

**NOMINEES FOR
ST MICHAEL'S COUNCIL ELECTION**

2023 NOMINATION STATEMENTS



Peter Anderson

Nominated by: Maree McDonald

Seconded by: Lorraine Woolley

CHURCH COUNCIL GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

I am a qualified accountant and company secretary (CPA and Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia).

During my professional career I held senior management positions in a heavily regulated insurance industry. Therefore, I am fully aware of and experienced in the concepts of good governance, compliance, risk management, strategic planning, accountability and sound financial management.

SPECIFIC SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES OF CHURCH COUNCILLOR

Extensive experience on local Church Councils, including periods serving as chair, treasurer, and secretary. Former board member of Uniting Resources NSW (property, finance and administrative services division of NSW Synod) chairing its audit and risk committee.

Board member, finance director and chair of the finance audit and risk committee at Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney, whilst embracing Lifeline's non-judgemental ethos in caring for others.

VOLUNTEER ROLES AT ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH

- Elected to Church Council in November 2018
- Joined Finance Committee in February 2019
- Appointed Chair - Property in September 2019.
- Communion server since February 2019.
- Appointed to the Revitalization Program – Project Control Group in January 2023.
- Acting Treasurer for periods during 2022 and 2023

GENERAL STATEMENT

I would welcome the congregation's support to continue working through the major property initiatives currently underway and further contribute to the implementation St Michael's strategic plan.



Laura Beckett

Nominated by: Maree McDonald

Seconded by: Val Gill

CHURCH COUNCIL GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

My previous professional experience was in healthcare and hospital management. I hold undergraduate and post graduate degrees in both.

I have had responsibility for the management of large teaching hospitals with multimillion-dollar budgets and large staff complements. I have extensive experience in governance, policy formulation and decision making at executive and board levels. My areas of accountability have included human resource management, financial and risk management, strategic and physical planning, clinical management, and quality improvement systems.

I have been a senior lecturer in health management and authored and presented papers. I now operate my own business which allows me the flexibility to attend meetings.

SPECIFIC SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES OF CHURCH COUNCILLOR

My professional experience in senior management equipped me well to undertake the role of Councillor of St Michael's.

I have excellent critical thinking skills and consider all aspects of the Council's work from a strategic perspective. My written, verbal, and electronic communication skills are strong. I am a confident public speaker and always been diligent in my preparation and contribution.

As the current Chair of Council, I am responsible to lead the Council by focusing on strategic matters, set high governance standards, oversee Council business, and progress the Strategic Mission Plan 2020 – 2024. This requires high level critical thinking, strategic and analytical skills, and good negotiation skills.

I enjoy working in a team and seeing the benefit from shared collaboration. Acknowledging and respecting the skills and experience of others is paramount to good teamwork. As Chair of Council, I work closely with the Minister, staff and Councillors ensuring that they, and the congregation, are supported.

CHURCH VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

I have been a member of St Michael's Uniting Church for 20 years and was elected to Council in 2004. Since then, I have been active on Council and contributed to many standing committees and working groups.

Committee work in the past five years:

- Chair of Council
- Chair of Mingary – Cairnmillar Committee
- Chair Strategic Planning Working Party
- Member Project Control Group

I am also a member of the Communion team and Readings roster.

GENERAL STATEMENT

St Michael's has been my spiritual community for over twenty years and continues to refresh, renew, and inspire me. I have enjoyed working on behalf of the congregation as a Councillor and been honoured to take on the role of Chair.

I am excited about the future of St Michaels and committed to our ongoing role as a church and congregation sharing progressive theology, compassion, justice, and inclusivity.

I would greatly appreciate further opportunity to work on your behalf as a member of Council.



Anthony Bendall

Nominated by: Laura Beckett

Seconded by: Val Gill

CHURCH COUNCIL GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

I am an Australian lawyer, and eligible for an unrestricted practising certificate in Victoria.

I have held a number of relevant professional and volunteer positions with regards to governance. I commence this week at the National Transport Commission, as Principal Policy Officer – Legislation. In that role, I will provide legal and policy advice to the Commissioner and to the national meeting of Transport Ministers, to preserve and progress national transport law and policy. I will manage a small team of legal and policy experts.

I most recently backfilled the role of Manager, Regulatory Policy, the Health Protection Branch of the Department of Health, on a short-term basis. This involved leading a small team that provides legislative and regulatory advice to the Chief Health Officer and other senior executives on public health issues in Victoria, including the drafting of public health orders.

From March 2012 to April 2013, I was the Acting Victorian Privacy Commissioner. In this capacity, I was the sole agency head and responsible for all legal, policy, financial, management, staffing and governance decisions of the agency. The Victorian Privacy Commissioner was a separate employer under Victorian legislation and had the status of a government department. In addition, I have a long history of membership of boards and management committees, including Living Positive Victoria, the Victorian Pride Lobby, Liberty Victoria, Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, JOY 94.9 and community legal centres.

SPECIFIC SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES OF CHURCH COUNCILLOR

As detailed above, I have extensive experience and skills in management and leadership.

I have an honours degree in Arts [BA Hons], a degree in Law [LLB] and a Doctor of Juridical Studies (SJD), all from the University of Sydney. I am an Australian Lawyer, admitted to the Supreme Court of NSW and the High Court of Australia and eligible for an unrestricted practising certificate.

