

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



OFFICE BEARERS

MINISTER

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Laura Beckett

SECRETARY

Maree McDonald

TREASURER

Ian Cox

COUNCILLORS

Peter Anderson
Laura Beckett
Neil Blood
John Coppock
Ian Cox
Valerie Gill
Catherine Jones
Ann Kinnear
Maree McDonald
Jeanette Noy
Lyndell O'Brien
Cheryl Power
Brian Smith
Lorraine Woolley

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Chair: Peter Anderson
Deputy Chair: Brian Smith

CHURCH SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chair: Lorraine Woolley
Deputy Chair: Val Gill

CONTACT & CARE COMMITTEE

Chair: Lyndell O'Brien
Deputy Chair: Catherine Jones & Joy Arnot

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Chair: Neil Blood
Deputy Chair: Ann Kinnear

CULTURE OF SAFETY CONTACT PERSON

Val Gill



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

CHAIR OF COUNCIL: LAURA BECKETT



Council

The Church Council met eleven times in 2022. We welcomed back sitting and re-elected councillors and four new members: Neil Blood, Catherine Jones, Ann Kinnear, and Brian Smith. Each councillor contributed their considerable skills and talents during the year, and I am deeply grateful.

Jeanette served on the Church Council for 29 years and worked diligently to keep our community connected by managing the Visitor and Information Table in the Hall. The Council and congregation were greatly saddened by her death.

Church Services

2022 was the first year that the church opened for services every Sunday since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Our online services also continued for those unable to return to church for health reasons or distance, as our online community extends across Victoria, interstate and overseas.

We continued to ensure the safety of our staff and congregation with appropriate precautions in place in line with Health Department regulations. Masks were required to be worn in church especially when singing.

I wish to sincerely thank Lyndell O'Brien, Chair of Contact and Care, Lorraine Woolley, Chair of Church Services and all the volunteers that assisted throughout the year. Lorraine ensured that volunteers were available each week to support our minister Rev Dr Margaret Mayman and assist in the smooth running of the service, whilst Lyndell ensured that our congregation, whether in church or at home, remained connected.

Whether giving someone a call to have a chat or making a hot cup of tea in the Hall after the service, we were blessed with incredible volunteers that continued to provide ongoing support to St Michael's.

To maintain this commitment for both an in church and online service the Council recognised that the workload of the minister and staff in the long term was unsustainable. To remedy the situation discussions were held with the staff and a decision reached to move from a mid-week recording of the service, to recording the service live on Sunday.

Live music was excluded for quality control and later edited into the video from our extensive recorded music collection and uploaded onto YouTube by early Sunday afternoon.

I want to acknowledge and thank Margaret, videographer Jackson Raine, music manager Rhys Boak, and our office team for making the transition to live online recording so seamless.

During 2022 our online services was viewed 250 – 350 times per week. There were 54 videos produced and uploaded to YouTube and our Facebook page, with a total annual number of 19,200 views.

Sixty-two percent of viewers were from Australia with the remainder from the United States of America, United Kingdom, South Africa, India, New Zealand, Canada, and Poland. Those viewing from Australia mostly lived in Melbourne.

In addition, 15,000 users logged onto our website during 2022 with users clicking through approximately 55,000 pages. The homepage and online gatherings were the most popular pages with news, the church, events, music, weddings and Mingary pages also opened.

The Council and Margaret received regular positive feedback on these services from across Australia and overseas.

Strategic Planning

In December 2021, the Council, including our newly elected members, met with Terence Corkin who led a workshop to develop specific goals to support our 2020-2024 Mission, Vision and Strategic Directions for this post-lockdown, covid-normal time.

Following that workshop the Council formed a Strategic Planning working group to further build on the work and develop clear, achievable goals and an implementation plan. These new goals needed to align with our prior work and be responsive to the interests and concerns of the people who have been part of the congregation for some time, newcomers, and others with whom we sought to engage.

The working group met five times over the year and undertook thorough research to understand the needs of the residents of Melbourne. The working group reviewed the demographics of Melbourne, the census results, the National Church Life Australian Community Survey religious trends and a meeting was held with the City of Melbourne.

A draft plan was developed by the working group and was presented to the Council in August and the Congregation in November 2022. 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. St Michael's is an accessible and inclusive space.

In tandem with this work and to complement these goals two additional working groups were set up during 2022. The first developed an Environmental Action Plan and the second commenced work on an Open and Affirming Plan to support the LGBTQIA+ community at St Michael's and to move towards recognition as an Open and Affirming Church in 2023.

Revitalisation Project

In line with our goal for St Michael's to become an accessible and inclusive space the Council spent significant time considering the physical limitations of the church building. We were cognisant of the work presented by Purcell architects in the Conservation Management Plan (CMP), that work would be required to meet occupancy regulations. This would include disability access requirements in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

Given the recommendations from Purcell, it seemed an ideal time for the Council to consider further the development and revitalisation of the church by examining other areas within the church that needed improvement.

In October 2022, the Council endorsed a proposal by Margaret to support improvements to the church building by making it fully accessible to people with disabilities and provide a more flexible space for worship, events and performances.

In addition, the Council supported making improvements to the entrance on St Michael's Walk, updating our audio-visual equipment and information technology, and making better use of the facilities in the Administration Building and Hall.

In line with this decision a Project Control Group (PCG) will be established in 2023 to provide governance oversight for the revitalisation of the church and other related projects.

My sincere thanks to Peter Anderson, Chair, and members the Property Committee who provided their skill and expertise on all matters pertaining to St Michael's church property.

Mingary Committee

The Mingary Committee continued its association with Cairnmillar Institute to oversee the work of the Mingary – Cairnmillar Counselling Service.

During the pandemic, all counselling services moved online or via telephone. We were therefore delighted to welcome back the Cairnmillar interns as they resumed face-to-face consultations on a Tuesday and Thursday in the administration office. Online services also continued as some clients still preferred that approach.

The mix of student clinicians offering the counselling services in 2022 were from the 6th year intern program, 5th year Master of Professional Psychology, Master of Clinical Psychology and Counselling and Psychotherapy students. Each month the Council received a report from Cairnmillar Institute detailing the breadth of counselling services that were provided to the wider community.

