



THE VILLAGE  
METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees  
Friday July 3rd 2015 7:30pm**

**To be led by Vice Chair Nigel Utting**

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Staff salary review

**To be led by Chair Rev. Michael Hydes**

3. Minutes of the last meeting.
4. Reports:

**Monthly**

Pastor's report

Treasurer's reports

**Quarterly**

Stewardship Team (n/a)

**Events Team (Due July)**

Mission Team (n/a)

5. Any Other Business to be added to item 11?
6. Pride update
7. Safeguarding.
8. Health and Safety.
9. Charitable Status.
10. Board Member/Lay Delegate and Pastor meetings.
11. A.O.B.
12. Closing Prayer.

Board of trustee meetings are the first Friday of every month, (unless otherwise arranged), except December and August when there are no board meetings. Quarterly reports are due at the January, April, July, and October board meetings. If you are not able to attend a meeting please appoint a proxy. They will not be eligible to vote but will represent your opinions and add their voice to the meeting.

Thank you Keith for these minutes:

**Minutes of the meeting of the Board of directors held Friday 05 June 2015 At Ann and Linda's Southwick.**

Board Present: Rev. Michael Hydes (Pastor), Ann Wilkinson (At Large), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Jean Hatton (lay delegate and safeguarding). Others: Simon Markham, Linda Moore. Apologies: Wendy Foster (Secretary), Nigel Utting (Vice Chair)

Order as per the agenda circulated previously

1: RM opened in Prayer at 7.30 pm: RM Thanked SM and LM for standing in for NU and WF

2: Minutes of last meeting: RM feedback that a what's on guide on our site would probably not be used. There is a site that was created but is no longer updated, 'Real Brighton' we are going to speak to the owner of the site to see if we can sponsor it and take it over. Mary Bacchoo may be willing to take on H&S RM will check. KF spoke to Robert about an archivist and he is too busy to take this on. No other comments 'accepted' Proposed RM sec AW

3-10 Reports: Pastor's report as distributed. RM spoke a bit about the meeting on May 08th looking at issues around older LGBT people. Together with others looking at needs that exist and what is available, and seeing if there is something we can do either by running or supporting other works. No other questions. Report agreed Prop KF sec AW

Treasurer's report Accounts as distributed. Prepared by RM. KF has taken on looking after the accounts and is currently coordinating with RM re handing over all the papers. Online accounts have been set up and are updated via dropbox. At end of May we have £2961.31 in the bank. We owe MCC tithes which now the account is running we will pay and also the money collected for the Global Justice Institute. Agreed Prop AW sec KF No other reports due at this time.

13 Pride: There was no further news yet about the stall, RM would chase this up. The events team are due to meet again and more details will be forthcoming after that. Encourage the congregation to start thinking steam punk fancy dress. More info needed about possible prizes and costs. Small labels could be attached to any items we buy.

14: Networking Gathering: RM will be going to the network gathering. Rochelle has confirmed that they will pay for one room. We have asked if they will pay for two half rooms as Chris is already paid for as is Sarah Burgess. This would cover Wendy to go and RM.

15: G Scene Advert: RM had distributed two documents prior to the meeting as a starting point for discussion. After working together we decided on. *A gay church? Probably. An inclusive church? Definitely! A Christian church certainly. Celebrating LGBT lives as spiritually sacred. Reaching out into our communities, Supporting each other. Meeting Sundays 6pm, at the Somerset Day Centre 62 St James's St Brighton east Sussex BN2 1PR. Tel 07476 66733. [www.thevillagemcc.org](http://www.thevillagemcc.org)*

16: Safeguarding: The board needs to apply for the form and the DBS for RM. The Secretary needs to do this. JH will liaise with WF as to what needs to be done. The cost is £44.00

17: H&S RM speaking to Mary Bacchoo

18: Charitable Status: Ongoing. Still need to find committee members for this.

19: Board and lay delegate 1-2-1 meeting with pastor. RM is keen for these to happen on a regular basis and asks that dates be arranged soon. RM is away for two weekends in August 15th for the Network gathering and 22nd for a family wedding. In anticipation of this RM will draw up a schedule of unlocking and locking procedures for the Somerset Day Center in case of need.

20 AOB: Internet. The Sunday sermon links are getting some good exposure with one recently being watched 600 times. This shows that our reach is locally nationally and internationally with a following in Australia for some reason. Preachers should remember this when preaching. The board felt that the congregation needs to be updated about this so that they know the effect of our ministry. If people are comfortable doing so, we will encourage more 'sharing of these posts on facebook. This will help reach an even wider audience.

