



THE VILLAGE  
METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees  
Friday June 5th 2015 7:30pm**

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Reports:
  - Monthly**
    - Pastor's report
    - Treasurer's reports
  - Quarterly**
    - Stewardship Team (n/a)
    - Events Team (Due July)
    - Mission Team (n/a)
4. Any Other Business to be added to item 12?
5. Pride update
6. Networking event.
7. Advert in G-Scene, Wording.
8. Safeguarding.
9. Health and Safety.
10. Charitable Status.
11. Board Member/Lay Delegate and Pastor meetings.
12. A.O.B.
13. Closing Prayer.

**Thank you Keith for providing these minutes.**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of directors held Friday May 01 2015 at Ann and Linda's Southwick.

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

Order as per the agenda circulated previously

**1: RMH opened in Prayer at 7.40 pm**

**2: Minutes of last meeting:** No comments or Questions Minutes agreed Proposed AW Seconded RMH all agreed

**3: Reports**

**Pastor's report as distributed:** RMH spoke of the lack of a focal point for homeless LGBT youth to access. He also spoke of some of the work stonewall are doing in this area. RMH explained that 'DePaul' was an international gov body acting as an umbrella for groups working or seeking to work with the homeless. They can help with advice and support materials. RMH had not had any recent contact with Rochelle from MCC, and would seek to make contact again with Cecelia at Newcastle. There was also a discussion about setting up a page on our website with a what's on guide to what is happening in Brighton. It was felt this would be a good idea. We could also ask other groups to carry a link to our website page giving this information and ultimately to our other pages. Report agreed Prop KF sec AW

**Treasurers report Accounts as distributed. Prepared by RMH.** Ann has stepped down as Treasurer, as she feels it is now getting too involved for her to run. The account Bal as 30/4/15 £1652.00 plus £241.00 Easter collection for Global Justice Institute. It was suggested that we draw up a rota to count collection on a Sunday after the service. It is hoped once the standing order payments go online the amount of cash handled will be much less. Agreed Prop AW sec KF  
No other reports due at this time.

**4: n\**

**5: Pride:** The events team have been discussing and realized that walking in the parade for a large number of people would be difficult, and so they have come up with the idea of having a community stall at pride with a type of 'fairground game' just running as a fun stall with small prizes. This would fit with the carnival of diversity theme. The stall would be decorated around the theme of Steam Punk, which it was felt would be an accessible theme for all who to join in and dress up. We have bid for a free community stall. We would get 4 free tickets and others for £9 The board agreed to allow for a contingency budget of up to £500, though it was hoped that monies could be raised to cover costs from specific donations for this. Prop KF Seconded RMH An initial donation of £100 was pledged at the meeting.

**6: Treasurer/member at large:** Ann has stepped down as Treasurer and for now will be 'at large' on the board taking on roles as and when she feels right to do so. Keith has stepped in to look after the accounts until the December AGM. Two other roles Keith was looking at which need reallocation are the Archivist and a H&S rep. After discussion KF will speak to Robert Douglas to see if he is interested in keeping an Archive. We would need to seek out of anyone has the necessary knowledge to take on the H&S role.

**7: Alt. Lay delegate:** Jean is unable to attend the network gathering. It was proposed that Wendy Burgess be appointed as Alt. lay delegate and could attend on behalf of the church. Prop RMH Sec KF

**8: Advertising:** We discussed having an advert in Gscene for a period to see if it raises our profile in the community. The cost would be £60 PCM. A proposal was made that we try it for six months and review at that time. Prop KF sec RMH abst AW Agreed.

**9: Safeguarding:** Jean would look into the process for getting a DBS completed for RMH. No other safeguarding issues have been identified.

**10 H&S:** Still looking for someone in the church to take on this role.

**11: Charitable Status:** Nigel is prepared to lead a group to look at this, but cannot do tis on his own. We would need to approach suitable members to progress this.

**12: AOB:** We discussed to need to promote all our events well in advance, and keep reminders going out to make sure we gat the maximum attendance. A lot of work goes into events and we need to make them as accessible as possible. RMH will be attending a networking event in the Brighton Market called 'one voice'. This will be June 21st 2-5pm. It is hoped that others will be able to join him there.

**13: Closing Prayer 9.20**

These are the highlights from May:

- May 7th: Met with Helen Bashford of the Brighton Switchboard to discuss the needs of homeless youth and older LGBT community members.
- May 8th: Older and out meeting. Spoke with Craig Hanlon-Smith about the 'Where Butterflies Go' project being run by the Mad-ed-theater group.
- May 9th: The planned church community event was postponed and the program that Mary Bacchoo had kindly created will be included in a worship day project (Suggested date of Saturday September 5th.)
- May 12th: Supported 'The LGBT Community Safety Forum' pub quiz team at the Golden Handbags launch event. (We lost - badly!)
- May 15th: Supported the Lunch Positive event from 10am - 2:30pm.
- May 21st: One Voice open market event from 2-5pm. Thank you to Jean and Simon who staffed *The Village* MCC stall: It was great to network with other grass root organizations.
- May 26th: Met with Rev. Martin Poole of St. Luke's church to offer support and talk about LGBT community needs. St. Luke's church has been debating the issue of sexuality and the church.
- May 30th: Officiate at Ann and Linda's wedding.
- June 3rd, meet with One Spirit minister Felice Rhiannon to look at ways of creating events that meet the needs of older lesbian women.
- June 4th: Stonewall housing meeting at Community Base, met with Owl House representatives to talk about ways of supporting their project in Brighton.