During the year, a review was undertaken of the Terms of Reference for the Mingary Committee and the Memorandum of Understanding between St Michael's and the Cairnmillar Institute.

The Terms of Reference and membership were amended to reflect the more appropriate management of the counselling service and focused on facilitating the day-to-day management of the service by Cairnmillar, in conjunction with the management of St Michael's.

The updated Memorandum of Understanding set out in clear terms our linked objectives as well as the separate roles and responsibilities of the two bodies. Agreement was also reached that there would be two collaborative programs between St Michael's and Cairnmillar each year.

Appointment of a Pastor

The Council recognised and acknowledged that the strategic development work undertaken during 2022 was aspirational and would over time require additional human and financial resources.

To fulfil these aspirations, the Council agreed it was necessary to appoint an additional ministry staff member to work with Margaret to achieve our strategic goals. To facilitate this the Council agreed to appoint a new position of Pastor.

Ministry of Pastor is a recognised lay ministry in the Uniting Church. The Pastor would assist in the preparation and leadership of church services (with a focus on encouraging lay participation) and support and strengthen the congregation's pastoral ministries of care and community building.

They will work with Church Council committees to implement the strategic goals pertaining to worship, pastoral care, including welcoming and including newcomers.

We look forward to the appointment of a Pastor in 2023 and the important role they will undertake in the life of our spiritual community.

Thank you.

Finally, I wish to extend my thanks to Margaret who continued to develop and grow her ministry in 2022 with great drive and enthusiasm. The challenges of ministering to an extended St Michael's community whether in church or online continue to be significant, yet Margaret managed it with great care, skill, and devotion. Her weekly uplifting and thought-provoking liturgy continued to help us navigate the challenges of life.

I also thank each member of Council for their ongoing commitment and participation to the work of the Council. We faced with some 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 assistance. I would also like to thank the office staff for their incredible help and assistance to the Council and especially Glen Tonkes, Manager of Finance/Operations.

It has been a pleasure serving in the role of Chair of Council for 2022 and I commend this Annual Report to you.

MINISTER'S REPORT

REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN



The COVID-19 pandemic brought existential questions about the future of the church to the fore. What would happen for churches after two years of lockdown during when services, meetings, and community connection shifted online? How would Christianity be changed by this? In 2022, those questions remained, even as the 'new normal' began to take shape.

In public discourse 2022 was 'post-covid.' It was and it wasn't. Gradual easing of restrictions was made possible by the availability of vaccines that reduced the risk of serious illness and death from COVID-19. For the first six months of 2022 QR check-in to provide proof of vaccination, social distancing and mask wearing were required in most settings including churches. Many people enjoyed a sense of freedom, but for those who were vulnerable because of health or age, the risks of attending public events increased.

It is estimated that an additional 20,000 Australians died in 2022 than would have been expected if the pandemic had not happened. Of this loss, there has been little public acknowledgement or mourning. As we celebrate being together at church, we are also aware of the vulnerable in Australia, and across the planet where millions continue to suffer from lack of vaccines, inadequate health care, and poverty.

We still don't really know where we are in the pandemic – the beginning of the end, or the end of the beginning? Alongside the uncertainty, we chose to focus on what we do know and what we can do. At St Michael's we spent time reflecting on our identity and our mission, drawing on the richness of St Michael's past and cognisant of the possibilities in this new epoch in the life of the congregation.

In late 2020, the Church Council adopted a strategic plan which included new mission and vision statements and strategic directions.

St Michael's Mission is to be a vibrant, inclusive, hospitable and community-focused congregation, sharing progressive Christianity – embracing spirituality, the arts, wellbeing, justice and compassion.

St Michael's Vision is of a nurturing and dynamic Christian spiritual community contributing to a world where each person and all creation can flourish and enjoy abundant life within the city of Melbourne and beyond.

It guided us through the lockdowns and restrictions but new goals for 2022-2025 were needed for our changed world. After research and deliberation Council identified these goals and developed action plans.

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

Our mission and vision have not changed but how we live them out, drawing on our past, and building on our present, is ever-changing. The goals stand alongside our ongoing commitments and values – inspiring worship, compassionate community, engaging programs, and care for personal and social wellbeing.

During the year numbers attending church gradually increased. People returned and new people arrived. We delighted in being able to gather in the hall for hospitality and conversation. Throughout the year morning teas and lovely lunches provided much needed connection and a deepening sense of community. Excellent after-church Programs were very well-received.

In May we made a significant change from pre-recording mid-week to recording the Sunday service. The video includes the full service as it happened in the church, with the exception of music for contemplation which is replaced by music recorded during lockdown. Sunday recording has helped us convey a more vibrant sense of church and community. The videos enable us to reach people who cannot attend church because of health or geography. Newcomers appreciate the opportunity to experience St Michael's worship and ethos online before they decide to attend a church service.

We were delighted to welcome newcomers at church. In services of adult baptism and welcoming new members, we have heard their stories and their joy in finding a spiritual home. The Open and Affirming working group flowed beautifully from the sharing of life and faith. Being visibly inclusive is key to attracting new people to the church, whoever they are, whomever they love.

Property issues presented challenges to our mission. In February, we lost the connection from the church to the Hall due to the 120 Collins Street refurbishment project. Access to the Hall and offices is now via a complicated route down Russell Street to the corner of Little Collins Street. It is testament to the significance of hospitality and social gathering that people, including those with physical disability, have persevered to get to morning tea whatever the weather! The relationship with the owners of 120 Collins Street have been fraught due to their disregard of their impact on the church fabric and our mission. I am deeply thankful for the tireless efforts of Glen Tonkes and Peter Anderson who have worked with me to manage this. We expect that construction will be completed in mid to late 2023.

