

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE DECEMBER 2022 - JANUARY 2023

Council approves the appointment of a Pastor

At its December meeting, the Council agreed to appoint a Pastor to work with our minister, Rev Dr Margaret Mayman, in a ministry team.

A Pastor is a recognised lay ministry of the Uniting Church. A person is designated as a Pastor for the exercise of ministry in a particular setting, e.g. congregation, chaplaincy, or church agency. This is different to Minister of the Word which is a nationally recognised “transferable” ministry. However, an ordained minister may apply for a pastor position.

Over the past two and a half years we have developed our Mission and Vision, Strategic Directions and comprehensive Mission Goals. New things are happening. We want to maintain the momentum, but to do this it has become clear that we need another person in our ministry team to work with Margaret and the Council.

The position description that the Council approved has a focus on two areas:

- assisting in leadership of worship
- supporting pastoral care and community life

Margaret will continue to have primary responsibility for ministry. This appointment will enable her to progress St Michael's goals of increased engagement with the wider community, and strategic leadership of the church's revitalisation project. The Council recognises the need to make her workload more sustainable.

Before a Pastor can be appointed, the Presbytery reviews the Position Description and decides whether to designate the position as appropriate for the ministry of Pastor. The PD was sent to Presbytery in late January. We will update the congregation as it progresses.

New Council Members

The Council was pleased to welcome newly elected members Chris Phillips and Jess Hand. Jess and Chris have already made valuable contributions to the life of our congregation. Jess is a member Environmental Working Group which developed the environmental action plan recently adopted by Council. Chris is a valued member of the First Aid Team. Both Chris and Jess are members of the Open and Affirming Working Group. We look forward to their governance contributions on Council.

Election of Office Bearers 2023

Chairperson: Laura Beckett

Treasurer: Ian Cox

Property: Peter Anderson

Contact and Care: Lyndell O'Brien

Church Services: Lorraine Wooley

Programs: Ann Kinnear

Mingary: Laura Beckett

Finance: Ian Cox

Administration Officer

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Cathy Nocera as Administration Officer. Cathy commenced work on 9 January. She will provide administrative support to the Church Council, Manager of Finance and Operations, and the Minister. Cathy has extensive experience as an administrator in corporate, government and church contexts. Prior to accepting the position, Cathy advised that she had arranged to travel to the USA for family reasons. We look forward to having her back in the office on 27 February.

Project Control Group

Following consultation with the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra and Synod Property Services, Council established a Project Control Group (PCG) to provide governance oversight for the revitalisation of the church and other related property projects. The work of the PCG addresses both property and mission.

St Michael's members are Margaret Mayman (chair), Peter Anderson, Laura Beckett and Brian Smith, and Glen Tonkes (ex-officio), with Maree McDonald as an alternate. The PCG will meet monthly and report to Council.

In addition to Council members, the PCG also includes two representatives of Synod Property Services and two Presbytery members.

Finance

The treasurer reported that the draft Income and Expenditure Report for 2022 was showing a break-even result.

Planning Day

Council will meet for a planning session on Saturday February 4. Jac Tomlins will present a workshop to support Council's implementation of the Open and Affirming Project. Council will also focus on prioritizing actions needed to implement our Mission Goals.