A motion was put by Ian Cox and Peter Kahane to reappoint Auditors Seward Dawson Chartered Accountants for 2021
- Motion Carried

Council Chairperson Report

The Chair of the Church Council noted that 2020 had been a very challenging year for members and friends of St Michael's but that the appointment of Reverend Dr. Margaret Mayman at an Induction Ceremony held on Sunday 9 February 2020 had been a significant highlight. Dr. Mayman's appointment had ushered in a period of optimism which was frustrated by the onset of the COVID 19 Pandemic. This event necessitated the commencement of On-line Services which were facilitated by the excellent work of Jackson Raine and Organist and Manager of Music Rhys Boak.

During the lockdown period the Contact and Care Team lead by Lyndell O'Brien provided significant support for members of the congregation through contact arrangements as did the Programs team lead by Lorraine Woolley who organised Zoom catch-up meetings for members of the congregation.

The online service, recorded mid-week by Dr. Mayman working with Jackson Raine and Rhys Boak, was extremely well received with an average of 730 viewers per week. It touched the lives of people in a significant way both throughout Australia and overseas. On 29 November 2020 although the church reopened the Council agreed to the continuation of online services in conjunction with a service in the church so that those unable to attend church could have the benefit of spiritual sustenance and support.

The Church Council continued to meet each month via Zoom to ensure that the governance and oversight of the church was maintained. During this period with the support of Synod Property Services the Council determined that a Conservation Management Plan would provide extensive information regarding maintenance and heritage requirements for the church building and assist with the access to funding arrangements through Heritage Victoria and other sources of heritage funding. After an extensive tender process, the Council endorsed the appointment of Purcell Architects to undertake the Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

The Chair thanked Dr. Mayman and members of the Church Council for their service and excellent work during the year.

Committee Reports

Property, Peter Anderson

The Chair Peter Anderson reported that a Revitalisation Project to 120 Collins Street had been delayed due to COVID 19 and little progress had been made during the year and that a barricade had been constructed along St Michael's Walk to denote the boundary between 120 Collins Street and St Michael's.

The Chair reported that Purcell Architects had been appointed to undertake a Conservation Management Plan after an extensive tender process and that this project would undertake a comprehensive review of the whole church rather than concentrating on the church roof. The role of Synod Property Services staff who are assisting the church with the CMP was noted. It was also reported that due to COVID 19 there had been unavoidable delays with the CMP project but that the finalised project would address the future uses of the building including safety and access requirements. The Chair thanked the members of the Committee and Glen Tonkes Manager of Finance and Operations.

Church Services, Graeme Adamson

Graeme Adamson noted the induction of Reverend Dr. Margaret Mayman in February, the first minister to be inducted since 1971. He then spoke of the challenging year we subsequently faced due to Covid 19. The Chair also noted the commencement of online Services; various guest ministers; and the excellent work of Dr Mayman, Rhys Boak, and Jackson Raine in the preparation of the Online Services. Graeme thanked the members of the committee.

Contact and Care, Lyndell O'Brien

The Chair noted that the year began with a moving service of induction for the new minister Reverend Dr. Margaret Mayman. She noted that the pandemic had required the Contact and Care team to rearrange support activities to assist members of the congregation. During the period of the pandemic a team of twenty- four people contacted members of the congregation to provide support and keep up communication. It was also noted that through this program many people became much better acquainted with others in the congregation.

Pastoral Care was provided by Dr. Mayman and members suffering a bereavement were also supported by the Contact and Care team. It was also noted that DVDs were sent to people who could not access the internet to watch the on-line Sunday Service.

The Dean thanked the members of the Committee.

Programs, Lorraine Woolley

The Chair noted that success of the minister's Zoom Chat and the Sunday Zoom Cuppa that attracted many members of the congregation to a virtual Sunday 'morning tea.' Both provided opportunities for people to connect with people they did not know. The Chair also noted the success of the Painting the Stars program, conducted via Zoom and facilitated by Simon McCall and Peter Kahane. The Chair thanked the members of the Committee.

Adoption of the 2019 and 2020 Annual Reports

- A Motion was put by Graeme Adamson and Graeme Inglis to adopt the Annual Reports of 2019 and 2020
- Motion Carried

Other Business

Presbytery nominations

- A motion was put by Ian Cox and Graeme Adamson on behalf of the Church Council to approve Lorraine Woolley and Margaret Lade as St Michael's representatives to the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra for 2022.
- Motion Carried

Future Focus

The Minister noted the importance of both acknowledging the past and looking to the future. She reflected on the warm welcome she received as the new minister in a joyful induction service celebrated in February. Despite the many limitations of the pandemic, church services were conducted online and supported many in the St Michael's community as well as many people from around Australia and overseas.

Dr. Mayman noted that St Michael's is discerning our new vocation and stated that it was vital to invite younger people to the community (and to be prepared to change in response to their presence and gifts). St Michael's is well-placed to respond to spiritual seekers who understand spirituality as a yearning to encounter the Sacred on earth. Such a spirituality is not opposed to rationality and science but offers what science cannot. She spoke of moving to become a 'cathedral church,' a hospitable space where the doors are open, inviting people an open spirituality.

"As a church, we can offer something into our fractured social space, not some grand plan solution, but something small, that like salt can change the taste of the world and sustain the hope that the people of our city, and the people of the world, might live together in peace."

"In the midst of tumultuous times, as people with a living spirituality, dwelling within a meaning story that has been shaped and shared over countless generations, we can recognise our lack of control and still foster hope and contribute to social well-being. Not a hope that looks away from suffering, but a compassionate hope that there will be a future within and beyond the pandemic; that believes that while we cannot control everything we can have faith in a future that we will shape together."

Election of 2022 Church Council

Appointment of Scrutineers

The Congregation appointed Ian Cox and Liz Boase as scrutineers to oversee the counting of votes for the Church Council election.

Vacancies

There were nine vacancies. Nine nominations were received. Members of the congregation voted by secret ballot.

The following Councillors were elected for a first term:

Neil Blood

Catherine Jones

Ann Kinnear

Brian Smith

The following Councillors were elected for a second term:

Peter Anderson

John Coppock

Lyndell O'Brien

Cheryl Power

Lorraine Woolley

The meeting closed at 12.51pm.