Alongside this, I led the Council in a discernment about revitalising the church building for mission. Driven by our values of being progressive and inclusive, we seek to build our profile as a living community that embraces and serves the city. We want the church to be a place for spirituality, social and ecological justice, the arts/music (nourishing the spirit, experiencing transcendence), and social and personal well-being. After considering a number of options, we have decided to embark on a fiscally responsible revitalisation of the church, emphasising:

- inclusion of people with disabilities (congregation/audience/leaders/performers)
- creating a comfortable flexible space for worship, events and performances
- modernisation of toilet facilities
- audio visual upgrade to facilitate hybrid worship and events

In 2022 my ministry was marked by joyful experiences of ‘coming out’ into the city. For the first time I was able to lead and participate in many face-to-face gatherings in the wider church and community. I worked with the Interfaith Centre of Melbourne to host two beautiful, inspiring gatherings in the church. The Sacred Music event presented music from many faiths and featured world-renowned musician William Barton (digeridoo, piano, voice). The Inner Melbourne Justice Coalition of UCA churches, of which we are a member, presented excellent events including federal and state election public forums.

Creating and leading worship at St Michael’s continues to be at the heart of my ministry. For the first time (for me) St Michael’s Day was celebrated in the church. It was delightful to collaborate on “Live joy, give joy” with the Church Services Committee and the office staff. Sunflowers were our symbol of joy, life and hope, which was expressed in liturgy, story, music and song. I am delighted that the deeply moving reflections given by members of the congregation form part of this report.

There is so much more that could be said but space and the reader’s time are not unlimited. So, I will conclude with gratitude for the gifts of time and energy that sustain our shared life. My thanks to our wonderful Council, and its hard-working Committees and Working Groups, so ably and compassionately led by chairperson, Laura Beckett; to the Sunday team, organist and music manager Rhys Boak, the tech team, and the vergers; and to Glen Tonkes and Alana Pryor-Leong who have both gone above and beyond with good humour and great energy, supporting my work in so many ways.

Without the gathered congregation Sunday by Sunday, in person and online, none of this would matter. So, thank you to each one of you for your part in St Michael’s ongoing journey.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

CHAIR: PETER ANDERSON



Property Committee 2022

Peter Anderson (Chair), Neil Blood, Ken Gosbell, Maree McDonald, Jack Morgan (resigned January 2022), Brian Smith (Deputy Chair, appointed January 2022), Rev Dr Margaret Mayman (ex officio), and Finance/Operations Manager - Glen Tonkes (ex officio)

Investa - 120 Collins Street Refurbishment

In December 2021 ground floor refurbishment work at Investa-120 Collins Street commenced. The erection of hoardings surrounding the building site blocked access to St Michael's Hall and administrative offices for the whole of 2022. This project is not expected to be completed until the second half of 2023.

Demolition work caused considerable quantities of dust, some of which settled on to the eastern side of the church building. Dust became caked onto the stained-glass windows, potentially causing serious damage. After protracted negotiations the builder, Kane Constructions, admitted liability and agreed to make good the damage. At the end of 2022 this work had not been carried out.

Excavations in the northern boundary area adjoining the rear wall of the church revealed that the original water-proof membrane was inadequate and had failed; water seepage and concrete corrosion were evident. The Investa-120 Collins Street concrete retaining wall and adjacent structure encroaches onto church property. These contentious northern boundary issues continued throughout 2022 and remained unresolved at the end of the year.

It is understood that the Investa-120 Collins Street project will incorporate changes to St Michael's Walk, including a transparent canopy extending to the property boundary.

Negotiations throughout the year with the Investa-120 Collins Street owners, builder and project manager continued to be handled by Synod Property Services.

Church maintenance

Maintenance to the church building during 2022 included:

- Replacement of external notice board
- Installation of a temporary gate across St Michael's Walk
- Replacement of the existing interior quartz halogen spotlights with LEDs
- Removal of graffiti on the exterior of the church
- Fitting nosings to the steps within the church - an essential safety measure which has blended well with the church interior.

Conservation Management Plan (CMP)

In 2020 heritage architects Purcell were commissioned to complete a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for St Michael's. Completion of this project took considerably longer than expected, however the document was finalised and delivered during the year.

The CMP is a comprehensive report including:

- An overview of the church building, its history and context
- A comprehensive building condition report, and
- the basis for a long-term maintenance plan.

A hard copy of the CMP is available for perusal at the church office.

The CMP highlighted the need for the church building to be upgraded to improve access, amenity, and greater adaptive use. During 2022 Church Council approved the adoption of a Revitalisation Plan to prepare the property for future mission. Council also adopted a set of priorities which it is hoped the process will address. It is intended that the project will be overseen by a Project Control Group (PCG) reporting to St Michael's Church Council – the PCG will also include Synod and Presbytery representatives. The Revitalisation Plan becomes a major focus for 2023.

The CMP building condition report indicated that the external steps and balustrades required restoration. The cause of the damage such as water seepage and/or invasive tree roots, needed to be established. The building condition report also recommended that the main electrical circuit board in the church be replaced and upgraded. These priority items are also major initiatives for 2023.

Thanks

My thanks to Property Committee members for their wisdom and support throughout the year. Finance/Operations Manager Glen Tonkes' experience and dedication has been invaluable.

CHURCH SERVICES COMMITTEE

CHAIR: LORRAINE WOOLLEY



Church Services Committe

Lorraine Woolley (Chair) Val Gill (Deputy Chair), Pamela Blood, Phil Boase, Lyndell O'Brien, Cheryl Power, and Rev Dr Margaret Mayman (ex officio)

Goal of the Church Services Committee

To be a joyful and inspiring committee that will help embed and enhance our worship and other spiritual expressions in this new stage in the life of St Michael's. (A new sense of ministry after lockdowns has brought momentous change to the church.)

Committee Focus

The focus of the committee was to assist the minister to envision and plan for church services and identify what assistance was needed in support. Each Sunday service involved a team effort from our minister Margaret, staff members, and volunteers. This report gives an ideal opportunity to shine a light on the essential elements of the Sunday worship service that volunteers fulfill.

Communion Serving and Preparation

Updated Communion Preparation Guidelines were developed for those who prepare and set up the Communion elements for Communion each month. We have three teams in rotation. We thank Ian and Jan Cox, Lyn and John Coppock, Lyndell O'Brien and Cheryl Power.

Margaret developed a Communion liturgy/instruction sheet that we follow. To Council members and others who make themselves available as servers and ushers each month we appreciate your dedication to this important role.

Welcome Teams

We were grateful to, and appreciative of, the members of the congregation who carried out the door welcoming, many of whom are on duty every Sunday.