Emails: Email accounts for the pastor and board are being set up on our website. The mails from previous 'Pastor' emails are being redirected to this account.

Brunswick Festival: This is in August. The board felt that this event was not one that would help us reach the LGBT communities. It was felt therefore that we would not have a presence this year. The email will be forwarded to MCC Brighton in case they wish to attend.

Trans Pride : We have received an e mail inviting us together with MCC Brighton and MCC North London to share a stall at trans pride this year. This is a big step forward for them as last year we were excluded. This would be an opportunity to represent MCC at large and bring the message that it is ok to be trans and have faith. This is not a publicity exercise for us this is a chance for us to be there for the trans community to talk. KF will follow up the email on behalf of the board, offering to help co ordinate the arrangements if they others wish to be a part of this.

Next Meeting July 3rd at Ann and Linda's. Remember there is no meeting in August.

13: Closing Prayer 9.10

## Pastor's Report for June 2015

These are the highlights from June's calendar:

- Tuesday June 2nd, Webinar with OCLH (Office of church life and health).
- Wednesday June 3rd, meet with One Spirit minister Felice Rhiannon to look at ways of creating events that meet the needs of older lesbian women.
- Thursday June 4th, Stonewall housing meeting at Community Base, met with Owl House representatives to talk about ways of supporting their project in Brighton. Linda kindly offered to act as Liaison, I am waiting for contact details.
- Friday June 5th, Board meeting
- Saturday June 6th, met with Billie Lewis of the *Brighton LGBT Community Safety Forum*, and James Ledworth of *G-Scene*. We talked about highlighting the work of the Village MCC and James said he would write an article for the Pride issue. (This month I write in *G-Scene* on transgender pride, our new advert is in the classifieds under a new heading 'LGBT CHURCH' - there will be an article on the PRIDE issue on The Village MCC).
- Wednesday June 10th - two pastoral visits. 90 minutes each (At members homes)
- Saturday June 13th - Volunteering with *Lunch Positive* cooking for *Hand in Hand* LGBT choir event. Thank you to Simon who also very kindly joined me for the day.
- Wednesday June 17th - Pastoral care visit (not a church attendee) - 3 hrs grief support.
- Thursday June 18th - two pastoral visits. 90 minutes each. (At members homes)
- Friday June 19th - Cooking with lunch positive 10am - 2:30pm.
- Saturday June 20th - Met with Greg from The *Brighton Rough Sleepers Street Services Relocation Team (RSSRT)*
- Sunday June 21st - Events meeting in the morning - Golden Handbags event in the evening. (We were nominated for a community service award).
- Thursday June 25th - pastoral visit in the morning (not church attendee). In the evening Keith and I met to update accounts, check the online banking system, and talk about the Pride stall.
- Sunday June 28th - Special service exploring poverty led by Mary Bacchoo.

Service attendance June 7 - **18**, June 14 - **16**, June 21 - **16**, June 28 - **16**.

Throughout June I continued to work on bringing together a comprehensive list of housing support organizations. and met with Greg from *No Second Night Out*. We are working towards an LGBT accommodation guide (for all ages) , and an LGBTQ housing support community service. Our objective is to create a system where LGBT homeless (for often LGBT community members are especially disenfranchised) are supported on their journey to secure housing.

The council continues to work towards providing a supported housing facility for older people that is specifically LGBT friendly. By creating LGBT Housing Support Groups in facilities that already house a significant number of 'out' LGBT residents the hope is that such structures will grow organically. I shall continue to monitor progress.

There's been three new folks visit the church through June, two of whom live in Eastbourne.

I have been able to visit with two board members and our lay delegate, and look forward to meeting with our remaining leadership at their convenience.

On July 7th we begin regular Tuesday Night groups. This group is not instead of the short term programming that I've been planning (meeting for a set periods looking at specific subjects or sharing in a specific activity), but is rather an opportunity for those who would like to delve more deeply into their faith life on an ongoing basis. Set term activities start after PRIDE. Tentative programs include:

***A year for change - change your life:*** A book club with a difference. One book a month for a year starting in the new year. Each book has been chosen because it is recommended for personal development. Books that help us to develop relationships with others, books that help us develop a relationship with ourselves, and books that help us develop a relationship with our higher power. Some of these books are 'how to' books and some are story books. Each one is a part of the group because together they provide the tools with which to change our lives.

