



Church Council Update April 2023

At the meeting of the Council, held on April 20, the following items were among those reported and discussed:

Annual General Meeting of the Congregation

The Council finalised plans for the AGM to take place on Sunday 30 April at 11:45am.

Constitutional Referendum

The Council affirmed its support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and Referendum 'Yes' position on recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution, and the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. The Council agreed to take steps to communicate our support to the wider community.

Minister's Leave

Margaret will be on study and annual leave from May 2 until June 5, visiting England and Ireland.

During that time, services will be conducted by the following people:

7 May: Rev Dr Sunny Chen (Presbytery Minister, Congregations)

14 May: Dr Liz Boase (Associate Professor and Dean of the School of Graduate Research at the University of Divinity, and member of St Michael's)

21 May: Rev Lauren Mosso (Synod chaplaincy coordinator)

28 May Pentecost: Rev Sandy Boyce (Executive Officer, Victoria Council of Churches)

5 June: Rev David Dawes

Easter Services

The Council congratulated Margaret, Rhys and the Church Services Committee on the quality of the Easter services.

Pastor

We have received 3 applications for the position from qualified candidates and interviews are proceeding.

Pastoral Care

Margaret shared a discussion paper on pastoral care at St Michael's which outline a pastoral friend model, already in place at a number of churches. The intent of the paper was welcomed by Lyndell. Planning and implementation will take some time and will be progressed by Contact & Care and the minister (and the Pastor when an appointment is made) and reported back to Council.

Disability Action Plan

The Council received the Disability Action Plan from Synod. It will be discussed more fully at the next meeting. <https://victas.uca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Disability-Action-Plan-2023-2026-online.pdf>

Finance Report

Council received the annual finance report for consideration at the Annual General Meeting. The financial position of St Michael's in 2023 remains ahead of budget.

Property Report

St Michael's Walk – Lawyers acting for both for UCA, and Kane Constructions are negotiating a Deed of Access to St Michael's Walk during construction. At the time of writing this report a draft Deed had been prepared but not agreed.

North Boundary – Kane have commenced erecting a second retaining wall on their side of the boundary, thus creating a concrete pit or vault between the two walls. On 12 April representatives of Tim Cousins, forensic engineers and Basic Expert fire services met onsite with Rina Neustroski, Synod Property Services. All expressed satisfaction with the design. Both firms now need to continue their investigations.

Dust Damage to Church Façade and Stained Glass Windows – Legal representatives from both sides have yet to reach agreement on indemnities for cleaning work to be carried out.