First Aid

We are fortunate to have Susan Fleming on duty each Sunday. Sue was joined by Chris Phillips later in the year. We appreciate their dedication to be on hand should there be a need.

Reader's Roster

In May the church services changed from online pre-recorded services to live recording of Sunday services. Readers could then read in the church service with no prior recording needed.

When Readers are not members of Council, notices are given by a Councillor.

Appreciation to all those who volunteer to be on the Reader Roster and for the increased lay involvement in the service.

Security Role and Review

We are well served in having Robert Cleghorn on duty each Sunday in the Security Role. Robert submitted an excellent detailed report of the Security role for our weekly Sunday Services and suggestions for longer-term improvements which were actioned.

Baptisms

Infant baptisms have been regular on the second Sunday of each month during the year. We thank Carole Phillips for the personal contacts she makes with the baptismal families prior to, and on the day of, baptism. Over several months we celebrated three joyful adult baptisms prior to these people becoming members.

St Michael's Day - 25 September

This was the first gathering that the Church Services committee worked on collaboratively. During planning the focus was on worship with members contributing in creative ways. It was decided the theme of joy would be expressed through sunflowers. Thanks to Alana, Glen, and Margaret for sourcing decorations and decorating the church.

During the service the congregation was invited to come forward and take a packet of sunflower seeds to grow. Thanks to Lyndell, for sharing the joy by sending out packets of seeds and a letter to those who were not able to attend in person. To involve lay members of the community, we invited three speakers Margaret Dowsett, Phil Boase and Peter Anderson to speak on "What does St Michael's mean to me?" Their contribution was appreciated.

Older Person's Sunday - 30 October

This service was an Assembly initiative on the theme 'Dignity & Hope for All' and another collaborative work with the Minister and committee. Some older members of our congregation were approached to share and celebrate their achievements and what brings them joy. Joan Waters agreed to share a reflection entitled "Changes and Chances". Joan shared the story of her late husband's dementia and the importance of dementia-friendly congregations. This was a beautiful addition to the service. The committee felt it important to have opportunities for our church community to share in this way.

Thank you

Working collaboratively with Margaret and committee members throughout the year via Zoom and in-person has been rewarding and inspirational. Discussing and planning special services has brought out creative gifts of our members. Another area of our work is looking into increasing lay involvement and the creative use of the worship space. Thank you to our wonderful committee members, and Margaret who continues to set such a high standard for us all.

I thank each member of the Council for your ongoing support in our weekly Sunday services and Glen Tonkes and Alana Pryor-Leong for their administrative support.

It has been a pleasure serving in the role of Chair of Church Services for 2022.



CONTACT AND CARE COMMITTEE

CHAIR: LYNDELL O'BRIEN



Contact and Care Committee 2022

Lyndell O'Brien (Chair), Catherine Jones (Deputy Chair), Joy Arnot (Deputy Chair), Margaret Dowsett, Susan Fleming, Sandy Foster, Val Gill, Peter Kahane, and Rev Dr Margaret Mayman (ex officio)

Role of the Contact and Care Committee

The role of the Contact and Care committee is to work with our minister, Margaret, to endeavour to create a community of compassion, care, connection and relationship, for all who are connected with St Michael's, in any way. This includes the in church congregation, the online congregation, newcomers and people who cannot attend church because of health or mobility reasons, but who wish to maintain a connection with St Michael's.

Contact and Care Program

It was a great joy to be able to return to worshipping in the church building for the full year in 2022. Attendees were enabled to have much desired in-person connections, following the years of the pandemic. The ongoing recording of the services enabled those not able to attend, to continue their connection with St Michael's. The program of a team of Contact People keeping in touch with a group of people continued during 2022, either in person on Sundays or by telephone, emails or visits. Some of the Contact People who themselves are unable to attend church in person, continue to keep in touch with and support their group of people. We thank all the Contact People for the caring and supportive roles they play.

Care and Prayer Group: Leader - Catherine Jones

This group was first inspired by the Michael Leunig book, 'The Prayer Tree'. The group has been privileged to support people within the St Michael's community and others from far and wide. The aim of the group is to not only give assurance of prayer support, but to provide a listening ear and practical caring, where appropriate. Thanks are expressed to those who are part of this St Michael's Contact and Care outreach.

Pastoral Care

Margaret continued to provide support to many people in person, by telephone or by Zoom. The members of the Contact and Care Team wish to thank Margaret for her support to them, as they undertook their roles.

The team members kept in touch with many St Michael's people, particularly those experiencing difficult times. They offered assistance, care and support in whatever ways were appropriate and according to the person's wishes.

We were saddened by the passing of valued St Michael's people in 2022 and also for those members who experienced family bereavements. In each case the Contact and Care Team contacted the families by phone and sent cards or flowers. Vale notices were written for each St Michael's person who passed away. These were included in the eNews and read in the notices during the service.

Newcomers

Newcomers are invited each week during the notices, to fill in a Connecting Card if they wish to explore a closer connection to the church, to receive the eNews or have a name tag made. These cards are placed in one of the collection boxes and sent to the office. A member of the Contact and Care committee follows up with each person either by phone or email and then offers to meet with the person when they next attend a service and to introduce them to others. Several people filled out these cards during 2022.

'Exploring Belonging' sessions were offered during the year and were well attended by people interested in the possibility of becoming a member of St Michael's, a member in Association or a Companion. Six people made the decision to become members and one person became a member in Association. A member of the Contact and Care Committee was involved in this process. All new members have become very involved in the life of the church.

Connection and Hospitality

Meeting together for tea, coffee and conversation, following the service, is a very important aspect of our gathering. Meeting in this way provides opportunities to make new connections, renew established connections and to welcome newcomers. We thank Margaret Dowsett, assisted by Val Gill, for ensuring a warm drink of tea or coffee is prepared and served by a welcoming team of volunteers, each week.

To increase the opportunity for relaxed connecting with others, five special morning teas, three light lunches and a special St Michael's Day brunch were prepared and presented by the catering team, Catherine Jones and Val Gill. We are most appreciative of and grateful for the amazing effort which they undertook to enable these occasions of generous hospitality to take place. On each of these occasions, much deep connection with others took place. Several lunches in restaurants and a morning tea in a private home provided opportunities for people, in their local areas, to connect in greater depth.

