



### **Church Council Update July 2023**

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

#### **Uniting Church Review**

When the Uniting Church was formed, one sentence in the Basis of Union document was 'The Uniting Church will thereafter provide for the exercise by men and women of the gifts God bestows upon them, and will order its life in response to God's call to enter more fully into mission'.

Much in the world and society has changed since that commitment was made and the Uniting Church has embarked on a thorough and in-depth review which is ongoing. In June, the UCA issued another report on the issues and called for comment by all sections of the Church.

The Council has decided it will conduct a special meeting to consider its response to this invitation, the results of which will be shared with the congregation.

#### **Live Streaming of the Church Services**

The current arrangement by which edited videos of church services are made available on the internet has been reviewed and Council approved a proposal that:

'The minister, music manager and tech team implement live streaming of the full Sunday service when the minister and staff are confident that sufficient technical resources (human and audio/visual) are available; the livestream broadcast remain online until an edited version is uploaded within 48 hours; and the minister and music manager ensure that those involved in leading the service give permission for their involvement in liturgy or music to be broadcast in live (short term) and edited versions.'

The change is expected to be introduced in approximately 6 weeks.

#### **Keeping Children Safe**

As part of its pledge to maintain a Safe Church, the Uniting Church calls upon each church council annually to sign a statement of our commitment to keeping children safe and share this with our congregation. This was endorsed at the meeting.

#### **Construction of 120 Collins Street Building**

As reported after the May meeting, the Council was informed that the next phases of construction could disrupt access to the church building and eliminate the current means of moving from the church to the hall. Whilst this problem has been overcome by holding morning teas in the church, there remains the concern that the builder may seek incursion on our land which would threaten access to the church itself. We have now been assured this will not occur.

### **Appointment of a Lead Architect for the Revitalisation Project**

At the Project Control Group meeting held on 27 June 2023, presentations were given by two heritage architecture firms, Purcell and Trethowan. Following the presentations, the PCG met

to consider the tenders for the Lead Architect position. There was a clear and unanimous decision to seek the approval of the Church Council to proceed with the appointment of Trethowan as Lead Architect.

Council approved the recommendation.

### **Northern Boundary**

Council approved the recommendation of the Property Committee to accept the builder's offer to waterproof the northern boundary vault, provided the church sights plans and signs off on proposed drainage of the concrete vault and any roof or cover of the vault allows for adequate maintenance access.

### **Roof Scanning**

A recommendation to carry out an aerial scan of the church roof was approved.