



THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday August 26th 2016 7:30pm

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Reports:
 - Pastor's report
 - Treasurer's reports
 - Crisis fund report
4. Safeguarding.
5. Health and Safety.
6. Lay Delegate
7. Charitable Status.
8. Sleepsafe
9. Monthly Sunday lunch for the Homeless.
10. Retreat 22 Oct
11. A.O.B
12. Closing Prayer.

Our Vision

We call for a world where LGBTQ people live free from discrimination.

Our Mission

We are called primarily to empower and serve the LGBTQ community.

Our Core Values

We are a Christian church called to do justice and walk humbly with God. (Micah 6:8). We seek at all times to be honest, transparent, and true to our mission in the world.

Minutes of The Village MCC board meeting 1st July 2016 at Rev Michael's home.

Rev Michael opened in prayer at 7.40pm

Present: Rev Michael Hydes (Chair), Nigel Utting (Vice Chair), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Mary Bachoo (Health&Safety Officer), Simon Markham (Secretary), Sarah Barber (Crisis Team) and Wendy Burgess (Member at large).

Minutes of last meeting: Circulated prior to meeting. Mentioned that a written paper format was still needed for the crisis fund, Rev Michael said he would do it. Proposed by Rev Michael and seconded by Wendy Burgess. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Pastors Report: Circulated prior to meeting. Proposed by Wendy Burgess and seconded by Nigel Utting. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Treasurers Report: Circulated prior to meeting. Keith said that last months expenditure was slightly more than the income. Suggested as a board to put a announcement together for giving regular. Proposed by Rev Michael and seconded by Nigel Utting. Accepted unanimously by the board.

Crisis Fund: No new funds needed from last month. Rev Michael said Greg from sleepsafes had rung him with a crisis, but did not ring back, so assumed it was sorted.

Safeguarding: Notes checked, amended and signed from discussion at last months meeting. Further discussion followed by the board.

Health&Safety: No issues at the moment, Mary said she had not seen the Health&Safety form from Somerset House.

Charitable Status: Nigel said that our application had been refused. They had said we had to use inclusive text and that the purpose was at odds with governing document. Nigel said general rewording was needed and then resubmitting. Nigel said he would inquire with MCCs Newcastle and North London how they had worded theirs.

Sleepsafes: No new issues.

Sunday Lunches: Rev Michael had met with Robin from Dorset Gardens, about providing Sunday lunches. Using a food bank not feasible due to lack of space. Rev Michael suggested a simple roast dinner and pudding. Robin going to put this to his board, this will be done through sleepsafes. Rev Michael said he would set up teams of willing helpers to work in the kitchen and front of house.

Retreat: Wendy Burgess said there wouldn't be a problem for us to use the room in their building again. So the date of the 22nd of October was set for the one day retreat.

Any other Business: Keith said there had been some confusion with the current rota on occasionally. Rev Michael said when it comes time to do the new rota, he would at the issues. Rev Michael said this months theme is to be music.

Sarah closed in prayer at 8.40pm

Pastor's report for July and August 2016.

The big event in July was Trans Pride. At the eleventh hour we were invited to host the Interfaith Space. Thank you so much to Tony, Wendy, and Sarah, (amongst others), as well as Suzy, SJ, and Andrew from *MCC Brighton* for their help. Alas, no one from *MCC North London* was able to attend but friends of their church nevertheless came by to say hello. We had a lovely space, using *The Village MCC* Pagoda. I used a Jesus Card Deck to talk to people about their spiritual path. It was very popular, probably because many people were under the misconception that I was some kind of fortune teller! I think the Trans Pride team were happy with the outcome and we had lots of positive feedback.

Alas, no one from *The Village MCC* was able to walk in the Pride Parade and there were no volunteers available to staff a stall in the park. However *MCC Brighton* brought together many other MCC's from around the country and processed with a giant model of Jesus! They also had a stall which I believe attracted much interest.

The *Sleep Safe* fundraiser at the *Brighton Gay Men's Chorus Summer Show* was a great success and we raised over £650. Thank you to James, Wendy, Sarah, and Stephen for rattling cans, and to Mary for the T-Shirts.

In August I have had Skype calls with *The Rainbow Fund* executors, who have asked that *Sleepsafe* consider applying for a grant. The *Sleepsafe* board are considering their response. Although funds would be useful the board is stretched thinly with various commitments and we want to ensure that we have adequate resources to apply for and then utilize any available grant before applying.

I have had meetings with James Ledworth (*G-Scene*) and Billie Lewis (*LGBT Community Safety Forum*) to keep abreast of community news. I joined the LGBT Network (Now called *Working To Connect* – or *WTC*) met to talk about the changes in funding requirements by *BHCC*. Although these do not immediately impact the church or *Sleepsafe* it is possible that we may be approached by larger organizations who need to partner to qualify for funding, or may need to apply for smaller amounts. Timing is crucial and I believe that the deadline will be October 25th for funding bids available over the next three years.

Health issues have provided their own challenges, but I have been attending a pain management course and am meeting with doctors to consider how we move forward. Although I haven't had to take time off work I have been able to do less generally and am trying to pace myself accordingly. Over the last two months most pastoral work has been 'casual', with few official pastoral visits or house calls.

Tuesday evening group meets very different needs in individuals, and attendance has ranged from 3 to 10. We've spent some time recently looking at the nature of the group as it's easy to get off track. When it was begun the formation was casual - in response to a need for a safe space spirituality group – but as we have moved ahead it has become apparent that the very diverse needs may require more breadth than one group is able to meet. Suggestions are welcome.

After meeting with Rev. Robin from Dorset Gardens Methodist Church and a small group of volunteers it was decided that we host a Sunday lunch for the homeless and vulnerable on the fifth Sunday of the month. So: Oct 30, Jan 29, Apr 30, Jul 30, dinner at 2pm, I will be looking for volunteers! We hope to be able to establish with these dates whether there is any further need (and if so, when), and what the preferences are. DGMC are funding and hosting.

Alas, Jean tendered her resignation as Lay Delegate. Although we can function temporarily with this seat empty I believe we should begin to ask if anyone feels called to the role. Jean did an excellent job and leaves some very big shoes to fill. I already miss her presence.

Attendance in August to date has been: 7 Aug: 20, 14 Aug: 19, 21 Aug: 17. the other attendance figures are in the financial report.

Love - Rev. Michael

July '16 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Opening Bal at 30 June 2016 £3689.61

Income

Collections		Attendance	
03 July	42.00	14	
10 July	60.00	14	
17 July	48.00	20	
24 July	55.50	15	
31 July	36.58	14	£242.08

Standing Order 711.50 (inc donation £100 Crisis Fund) £4643.19

Expenditure July

M Hydes		
Jun Remuneration	400.00	
Rent Jul	180.00	
G Scene	40.20	
Jun~Mileage	23.40	
MCC Tithe	57.46	
Crisis Payout	28.00	
Speaker	75.10	
Flowers	50.00	<u>£854.16</u>

Balance in Account as at 31 Jul 2016 £3789.03

Forecast

Monies Due July

M Hydes	
Jul Remuneration	400.00
Rent Aug	144.00
Jun MCC Tithe	85.36

Exp/costs

G Scene June	40.20	<u>£669.56</u>
--------------	-------	----------------

Balance available £3119.47

<u>Keyboard fund</u>	<u>£ 59.10</u>
<u>Crisis Fund</u>	<u>£612.00</u>
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	<u>£ 38.25</u>
<u>Community Works</u>	<u>£124.46</u>

General funds Avail £2285.66