In conclusion, we would like to sincerely thank everyone who has been part of the Contact and Care Committee in 2022, for the commitment and care you gave to ensure that so many St Michael's people continued to feel connected and supported.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: NEIL BLOOD



Programs Committee 2022

Neil Blood (Chair), Ann Kinnear (Deputy Chair), Jess Hand, Roz Rimes, and Rev Dr Margaret Mayman (ex officio)

Overview

“How then shall we live” was the Programs’ theme for 2022 guiding our attention to focus on hope. Hope being an integral part of human nature. Hope, a spiritual value that links and connects people to each other, our environment and the universe.

COVID-19 and lockdowns during the previous two years impacted heavily on church communities and the St Michael’s community was not immune. A variety of programs for the St Michael’s community focused on hope, provided further opportunity for our community to gather, to enhance the life of St Michael’s community, ‘find a new norm’ after lockdown, provide a safe place for open discussion, self-development and reflection, enhance our personal wellbeing and encourage practical outcomes.

Program sessions included

- Community life in Melbourne during and after lockdown. (Rev Paul Burnham)
- A story of hope and inspiration from Tanzania - The transforming achievements of the school of St Jude (Ken Gosbell)
- Wellbeing science from researchers and practitioners into the beneficial use of Therapy dogs (Roz Rimes)
- Meditation sessions. (Various facilitators)
- Progressive theology using the resource “Living The Questions 2.0” (Facilitators Dr Liz Boase, Simon McCall, Peter Kahane)
- Poetry Discussion Group for Women (Pamela Blood)

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- An introductory discussion about LGBTQIA+ people, their faith and how we can make a supportive and affirming home for all people in the Church (Chris Phillips)
 - Honouring the Diverse Spirituality of People in Aged Care (Rev Clare Brockett)
 - An Introduction to Art Therapy (Dr Irene Renzenbrink)
 - Exploring Belonging Sessions (Rev Dr Margaret Mayman, Lyndell O'Brien)

Some Program statistics for 2022

- 26 after church sessions
- 13 program presenters
- All were well attended

Acknowledgements

A warm and grateful thank you to the Program facilitators and presenters for giving your time to prepare, facilitate and present after church programs. Feedback from session attendees was very positive, commenting on how good it was to have after church programs running again.

Thank you for the reliable support from Alana Pryor-Leong who helped enable programs run as smoothly as possible.

Thank you to the Programs Committee for accepting to serve on the committee.
With particular thanks to Ann Kinnear, for her support and encouragement throughout 2022.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING WORKING GROUP

VAL GILL, JESS HAND AND DR CHRIS PHILLIPS

Becoming an Open and Affirming church is a national project by Uniting Network Australia.

It is a step-by-step process developed in local congregations to demonstrate how churches can intentionally live out their welcome to recognise the gifts brought by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTQIA+) people and rainbow families. St Michael's Church Council committed to this process in 2022.

In July 2022, a queer member of the congregation offered an after-church educational presentation, "Pride in our Faith", which led to the formation of the Open and Affirming Working Group.

On 30 October 2022, the Open and Affirming Working Group held a session with members of the congregation to develop a list of potential actions to progress St Michael's identity as an open and affirming congregation.

The session was facilitated by Working Group members Dr Chris Phillips, Jess Hand and Val Gill.

Seven themes were identified for future action:

1. Special events for Midsummma
2. Receiving welcome at St Michael's
3. Sunday Services
4. Programs
5. Website and communications
6. Name tags
7. Toilet facilities

The Open and Affirming Working Group brought an action plan to Council in November 2022 and began to implement the actions developed in discussion with congregation members.

In light of the Council decision, the process undertaken, and our serious commitment to future action, we will ask that Uniting Network Australia includes St Michael's Uniting Church on the official list of Open and Affirming Congregations.



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION WORKING GROUP

BRIAN SMITH

In September 2022, the Council decided to develop an Environmental Action Plan for St Michael's which will contribute to the Action Plan of the Uniting Church of Australia to achieve net zero emissions by 2040.

This plan should include actions which will:

- Enable St Michael's to reduce its carbon footprint
- Encourage the St Michael's congregation to take positive and urgent action on climate change
- Enable St Michael's to seek opportunities to collaborate with inner city congregations and the City of Melbourne to support actions on addressing climate change.

Council appointed a working group, consisting of Brian Smith, Jess Hand and Sally Clarke to develop the plan. In December Council approved the plan in which we will:

- Conduct church services which are explicit in addressing climate change and invite environmental/ climate experts and those taking action on climate change to speak.
- Investigate St Michael's purchasing to support social enterprises/businesses that contribute to social and environmental justice.
- Audit our waste and develop recommendations to reduce it.
- Audit our energy use and seek a green provider of renewable electric power.
- Encourage and build the capacity and capability of our congregation to take individual action on climate change by running educational and self-reflection sessions in after-church programs.
- Seek opportunities to collaborate, support or partner with inner city congregations, the City of Melbourne and other groups in actions addressing climate change. Join the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change.



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

CULTURE OF SAFETY 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 with the assistance of many St Michael's people.

The National Child Safe Policy Framework 2022 now provides the foundation for the continued development of good policy and practice across the life of Uniting Churches throughout Australia.

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

The Victorian Commission for Children and Young People published new Child Safe Standards, which came into force on 1 July 2022. Any changes to the Standards have been incorporated into our current policies and practices. 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 in 2022. We commit to providing safe places where people are cared for, nurtured and sustained. We commit to the care, safety and protection for all people, particularly those who are vulnerable.

Included are those;

- Living with a disability
- Who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, (or questioning) or Intersex (LGBTQI+)
- Living away from home
- Who are First Nations people
- Who are culturally and linguistically diverse

In 2022 the National Uniting Church Child Safe Training Module was developed for all appointed leaders. Our church council members will be completing this module.

Protecting children and vulnerable adults is both an individual and collective responsibility for our church. Thank you to all who have worked together to ensure St Michael's continues to be a safe place for all people.

MINGARY-CAIRNMILLAR COUNSELLING SERVICE

The collaboration between the Cairnmillar Institute and St Michael's continued in 2022.

