



THE VILLAGE
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees
Friday September 4th 2015 7:30pm**

1. Minutes of the last meeting.

2. Reports:

Monthly

Pastor's report

Treasurer's reports

Quarterly

Stewardship Team (n/a)

Events Team (Due Oct)

Mission Team (n/a)

3. Any Other Business to be added to item 10?

4. *Pride and Trans Pride* review.

5. Safeguarding. (One item scheduled for a closed meeting)

6. Health and Safety.

7. October 4th is Anniversary Sunday. Special offering and service?

8. Charitable Status / The Village structure.

9. Christmas

10. A.O.B.

11. 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.

The Village MCC – Board Meeting July 2015-09-03

Present: Rev. Michael Hydes, Ann Wilkinson, Jaz Potter, Jean Hatton, Keith Fish, Nigel utting, Linda Moore, Wendy Foster.

1. Rev. Michael's salary was discussed in his absence. (Rev. Michael joined us after this discussion). Topics included church expenses v income. Nigel proposed to increase Rev. Michaels salary to £400 per month + 45p per mile. Ann seconded and it was passes unanimously. This will be backdated to 1st June and reviewed in 3 months.
2. The minutes from the last board meeting were declared true and accurate. Keith proposed that they be passed and Rev. Michael seconded.

3. Pastors report

It is believed that homelessness amongst the over 25's is increasing and that in the Brighton and Hove area over 50% of homeless are LGBT people over the age of 50. There are a number of charities available to support those under 25 years old, but very little to advise and support the over 25 group, especially those who identify as LGBTQ. St Mungo's is taking over '*Brighton Rough Sleepers*', funded by Brighton + Hove Council which may mean change to the current support system.

Rev. Michael is looking at a number of ways in which the church may be of help; such as setting up an organisation that would act as guarantor for the homeless when they first get permanent accommodation, or a map of the process and LGBT support organizations that a homeless person can access. Another idea is to set up a volunteer buddy scheme. Rev. Michael is meeting with James Ledworth in two weeks time to discuss further.

Keith proposed acceptance of the pastors report and Wendy seconded. All were in agreement.

4. Finances

The collection for the *Global Justice Institute* will be rounded up to \$400 dollars and forwarded .

The events committee have been allocated a £500 budget for Pride. A gazebo has been purchased for pride and other events, but there was some discussion about whether we could borrow one.

A number of people have now sent in monthly pledges and the church is financially in a healthier position than a few months ago.

We need to purchase a new DBS for Rev. Michael - the costs will be met from general funds.

5. Events

Discussed Easter and the Good Friday walk in retrospect.

Pride 2015 – we looked at ways to be visible and to engage with our community. There was also a discussion about our pride celebration service. We will not be walking in the pride march this year, but have created a stall (Carnival game - steampunk style) and volunteers are being called for.

BBQ at Ann and Linda's on 8th August 2015.

Halloween and Christmas have not been discussed as yet

Generally it was agreed that we need to be more visible when attending community events and Chris has designed a t-shirt.

6. **Safeguarding** – currently no issues
7. **Health & Safety** – Currently no issues
8. **Charitable Staus**

Nigel offered to head up a team. Rev. Michael and Jaz also willing to help with this. It was felt that we should ask if anyone in the congregation would like to join and offer help and ideas.

9. Education

We talked about the possibility of providing courses to increase the knowledge and awareness of our congregation members. The following courses were mentioned: AIDS awareness, Safeguarding, Mental Health, Listening Skills, Trans awareness.

10. Rev. Michael has been meeting up with leadership team members on an individual basis, creating a space so that church leaders can talk openly and confidentially about their own spiritual journeys as well as their hopes and concerns for the church as we grow.

11. AOB

Trans pride is on 25th July at Dorset Gardens. The church has a stall in concert with *MCC North London* and *MCC Brighton*. It is preferable that anyone working on the stall will be Trans Aware although the TRANS PRIDE team

NEXT MEETING FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2015.

Thank you to Wendy Foster for putting together these minutes from our last board meeting.

Pastor's Report for July and August 2015

These are the highlights from July and August's calendar: (Please note that I have not noted reoccurring events such as worship or the Tuesday group etc, or unplanned/casual events, or the general week to week work that facilitates worship etc).

