

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH



COUNCIL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION NOVEMBER 2022

At the November meeting of Council, the following items were among those reported and discussed:

Council Elections

The Council finalised preparations for the Congregational Meeting on 27 November. In addition to the Council elections, it was agreed that the recently adopted Strategic Mission Goals would be presented for discussion.

Property

Kane Construction has at last undertaken to undertake remedial action on the dust damage to the church building and windows.

Church Revitalisation Project

Council discussed a paper written by the minister in which she reviewed the work to date and suggested that there were three options for consideration:

1. To engage in substantial renovations that would bring the church to the point where it would comply with building code requirements for a venue available for hire for public (non-church) events.
2. To do nothing further
3. To make improvements to the building which would facilitate our mission by making it fully accessible to people with disabilities, provide a more flexible space for worship, events and performances, make the entrance more welcoming, improve the audio-visual facilities and associated information technology systems, and to make full use of the facilities in the Administration Building.

The Council unanimously adopted the third option. The decision reflects St Michael's commitment to being an inclusive church by ensuring that the church is an accessible, safe and welcoming space. This option will allow the church to be used for services and events run by St Michael's. Additionally, it will be available for events offered by other groups or organisations whose purpose is in alignment with the mission of St Michael's.

A Project Control Group will progress the revitalisation work. It will include four members of St Michael's, two members of Presbytery, and two staff of Synod Property Services. The PCG will also have an overview of current heritage maintenance matters and the issues that have arisen as a result of the re-development of the foyer and courtyard of the 120 Collins tower.

Church Services

Preparations are underway for Advent and Christmas services.

We will again be providing an opportunity for St Michael's people to assist CAN Community Support (a mission of the Church of All Nations in Carlton) at Christmas. Their Homework Club has requested items of stationery for primary and secondary school students. We are also invited to contribute gifts for people, especially women living alone or who have sole care of children, who might not otherwise receive a gift.

Finances

The finance report shows that we continue to remain ahead of budget, principally from under-expenditure on office staff where we continue to have difficulty in recruitment.

Offerings have improved slightly but remain below budget. The Council will seek to address this by sharing with the congregation the importance of offerings for, among other things, the provision of music in worship, care of the heritage church and service to the community.

Environmental Action Plan

The working group provided a draft of a comprehensive plan for environmental action which received the strong support of Council. The group will now prepare a final plan for Council approval.

Visit of Students from Loyola College

The recent visit of an impressive group of students from Loyola College was a great success. The three councillors who hosted them noted that the students and staff were keenly interested in exploring the theology and activities of St Michael's. It was agreed we should encourage visits by like-minded groups.