The Mingary-Cairnmillar Counselling Service operated at St Michael's on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There were lower numbers of clients at the beginning of 2022 due to lockdowns, but numbers increased as the year progressed.

The new cohort of students began in March when the St Michael's office re-opened and the service resumed both face-to-face and telehealth services. By June 2022 there was a full cohort of students on Tuesday (9 student clinicians) and Thursday (8 students).

Listed below is a breakdown of the numbers of client services provided by the Mingary-Cairnmillar Counselling Service throughout 2022:

Key:

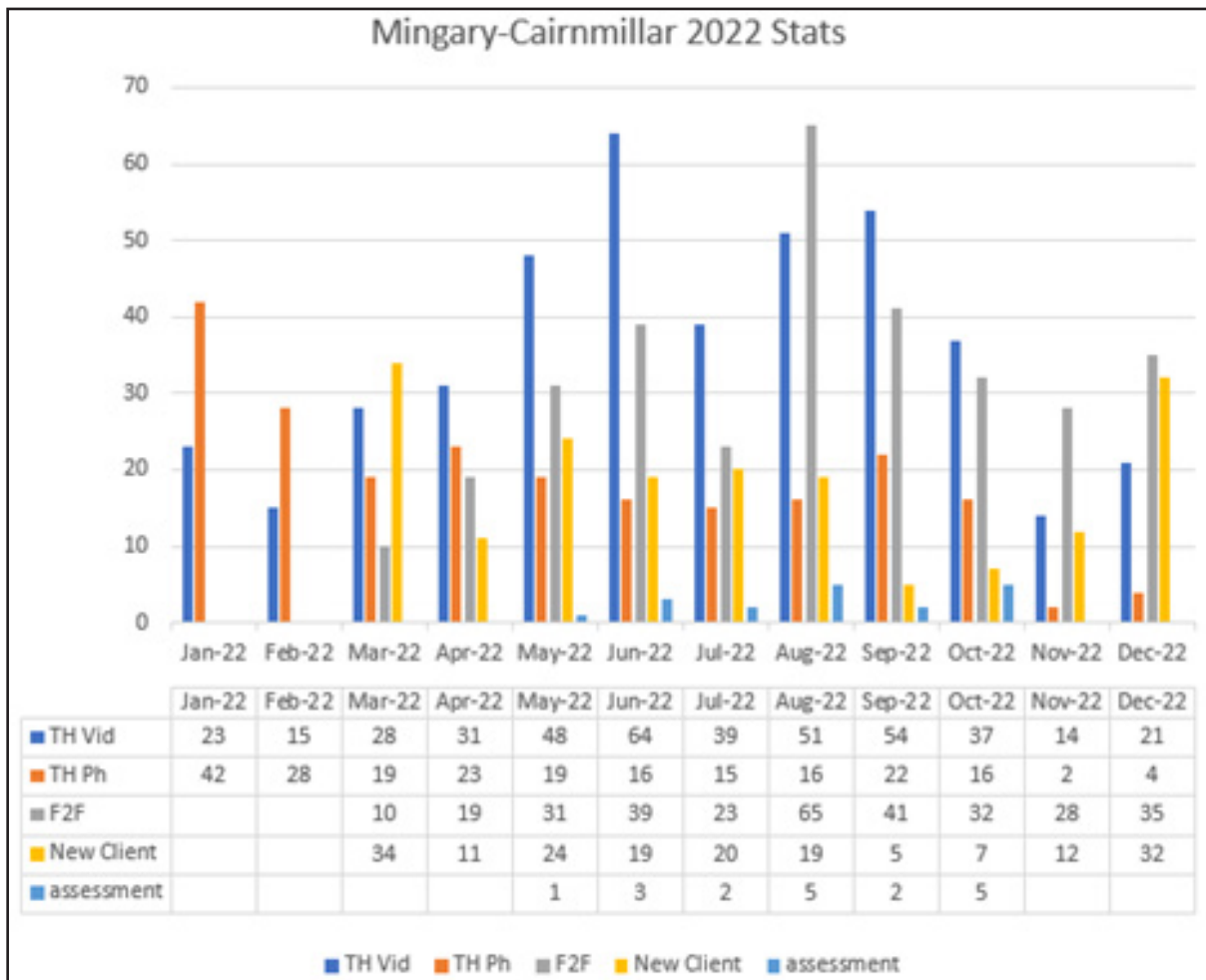
TH Vid = video consult

TH Ph = phone consult

F2F = in person consult

New Client = new client queries – intake and booked

First two months we were not onsite yet due to Covid lockdown at the end of 2021



BAPTISMS
15



DEATHS OF
ST MICHAEL'S MEMBERS
10



MARRIAGES
15



WEDDING BLESSINGS:
3

TREASURER'S REPORT – YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

TREASURER: IAN COX



Finance Committee 2022

Ian Cox (Treasurer), Evelyn McLaren, Max Telfer, Peter Anderson, Cheryl Powers, Val Gill, Rev Dr Margaret Mayman (ex officio) and Finance/Operations manager - Glen Tonkes (ex officio)

GENERAL OPERATIONS

The congregation's operating revenue was derived mainly by a drawdown from the U Ethical Cash Management Fund investment, totalling \$859,410 for 2022.

Whilst 2022 saw the return of in-person service, which was greatly welcomed, we still felt the negative impacts of the pandemic. As in 2021, a reduction in our revenue streams of weddings, room/church hires and offerings were still being felt. To add to this scenario, during 2022 our neighbour (Investa) at 120 Collins Street began their foyer refurbishment and the impact of the demolition and construction has also contributed to a slow-down of our revenue generating activities. We have been advised that construction works are meant to continue up to the end of July 2023.

Given what has been a difficult year, the Council closely monitored all areas of expenditure, enabling us to not exceed our 2022 budgeted target. The Council 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 and Giving budget.

Wider Church

The congregation donated \$1,615 to the Sikh Volunteers being our "St Michael's Day" offering.

Administration

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

Personnel

Throughout 2022 St Michael's employed the following staff: Organist/Manager of Music, Technical Manager, Finance/Operations Manager, Administration Staff x 1.5 and 4 x casual Church Vergers/ Technical Assistants.

