



**CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE
AUGUST 2022**

At the August meeting of Council, the following items were among those reported, discussed, and agreed upon:

Strategic Planning

The Council's Strategic Planning Working Group met on four occasions following a planning workshop in December 2021 to deliberate on the future needs of St Michael's and consider setting new goals/initiatives. These new initiatives to be consistent with and elaborate on the core commitments set out in the Strategic Mission Plan 2020 – 2024.

Information was collected from the Census and National Church Life Survey on religious trends and a meeting held with Melbourne City Council to get a greater understanding of the needs of the residents of Melbourne. The working group adopted the use of the SMART tool in the development of the new goals. The SMART tool asks if the goal is Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely.

The new draft plan was presented to Council. Following discussion and discernment the following specific goals for 2022- 2024 were adopted:

1. Newcomers are attracted, welcomed, included, and make a decision to belong
2. St Michael's is recognised as a leading progressive church
3. St Michael's enhances the wellbeing of people who live, work and study in Melbourne
4. Ensure St Michael's church is an accessible and inclusive space

It was noted that, whilst all the Council will be involved in pursuing these goals, we will need to recruit other people and gain additional resources to deliver the outcomes we seek. A Congregational Meeting to elect new councillors will be held in November. This will give the Council an opportunity to provide further details and hear from the congregation.

Church Services

The Church Services Committee is well advanced in their planning for St Michael's Day on September 25. The theme of the day will be 'Joy' with a special service, 'Brunch and Bubbles' after the service and a free concert in the early afternoon.

A children's corner has been set up in the east corner of the narthex with books and toys for any upset children. Both the narthex doors can be closed to make the area a safe space and a heater has been installed to ensure the area is warm.

St Michael's Programs and Community Interaction

The after-church programs continue and are generating appreciative comments from the participants.

Catherine Jones, Val Gill and their team were thanked and congratulated for the light lunch they organised so magnificently after church on July 31.

The proposed Book Exchange trial in the Hall will commence on Sunday 21st August.

The Inner Melbourne UCA Justice Action Coalition, to which St Michael's belongs, is planning a forum in early November for candidates in the state election.

St Michael's will work with Wesley on coordinating a Lenten Study using the UCA Statement from the Heart. Parallel with this St Michael's will contact local Indigenous elders to explore a public event at St Michael's to be held after Easter next year.

Property and Administration

A procedure for the monthly review of the Risk Register was adopted to ensure it is regularly reviewed and updated.

The Treasurer reported that our financial performance for the month was behind the budget but a surplus in the year-to-date figure remains.

Inspection for possible water damage at the rear of the church building (the north wall) is being conducted by Kane Construction and forensic engineers appointed by the Uniting Church.

Investigations of the external steps and balustrades has revealed noticeable deterioration and the need for urgent repair.

The dust spread over the church by the demolition work at 120 Collins Street is a particular risk to the leadlight windows. Cleaning will be undertaken by specialists.

The next Council meeting will be held on Thursday, 15th September.