I speak and write well. I have communicated and consulted with Ministers, their offices, members of Parliament, senior public servants, industry leaders, the judiciary, academics, people from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds, First Nations peoples and the media. I have given speeches and presentations at national and international conferences and seminars. I

have frequently appeared before parliamentary committees and as an advocate in courts and tribunals. I have also written a wide variety of documents, requiring a clear style and ability to communicate with diverse audiences. These include legal advice, policy papers, submissions, speeches, Ministerial briefs and guidance materials for the community, industry, and government. I previously wrote a regular column in the Star Observer, a weekly LGBTIQ+ community newspaper. I also write and present news bulletins at JOY 94.9, a Melbourne LGBTIQ+ community radio station.

I am a trained and experienced mediator and conciliator.

VOLUNTEER ROLES AT ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH

My most recent church volunteer experience is as a Reader at St Michael's.

I also have a long history of volunteer work within the Catholic church, in which I was raised, mostly at St Patrick's Cathedral parish in Parramatta, NSW. This ranged from being an altar boy in primary school, a member of St Patrick's choir, a reader, an outreach volunteer for the Society of St Vincent de Paul, a teacher of Catholic catechism at government primary schools, to membership of the Bishop of Parramatta's Committee for Justice and Peace.

My deep connection with the Catholic Church ended in my adult years, due to increasing concern and distress over the position of the Catholic church on the role of women, the rights and interests of the LGBTIQ+ people, the centralised power structure and in particular the woefully inadequate response to the systemic abuse of children and other vulnerable individuals.

GENERAL STATEMENT

As mentioned above, I experienced rejection by, and consequently towards, my original faith of Catholicism as I developed through my adult years.

As I revealed in my St Michael's Day reflection last year, I also experienced something of 'a dark night of the soul', with issues of shame, depression, anxiety, substance abuse and addiction making my life increasingly unmanageable.

My first contact with St Michael's was some years ago, as Dr Francis Macnab's appearances in the media and discussion of the healing power of faith attracted me to his writings and to the Sunday gatherings. During that period, I also explored the writings of John Shelby Spong, Marcus Borg and several others.

While all of that held, my slide into chaos continued, culminating in a complete collapse during the lockdowns in 2020. I have subsequently discovered that my neurodiversity probably played a part in that, as I was diagnosed with ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorder last year at the very ripe age of 57.

In that period, I discovered the Sunday gathering at St Michael's again, this time on YouTube. That, combined with my own reading and fairly intensive professional assistance led me to an inpatient rehab facility in NSW in late 2020 (as soon as the borders reopened) and to a deeper appreciation of progressive, contemplative Christianity.

This continues. I am about to enrol at the University of Divinity to study theology part-time in 2024. My fervent desire is to combine contemplation with action. Together with volunteer activities with Act for Peace, the World Council of Churches, Amnesty International and Fitzroy Legal Service, membership of the Church Council is a tangible way for me to embody and enact my rediscovered and revitalised faith.



John Coppock OAM

Nominated by: Ian Cox

Seconded by: Stuart Reid

CHURCH COUNCIL GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

I am a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, and a Fellow of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. All these organisations continually demand all the governance responsibilities required of a Church Council.

SPECIFIC SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES OF CHURCH COUNCILLOR

I was previously Chairman of Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd, Chairman of the Australian Pharmaceutical Publishing Company. I have just retired as President of the Pharmacist's Support Service, a not-for-profit organisation. I am also a Director of the Monash University Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science Foundation.

My skills and attributes of Church Councillors are constantly to the fore with my involvement with the above organisations.

VOLUNTEER ROLES AT ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH

I have been a Councillor of St Michael's since 2008 and on the Executive 2010 until 2014.

I am currently Chairman of the Bequest Committee, on the Door Roster and part of the Communion Preparation team. I have been on the Door Roster for Thursday opening of the Church and on Sunday mornings as well as acted as tour guide.

GENERAL STATEMENT

My reason for standing for Council of St Michael's for another term is because I would like to continue to assist St Michael's as we move forward in the future.



Ian Cox

Nominated by: Alan Wilson

Seconded by: Stuart Reid

CHURCH COUNCIL GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

My professional career in the finance and banking industry and as a Company Director has developed my skills and experience in Governance. I am a Member of the Institute of Company Directors, was first elected a Director in 1986 and have served on a number of Boards since which has, together with my career in Banking as a Regional Agribusiness Manager and then Senior Manager Agribusiness Industries, resulted in extensive experience in the governance, strategic planning, risk analysis, finance and people management skills required for the position of Church Councillor.

SPECIFIC SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES OF CHURCH COUNCILLOR

I have formal qualifications in Agriculture, Management and Property Valuations and extensive experience in Management and Finance after a career in Banking and Consulting and as a Company Director.

As a Regional Manager in the Bank I had to have the ability to manage people, plan business development, develop great analytical and communication skills, think strategically and work with the community, all the skills required of a Church councillor.

My continuing career as a Company Director has enhanced and developed these skills.

VOLUNTEER ROLES AT ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH

I first attended St Michael's in 1981 and joined in 1983.

In 1997 I was first elected to Council and was appointed to the Finance Committee in 1998 at which time I chaired a property insurance committee and a term as Deputy of the Household Deanery. In 2009 I was appointed to the Executive and in 2017 elected Treasurer, a position I still hold today.

During this time I have served and continue to serve in whatever way I can to assist in the work of St Michael's and the St Michael's community. This includes Door Duty and Communion preparation..

GENERAL STATEMENT

My professional experience demonstrate my ability and capacity to undertake the important role of Councillor for St Michael's, my history at St Michael's demonstrates my commitment to the work of St Michael's and the St Michael's community.

St Michael's has been and is an important part of my life, I will be happy to continue to serve St Michael's in whatever way I can, or you, the congregation , would like me to serve.

I think St Michael's is an important part of Melbourne and it has been an important part of my life, I seek your support to continue the work and position of St Michael's in the City of Melbourne.