



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Sunday 24 July 2022

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 the elders of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation.

Attendance and Apologies

There were 46 members in attendance. Apologies were noted from Joy Arnot, Rupert Cassidy, Peter Kahane, Margaret Lade, and Josie Telfer.

Confirmation of Minutes if the AGM – 28 November 2021

A motion was put by Ian Cox and seconded by Catherine Jones to confirm the Minutes of the AGM held on 28 November 2021.

Motion Carried

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction Council Chairperson Laura Beckett

The Chairperson reported that the year 2021 had been challenging given the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the requirement to follow government guidelines which had resulted in the church's closure for extended periods. Also, the workload of the Minister was greatly increased due to the implementation of an "online" service as well as a "face to face" service.

Work was undertaken to ensure that people coming to church were welcomed and kept safe. Additionally, approximately five hundred people watched the online services each week and provided positive feedback. It was noted that due to the pandemic related lockdown an Annual General Meeting was not held in 2020. In addition, a number of council members due to retire decided to continue on the council for 2021. Graeme Adamson, Dean of Church Services for fifteen years, and Wilf Sawatzky, a member of Council for many years resigned. Their service to St Michael's over many years was acknowledged with gratitude.

Council Elections were held in 2021 and newly elected council members commenced in January 2022.

In December 2021 council members and representatives from Church Committees attended a Strategic Planning Workshop conducted by Terence Corkin. A total of forty-eight people were in attendance. The workshop was successful in reviewing the church's Strategic Directions and resulted in a commitment to progress the Strategic Plan.

Purcell heritage architects were commissioned to prepare a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) in 2020. Two working groups were involved in providing feedback to the architects during 2021 based on the church's vision and mission and in relation to building initiatives and maintenance. It was noted that the completed CMP would provide a policy framework for future major projects and future uses of the church in addition to key maintenance priorities.

It was reported that the Mingary Counselling Service had been restructured due to unsustainable escalating costs. Discussions with the Executive Director of Cairnmillar Institute resulted in a cost neutral approach whereby Cairnmillar took on responsibility for the service and for staffing provision. It was noted that the new structure provided counselling at no cost for clients. A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed and signed by Cairnmillar and the Church Council. The contribution of Dr Lynette Kramer as Director of Mingary for the last twenty-one years was acknowledged with gratitude.

Due to the lockdown associated with the pandemic the St Michael's Day Service was held online. The theme of the Service was "Lament, Healing and Hope." It was created by the Minister in collaboration with a small group of members of the congregation. The service was accompanied a "Lament, Healing and Hope" booklet, which told the story of St Michael's life in lockdown.

In conclusion the Chair of Council thanked the Minister and members of Council for their excellent work during 2021.

Committee Chair Comments

Property – Peter Anderson

The Chair noted that it had been a challenging year with many issues to be resolved involving the revitalisation of 120 Collins Street. However, after negotiations undertaken by Property Services adequate insurance of St Michael's was achieved to protect the church during the demolition and construction stages. Issues were identified with water ingress to the northern boundary of the church.

It was also noted that an emphasis on essential safety measures was required, and preliminary work was undertaken to address trip and fall hazards in the church.

On site visits for the CMP occurred in the early part of 2021 by Purcell architects including a review of the vision for the future uses of the church. It was noted that the completed CMP would include a history of the building; building condition reports and costed maintenance reports.

Church Services – Cheryl Power (Acting Chair)

The Acting Chair paid tribute to Graeme Anderson who had been Dean prior to his resignation from Council for many years. Also noted was the success of the online services during the COVID-19 pandemic and the excellent work undertaken by the Minister and those in technical services. The work of the security team was also acknowledged and those members of the congregation who ensured that covid requirements were met in addition to their welcoming duties each Sunday morning.

Contact And Care – Lyndell O'Brien

The Chair noted the important work undertaken by the Committee to care and support people and keep members of the congregation in touch with each other during the pandemic. Key activities included the work undertaken through the Prayer Tree; Welcomers and Ushers and First Aid Teams; and keeping up with the many regulations that required implementation during the pandemic. Morning tea in the Hall after the service was an important opportunity for people to gather and interact with each other.

Programs – Lorraine Woolley

The year 2021 presented many challenges however the Programs Committee provided much needed support to the congregation through the following programs: Zoom Connect Sessions and Zoom Cuppa after the Sunday Service. Other programs included Mindfulness Meditation; Marcus Borg- Beyond Belief; and Women's Poetry and the Men's Discussion Group. In conclusion the Chair thanked all those involved in the delivery of programs for their outstanding contribution to the life of the church.

Culture Of Safety Contact – Val Gill

The work of adopting and implementing the SAFE CHURCH policies and procedures continued during the year ensuring that St Michael's was compliant with all the necessary requirements. The church also reaffirmed the Keeping Children Safe Statement of Commitment and reviewed the Keeping Children Safe Code of Conduct.

Minister's Comment – Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

The Minister noted that the life of St Michael's was vibrant and caring, and thanked the Chair of Council and members of Council for their engagement in sharing in leadership through the second year of the pandemic and beyond. The Minister noted the importance of worship, the sacraments, and the pastoral care for members of the community. The significance of an inclusive and accessible church, and a warm welcome were also noted

In reflecting on leadership in the context of a pandemic and ministry in the 21st century the Minister noted that a central aspect of this is discerning with people the way forward together as we seek to respond to needs of the city.

Adoption of 2021 Annual Report

A motion was put by Simon McCall and seconded by Susan Fleming to accept the 2021 Annual Report.

Motion Carried

Financial Report – Ian Cox, Treasurer

Treasurer Ian Cox referred to the financial reports consisting of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021. The Treasurer noted: that the congregation contributed \$65,000 to the Synod Mission Budget; expenditure incurred by the Property, Church Services and Programs Committees; 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 Peter Anderson and Jeanette Noy to accept the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Motion Carried

Presentation Of The Budget For 2022

A Motion was put by Ian Cox and Max Telfer to approve the Budget for 2022

Motion Carried

Appointment Of Auditors For 2022

A motion was put by Ian Cox and Peter Anderson to reappoint Auditors Saward Dawson Chartered Accountants for 2022

Motion Carried

Presbytery Representatives

The Proposal that Lorraine Woolley and Margaret Lade be nominated as St Michael's representatives to Presbytery of Yarra Yarra for 2023 was put by Laura Beckett and seconded by Val Gill.

Motion Carried

The Meeting closed at 1pm.