***Questions of faith:*** A one day exploration of faith from an LGBT perspective. (Set for the beginning of Lent)

***Holy Conversations:*** A ten week course covering - Ministry (Laity, Clergy, etc.), Sexuality & Spirituality, Ecumenical / Inter-religious Issues, Trans-formations & Trans Experiences, Baptism, Holy Communion , Who is Jesus?, Global Justice, Ecclesiology (Church). No dates have been set for this yet but I think a Saturday or Sunday morning breakfast group might be nice.

**One day church retreat:** An experiential one day retreat planning the liturgical year and exploring the way forward as *The Village MCC*. (Tentative date of Saturday October 10th) We will also look at how to celebrate and serve communion, how to read from the pulpit, how to acolyte, and how to take the collection.

Thank you to everyone that has stepped forward to host a church event or to help with our PRIDE community celebration project. I'm looking forward to Ann and Linda's BBQ, and the walk in Shoreham. It was very thoughtful to plan an event at which dogs are welcome - Thank you. Plans for Pride seem to be progressing well, we have bought the gazebo and design plans are under way. Thank you to Keith and Chris who are helping to create the stall.

Our PRIDE service this year will be understandably low key since much of our energy is being focused into our community outreach at the PRIDE festival. Our first Pride service as *The Village MCC* will be a simple celebration of who we are as a church, a people, with a message that we can send online into the world. If you have a favourite song you'd like considered for this service (Hymn or secular), or have a message of support that you'd like included then please see me soon.

Thank you to Keith who is helping to coordinate our Trans Pride stall with MCC North London and MCC Brighton. Our hope is that we will together be able to show Transgender community members that MCC can be a relevant resource in their journey.

There is no board meeting in August so I have no doubt there'll be lots to report in September! I pray that God bless you as we move through the next two months, and fill you with PRIDE!

Love  
Rev. Michael.

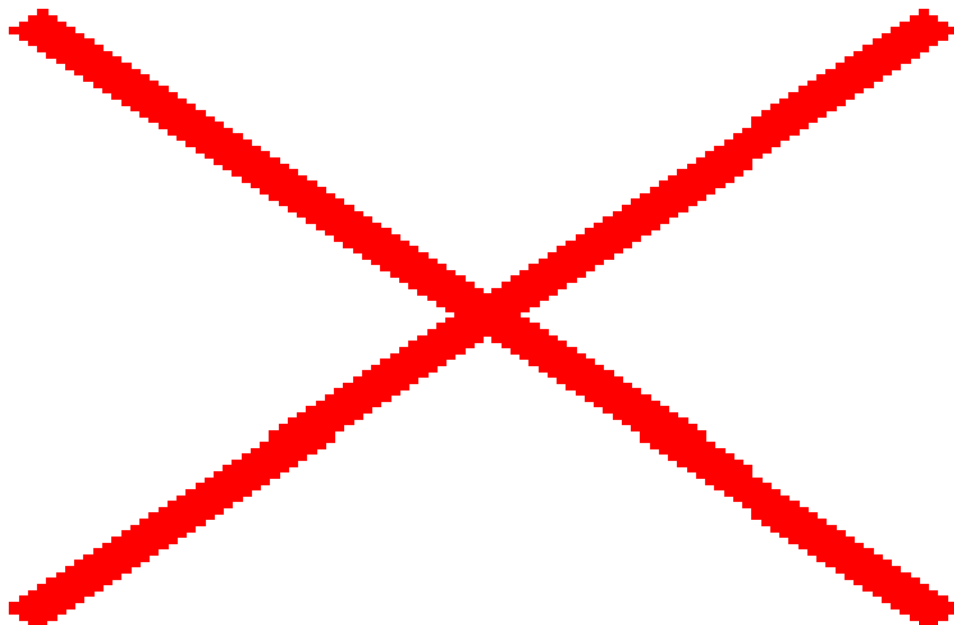
(General giving for May £960.30, (Including £57.30 from Northern Lights). expenses £394. Monthly net balance +£566.30.

**Outstanding amounts we owe:**

Easter gift offering - 241.00

**Net Balance: £3,337.18**

**Accounts for the last two months.**



Total income for:

- February £469.00
- March £620.00
- April £548.69
- May £982.76
- June £960.30

**Expenses for June - (Paid in July)**

**PRIDE**

Gazebo £62.99 £62.99

**GENERAL**

July Rent for worship space £144

Overpayment for June - £36

Communion wafers \$3.00

Domain Names £31.39 £142.39

**PASTORAL**

Book (Pastoral gift) £7.49 £7.49

**Total £212.87**