- Thursday July 3 - met with Greg Lightfoot to discuss homelessness in Brighton and Hove
- Saturday July 4 - pastoral visit.
- Tuesday July 7 - Pastoral visit.
- Tuesday July 7 - First Tuesday night group meeting.
- Wednesday July 8 - Spiritual Direction. (Clergy support 6 times a year).
- Friday July 10 - Lunch positive 10am - 3:30pm
- Friday July 10 - Meet with James Ledworth ref: Pride issue of G-Scene.
- Tuesday July 14 - Pastoral visit.
- Thursday July 16 - Pastoral visit.
- Saturday July 18th - Meet with Billie Lewis of *LGBT Community safety Forum* ref: homelessness and Pride
- Tuesday July 21st - Pick up PRIDE pack and instructions.
- Wednesday July 22nd - Photo shoot for BOYZ Pride front cover.
- Thursday July 23rd - Meet with Billie Lewis Ref: Pride Access tent and prizes for the Village stall.
- Friday July 24 - Lunch positive 10am - 3:30pm
- Saturday July 25th - TRANS PRIDE with MCC N London and MCC Brighton.
- Monday July 27th - met with Greg Lightfoot to further discuss homelessness in Brighton and Hove
- Wednesday July 29th - Pastoral Visit
- Wednesday July 29th - Attend Beacon Fund-raiser at PROUD.
- Wednesday July 29th - met with Keith to put together PRIDE stall.
- Friday July 31st - Set up stall at PRIDE
- Saturday August 1st - PRIDE EVENT
- Wednesday August 5th - Pastoral visit.
- Friday August 7th - Pastoral visit.
- Saturday August 8th - Social event at my home from 4 - 10pm
- Tuesday August 11th - Pastoral Visit.
- Wednesday August 12th - Meeting to set the details to cover for worship in my absence.
- Thursday August 13th - Pastor's Retreat in Ammerdown.
- Friday August 14 - Sunday August 16 - Network Retreat in Ammerdown.
- Thursday August 20th - Thursday August 27th, vacation.
- Saturday August 29th - LGBT Network meeting from 10am - 3:30pm.

Service attendance July and August:

July 5 - **15**, July 12 - **16**, July 19 - **13**, July 27 - **18**, Aug 2 - **23**, Aug 9 - **21**, Aug 16 - **14**, Aug 23 - **12**, Aug 30 - **19**.

For most of July the focus was PRIDE TRANS PRIDE and everything else was organised in their wake.

Trans Pride was well attended. Thank you to Simon, Keith, Wendy, Jan, Will, and everyone else that helped out. A special 'Thank you' to Will who helped design out Trans Pride poster. We were joined by members of MCC Brighton and MCC North London and although we were in the church away from the main celebration we did have folks come to us for support. We were visible at the main event as both Rev. Sharon Ferguson and I wore clergy collars and met with group leaders.

At our PRIDE event in the park Chris, Simon, Keith, Jan, and Michelle, all dressed Steam Punk style and looked great. Alas, Michelle had to miss the event because of an emergency dental visit, and Jan, as well as others, were late joining us because of a bomb scare on the march. (The first leg of the march didn't reach the park until after 3pm). Thank you to Jaz, Jean, Simon, Wendy, Nicki, and everyone else that gave out free game tickets around the park. They worked a treat and at one point we had an eager queue of children (of all ages) waiting to have a go. Thank you to Keith who designed a wonderful stall, and to both Simon and Keith who spent most of the day retrieving cans that were knocked off the shelves. They looked amazing in their costumes! There were hundreds of participants and one new couple came to church the following day.

The aim was to simply provide a service for the community, a bit of 'free' fun. In reality I think we achieved more in the way of visibility and awareness that we would of had we aimed to create it. The Village MCC is certainly becoming known in the community and as a support and resource, not just 'another church'.

Over Pride The Village had good coverage as I was on the cover of BOYZ magazine in London, and there was a full page interest story in G-Scene. Folks are finding us through our advert in G-Scene, however Chris is looking to design something a little less wordy since the advert is very small and some folks will have trouble reading the text. My bi-monthly article went into G-Scene July and September so all told we have good visibility through the magazine over the quarter.

Our Pride service was a real celebration, and despite many of our regular attendees being away we had 23 in attendance. Chris sang for us, Robert brought prayers, and Nigel led a wonderfully inclusive communion celebration. Of the 23 in attendance 6 were from Eastbourne or the surrounding area. I am looking at ways in which we can support this group who, because of the distance, are only able to attend church intermittently.

Around half of my pastoral visits are with non church attendees and most of the phone calls I receive are from non members. It's been good to see new folks starting to join us although there is some systemic work to be completed before we can grow into the next phase of church life.

Thank you to Mary Bacchoo who has very kindly agreed to act as Health and Safety Officer for the church. Welcome to the team Mary!

The Pastor's retreat at the Network gathering was well led and it was great to see colleagues that I've not spent time with in many years. The Network retreat had representatives from every MCC in Europe, including the new churches in Spain, Holland, Italy, and Sweden. It was good to get to know our new Elder Innes-Paul Baumann better, and to spend time talking with Rev. Elder Darlene Garner about *The Village MCC* and the way forward.

We began our new Tuesday night group at the beginning of July and attendance has been good. This week 7 of us met to share our stories and to pray together. If we regularly have more than 6 attend I will look at how we can provide a second meeting in a different location. (Six is the maximum a meeting like this can support on a regular basis).

I was away two Sundays. Thank you to everyone who helped out to make sure that everything ran smoothly; especially Robert and Nigel who preached, and Keith who made sure that our worship space was looked after.

In July I interviewed for a part time job and learned at the end of the month that I had got it. Alas, it did mean that, apart from the time I was away, that I was working full time during most of August. Exhausting. I now work Wednesdays from 1-5, Thursdays and Fridays 9-5. Fortunately there's plenty of 'down time' so I am able to continue to attend to my pastoral duties as normal. However, I am not able to volunteer with *Lunch Positive*, *Older and Out*, or attend the housing meetings that tend to take place on Fridays.

The Village MCC is now six months old! Thank you for all of your hard work and support. As we continue to grow, to explore where God is calling us, and support one another, I pray that you are blessed.

Love

Rev. Michael.

Planned events.

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, Transformations & 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.