

Church Council Update July 2024

Dear St Michael's Community,

At the monthly meeting of the Church Council held on July 18 meeting we received reports from our Committees and Working Groups and discussed a number of governance matters that are important for our congregation.

The Church Revitalisation Project

Planning for the Church Revitalisation Project has been underway for some time. The Revitalisation will address our desire to make the main body of the church accessible for people with disability.

One aspect of this is to make the St Michael's Walk entrance less of a bottle neck and enable equitable access to the body of the church and the sanctuary.

In a move that will benefit everyone, we plan to build new internal access toilets on the footprint of the current toilets. One of the toilets will be compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

We are excited that we have now completed the first stage of the project, the Feasibility Study. Rina Neustroski, from Property Services (UCA VicTas Synod), joined the meeting via Zoom to speak to the next phase of the project, and answer our questions.

The 'Design & Construct' method of working with an architect and a builder was explained to Council. In the next phase of the project, the Builder will be the Principal Consultant responsible for delivering the project within budget. The Builder will work alongside the Lead Architect (Trethowan) as a key consultant to prioritise design and vision. This model manages budgetary risk, where a maximum price is set, within which the Builder must deliver the project.

The Project Control Group (PCG) will continue to guide and manage relationships between consultants throughout the project.

It is estimated that construction will begin around April 2025. Rina emphasised that the Synod strongly supports this project going ahead.

Margaret acknowledged Rina's work to date, particularly her negotiations with builders and the architect about the proposed methodology.

After Rina left the meeting, the Council agreed to proceed using the Design and Construct model and engaging a Builder as the Principal Consultant and Trethowan Architecture as the Lead Consultant. A budget for the project was set.

Safe Church Update

Val Gill (Safe Church Representative) and Glen Tonkes (Finance/Operations Manager) were thanked for their work in developing updated Security Proposals to ensure that St Michael's is a safe place for everyone. The Council takes seriously its responsibility for ensuring that Sunday Services and other events are safe for employees, worship leaders and congregation, and people leading or attending other events. It is vital that Council members, and employees, and security volunteers are equipped to identify and act in a situation where security is an issue.

OH&S Policies and Procedures

Glen Tonkes and Consultant (Emma Pereira) have developed Human Resource and Occupational Health and Safety policies and procedures for employees which, until now, had been lacking at St Michael's. We are now fully compliant, and our staff now have access to up-to-date information.

Minister's Report

Among the items contained in her report, Margaret shared her early planning for St Michael's Day 2024 which will be celebrated on Sunday 22 September. The working title for St Michael's Day is to "Peace in our hearts and peace in the land."

Associated with St Michael's Day there will be an evening concert currently planned for Wednesday 25 September.

Margaret also thanked members of the office staff, Alana Pryor-Leong and Marcus Matthews, for their excellent work on Open House Melbourne arrangements in collaboration with Mission Coordinating Committee chairperson, Ann Kinnear.

Committee Appointments

We are delighted to report that:

- ❖ Robert Cleghorn has been appointed a member of the Church Services Committee.
- ❖ Anthony Bendall has been appointed a member of the Programs Sub-Committee.

Brian Smith
Secretary, Church Council