Throughout May I preached four Sundays, and the sermon of May 17th, entitled 'Bad things happen to good people' has been listened to by over 600 people. We seem to have a strong following in Australia, with a member of MCC Melbourne suggesting that The Village MCC sermons be used for mid week groups. It's an interesting idea. Maybe we could use the sermons from another MCC in the same way?

Our attendance in May was **14** on May 3rd, **20** on May 10th, **19** on May 17th, **20** on May 24th, and **15** on May 31.

Keith kindly drafted a standing order form so that The Village MCC members that would like to give the same amount each month could do so easily, and help the board to budget more accurately. I am in the process of applying for online banking.

After dental surgery I suffered a severe bout of Neuralgia and was not able to attend the LGBT network gathering. Robert Douglas gave our apologies and has kept me in the loop. I met one last time with Counsellor Brian Fitch and his wife Nora as the mayor of Brighton, and thanked them for their very generous support throughout their term. On May 21st Councillor Lynda Hyde took up the role of Mayor for 2015/16, and I wish her the very best throughout her term.

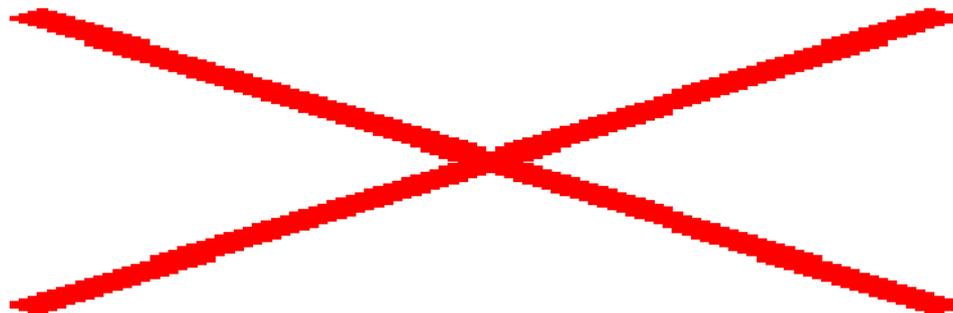
During may I also held informal meetings with James Ledworth of G-Scene to talk about finding space for an LGBT social centre that could also house The Village MCC, with PRIDE reps to talk about a stall, and with representatives of *Mind Out* about ways we could support each other as care organizations. I am also holding ad-hoc conversations with community leaders about the issue of LGBT homelessness, especially amongst the youth, and ways to address it. RISE is piloting a housing project in Brighton for gay men who are the victim of domestic abuse with an initial 4 units, and on June 16th Peter Huntbach is coordinating a meeting with an older persons living facility in the hopes of starting an in-house LGBT group that will signpost the facility as specifically LGBT friendly.

There has been some sickness in our congregation. Elaine continues to recover from hip surgery, whilst Wendy Burgess had to undergo surgery and, due to complications, is recovering slowly. Other members have also been unwell and I am reminded of the need for better communication, especially when someone doesn't attend church regularly and so might not be missed for a number of weeks. Sadly Steve Preston's mother passed away, and I continue to hold him and Eitel in my prayers.

Love  
Rev. Michael.

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.

**Treasurers Report June 5th 2015** (General giving for May £982.76, expenses £430 - monthly net balance +£552.76)  
Plus the financial support for February, March, and April from Northern Lights was £320.71, and the compensation amount received from Lloyds was £475.



**Outstanding amounts we owe:**

Denominational tithes	-343.43
Easter gift offering	- 241.00

**Net Balance:** **£2,376.88**

G-Scene advert wordsmithing.

A gay church? Probably. A queer church? Definitely! A Christian church? Certainly. Celebrating LGBT lives as Holy and Sacred. Supporting our communities. Supporting each other. Meeting Sundays. 6pm, at The Somerset Day Centre. 62 Saint James's Street, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 1PR. tel: 07476 667353 [www.thevillagemcc.org](http://www.thevillagemcc.org).

A gay church? Probably. A radically inclusive church? Certainly. A Christian church? Definitely. Celebrating LGBT faith journeys. Supporting our communities. Supporting each other. Meeting Sundays. 6pm, at The Somerset Day Centre. 62 Saint James's Street, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 1PR. tel: 07476 667353 [www.thevillagemcc.org](http://www.thevillagemcc.org).