ST MICHAEL'S ACTIVITIES

Property

Funds expended during 2022 were for general repairs and maintenance and property operational expenses. 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 in this area covered the cost of providing music for all 'in person' and online church services, general ministerial expenses and any other expense relating to church services and events.

Promotion, Publications & Programs

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

INVESTMENTS AND RESERVES

Investments with the U Ethical Investments and the National Australia Bank continued during 2022.

U Ethical Growth Fund investment has been valued at current market value as at 31/12/22. The U Ethical Growth Fund has a total of 3,752,687 units (held at call).

U Ethical Enhanced Income Trust is valued at current market value as at 31/12/22.

Income for 2022 derived from the U Ethical Growth Fund and U Ethical Enhanced Income Trust investments totalled \$761,405 (2021 \$906,246) 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 31/12/22:

- Dorothy Claire Harvey-Kelly: \$1,259,563.

At any time, an application 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.

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Contents

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

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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 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue	3	873,200	1,124,287
Less Expenditure			
Personnel			
Employee benefits expense		276,978	336,642
Contractors and consultants		143,237	147,769
Administration			
Printing & stationery		27,158	28,226
Telephone & postage		5,532	6,499
Audit & finance costs		11,018	10,072
Other costs		17,206	17,668
Property			
Maintenance		81,044	65,945
Electricity & gas		22,590	24,088
Insurance		42,268	33,494
Cleaning materials		2,789	766
Property charges		136,895	55,993
Church services			
Music		57,568	42,721
Ministry		7,822	6,143
Sunday service, verger, flowers etc		32,301	20,239
Festivals		3,528	300
Promotions, publications & programs			
Advertising & promotions		30,597	23,774
Synod mission budget		65,000	65,000
Outreach programs		12,378	19,316
Mingary expenses		2,330	26,666
Rental expenses		2,260	1,783
Wedding expenses		14,104	11,377
Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year		(121,403)	179,806
Investing activities			
Movement in fair value of financial assets	3	(2,431,571)	3,200,026
Realised gains	3	-	61,098
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(2,552,974)	3,440,930
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		(2,552,974)	3,440,930

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 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	182,591	248,002
Trade and other receivables	5	9,384	6,104
Financial assets	6	3,622,916	3,713,456
Other assets	7	6,839	6,876
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>3,821,730</u>	<u>3,974,438</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
U Ethical Growth Fund	6	22,828,721	25,218,807
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>22,828,721</u>	<u>25,218,807</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>26,650,451</u>	<u>29,193,245</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	13,659	14,725
Employee benefits	10	84,395	75,949
Other liabilities	9	7,800	5,000
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>105,854</u>	<u>95,674</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>105,854</u>	<u>95,674</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>26,544,597</u>	<u>29,097,571</u>
EQUITY			
Reserves		23,285,937	25,731,231
Accumulated Surpluses		3,258,660	3,366,340
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>26,544,597</u>	<u>29,097,571</u>

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 2022

2022

	Accumulated surpluses \$	UCA Growth Fund reserve \$	General Purpose reserve \$	Future maintenance reserve \$	Niches Reserve \$	Gladys Barker Bequest Fund \$
Balance at 1 January 2022	3,366,340	25,218,807	-	280,000	36,076	26,013
Surplus for the year	(2,552,974)	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer (to)/from reserves	2,445,294	(2,390,086)	170,199	7,017	(36,076)	(26,013)
Balance at 31 December 2022	3,258,660	22,828,721	170,199	287,017	-	-

2022

	Smeeth Family Fund \$	Marie McVeigh Fund \$	Mingary Fund \$	Illalangj Fund - Youth Projects \$	Music & Arts Fund \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2022	59,537	65,816	-	38,702	6,280	29,097,571
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	-	-	(2,552,974)
Transfer (to)/from reserves	(59,537)	(65,816)	-	(38,702)	(6,280)	-
Balance at 31 December 2022	-	-	-	-	-	26,544,597

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 2022

2021

Balance at 1 January 2021

Surplus for the year

Income & funds allocated to reserves / transferred from retained earnings

Funds paid and allocated from / transferred to retained earnings

Balance at 31 December 2021

2021

Balance at 1 January 2021

Surplus for the year

Income & funds allocated to reserves / transferred from retained earnings

Funds paid and allocated from / transferred to retained earnings

Balance at 31 December 2021

Accumulated surpluses	UCA Growth Fund reserve	Capital Account	Future maintenance reserve	Niches Reserve	Gladys Barker Bequest Fund
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2,195,538	22,951,041	-	229,996	35,468	41,833
3,440,930	-	-	-	-	-
(2,318,520)	2,267,766	-	50,004	750	-
48,392	-	-	-	(142)	(15,820)
3,366,340	25,218,807	-	280,000	36,076	26,013

Smeeth Family Fund	Marie McVeigh Fund	Mingary Fund	Illalangi Fund - Youth Projects	Music & Arts Fund	Total
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
75,357	81,636	790	38,702	6,280	25,656,641
-	-	-	-	-	3,440,930
-	-	-	-	-	-
(15,820)	(15,820)	(790)	-	-	-
59,537	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

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

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.

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.

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(b) Revenue and other income

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 2022

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

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Operating income		
- U Ethical Growth Fund income	745,601	906,246
- Offerings	59,207	66,851
- Rental income	8,670	5,400
- Interest income	22,363	2,242
- Weddings income	26,600	26,300
- Mingary Counselling	-	17,864
- Donations	10,759	6,317
- Government stimulus	-	93,067
	<u>873,200</u>	<u>1,124,287</u>
Investing income		
- Fair value movement of UCA Growth Fund investments	(2,390,086)	3,206,668
- Fair value movement of UCA Enhanced Cash Trust - Wholesale investments	(41,485)	(6,642)
	<u>(2,431,571)</u>	<u>3,200,026</u>
Total movement in fair value of financial assets		
- Realised gains from disposal of UCA Growth Fund investments	-	61,098
	<u>(1,558,371)</u>	<u>4,385,411</u>
Total Revenue and other income		

St Michael's Uniting Church

ABN: 41 690 255 701

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

4 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Cash on hand	750	750
Cash at bank	181,841	247,252
	<u>182,591</u>	<u>248,002</u>

5 Trade and Other Receivables

CURRENT		
GST receivable	9,384	6,104
	<u>9,384</u>	<u>6,104</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	3,622,916	3,713,456
NON-CURRENT		
U Ethical Growth Fund	(a) 22,828,721	25,218,807

(a) U Ethical Growth Fund investments with a total of 3,752,687 units, are held at call with the Uniting Church in Australia.

7 Other Assets

CURRENT		
Prepayments	6,839	6,876

8 Trade and Other Payables

CURRENT		
Trade creditors	10,725	11,094
Sundry creditors	2,934	3,631
	<u>13,659</u>	<u>14,725</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 2022

9 Other Liabilities

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Wedding deposits	7,800	5,000

10 Employee Benefits

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Provision for employee benefits	84,395	75,949

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 \$1,259,563, as at 31 December 2022 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 2022 is \$63,121.

12 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

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 2022 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 13 April 2023

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 2022, 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: 20 April 2023

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

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial report of St Michael's Uniting Church, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, 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 2022 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 Qualified Opinion

Completeness of income

Controls previously established over collection of offerings and donations were not applied during the year. Accordingly, as the evidence available to us regarding offering and donation income, prior to the entry into the financial records was limited, our procedures with respect to offerings and donations were restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. We therefore are unable to express an opinion whether offerings and donations intended for St Michael's Uniting Church were received are materially complete.

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 qualified 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.

St Michael's Uniting Church

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

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.



St Michael's Uniting Church

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

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
Saward Dawson

Peter Shields

Peter Shields
Partner

Blackburn VIC
Dated this 20 day of April 2023

ST MICHAEL'S DAY REFLECTIONS - "WHAT ST MICHAEL'S MEANS TO ME"



Peter Anderson



Phil Boase



Margaret Dowsett

PHIL BOASE

Liz and I started connecting with St Michael's in February 2020 soon after we moved here from Adelaide. I say "connecting" rather than "attending" because it was mainly online for the first year or so.

We had been very involved in a progressive Uniting Church community in Adelaide with a focus on the arts and a commitment to social justice. A dear friend from that congregation suggested we try St Michael's. We did and we found our new spiritual home.

Initially I found joy in the fact that technology allowed us, and so many other people, to be connected with this church during the lockdowns. Having an IT background and having spent much of my time behind the sound desk in previous churches it was not surprising that that's where I gravitated to once again.

And becoming a verger has formally recognised a role that I naturally tend to do. I like being in the background and enabling things to happen for other people.

Reflecting on this theme of Joy, I realised why I like sitting up there in the corner, or cleaning rubbish off the front steps and preparing the building for worship. It's not just that I enjoy the tasks (and yes I do find it curiously satisfying to

clean the front steps), it's that it gives me joy to have a sense of purpose. In my own way I guess I'm receiving joy and hopefully giving some joy by helping to make sure the worship can run smoothly.

But that's not the only joy I've experienced. It's been with an increasing sense of joy that I've watched St Michael's make the transition through the last couple of years. It's been a challenging time - but also joyful - to find a way through the pandemic at the same time as developing a new ministry under Margaret's leadership. I've been observing a number of changes in the style of worship and finding it becoming even more meaningful and relevant for me.

I've seen more connections being made with the wider community and with social justice through the CBD Justice Coalition and of course Mingary and Cairnmillar. I've seen our return to in-person worship and the gradual return of activities and events.

Probably the best part for me is getting to know the people of St Michael's more and more. It's our connections with each other that allow us to live joy and to give joy.

That's what St Michael's means to me.

PETER ANDERSON

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, wherever you've come from, wherever you're going to, whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe - you are welcome.

Those inclusive, non-judgemental words are central to my belonging to St Michael's.

They reflect St Michael's progressive theology - which does not try and enforce beliefs - but allows for the questions and doubts which are all part of the journey.

The joy of outstanding music here at St Michael's is such an integral part of our worship - especially today - St Michael's Day. I appreciate that St Michael's embraces the idea of music and the arts nourishing the human spirit.

Being deeply involved in the preservation and revitalisation of this beautiful heritage building has deepened my appreciation of this place.

The building itself exudes a feeling of brightness and optimism which adds to the pleasure of being here.

St Michael's has been part of this city for over one hundred and fifty years - we have

the responsibility of not only carrying on that tradition but carving out a new path into the future.

I am encouraged how St Michael's has faced, and is facing, challenges not only with resilience but with optimism and hope. We are a church with a forward focus - we have a vision and a well thought out strategic plan.

I deeply appreciate that St Michael's is a church which stands for something, such as our advocacy for the environment and the many facets of social justice.

It is worth reflecting on Paul's encouragement for us to focus on what is honourable, just, and commendable - I believe that St Michael's does try to put these words into practice.

My faith journey is enriched by the total experience: Margaret's outstanding ministry, sacred words ancient and modern, the music, the building, talented and supportive people including those behind the scenes and the focus on moving forward.

- St Michael's is a stimulating, thought-provoking, joyful place. It lifts my spirits.

MARGARET DOWSETT

The first word that came to mind when I was asked to speak briefly on this theme was connection. I came to St Michael's 25 years ago, after the breakdown of my marriage, and found a place where I was welcomed. The connections I made were on a heart level where warmth, caring, and personal stories were shared.

Connection is also on a spiritual level where reflections, music, readings and prayers invite me to a sacred space. This is an anchoring place for my week. A place to be still, to know the energy of those over the years who have gathered here, and for that energy to be carried by me and shared with others.

Connection also comes with intellectual challenge where new ideas are presented, when new interpretations are made on beliefs, when familiar stories are turned sideways to gain another perspective that I'd not considered before, when situations are presented of which I have no personal experience. All of this I value as I incorporate this new understanding into my days.

Connection is also on a social level. This was clearly brought home to me when through lockdown we were so restricted in what we could do and where we could go. When we were able to be back in the church building for services but not able to meet afterwards for tea and coffee, somehow it seemed that our coming together was incomplete. There is such warmth in sharing with others with a simple cup of tea or coffee and the opportunity to get to know and share with others.

**ST MICHAEL'S
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