



THE VILLAGE
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees
Friday Nov 6th 2015 7:30pm**

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Reports:
 - Monthly**
 - Pastor's report
 - Treasurer's reports
 - Quarterly**
 - Events Team
 - Stewardship Team (n/a)
 - Pastoral Team (n/a)
4. Any Other Business to be added to item 14?
5. Church retreat review
6. Emergency Relief Fund.
7. Pastoral team.
8. Advert in G-Scene.
9. Safeguarding.
10. Health and Safety.
11. Charitable Status.
12. AGM – reports/budget
13. Election and board terms.
14. A.O.B.
15. Closing Prayer.

The next board meeting is on January 2nd. Please note that Rev. Michael is away from Jan 6-13.

Thank you Keith for providing these minutes.

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of directors held Friday October 02 2015
At Ann and Linda's Southwick.

Present

Michael Hydes (Chair), Ann Wilkinson, Keith Fish (Treasurer), Jean Hatton (lay delegate and safeguarding)
Apologies: Nigel Utting (vice chair)

Order as per the agenda.

MH opened in Prayer at 7.30 pm

Minutes of last Meeting

Circulated Prior to the meeting. Prop KF sec AW Minutes accepted

Pastors report

Circulated Prior to meeting

Rev M to keep a note of all time spent on pastoral work and telephone calls to show the true amount of hours done.
Rev M also answered a question regarding the 'Book Club'. He will also look into the possibility of audio books as some members did not find reading easy.
Prop AW sec KF Report agreed.

Treasurers Report

Circulated during the meeting

KF as Treasurer reported that a couple of members might have to reduce giving due to changes in circumstances. He suggested another request to members not already giving by standing order, to give a small amount regularly this way and then top up with cash giving on a Sunday. Rev M may bring this up at the retreat day.
We agreed to spend £40 to buy our own small speaker for services.
£200 has been donated towards a piano and the balance when bought has been promised by another member.
We gave a gift to visiting speaker Alice Denny.
At this date with some pastor expenses still to be paid we have a balance of £2733.66.
We need another person to be able to authorise payments on the internet banking, as at present we still have to pay Rev M by cheque. Rev M will ask NU if he is willing to do this. If not we would ask another member of the church.

Prop Rev M sec AW Accounts accepted.

Events

16th October 'Pride' film showing at Jean and Jaz's.

Planning a Christmas eve service. This year at our normal venue if available, so we can judge for next year whether using a larger venue is appropriate

No safeguarding issues.

No H & S issues

Charitable Status

The team is still looking into this and will report further at a future meeting.

Guidance is being sought from our groups with previous experience of this process. The treasurer requested that the team also gain clear information on the accounting and reporting requirements.

There being no other business the meeting closed in prayer at 8.45pm.

Pastor's report for October 2015.

October began with three pastoral calls and one telephone enquiry from a gentleman who subsequently came along to church and has visited two weeks in a row. In the first week I also spent time developing the annual church retreat, which was especially challenging because I had a specific outcome in mind – a five year vision for the church. In the past I have facilitated retreats that have done this well, but which have been held over a full weekend. Creating a space in which this could happen in a single day was a challenge.

We held the retreat on Saturday 10th and nine of us gathered in the communal space by Wendy and Sarah's home in Newhaven. The day went well and despite being short of time a vision for the church did emerge that everyone was happy with (below). Thank you to Wendy and Sarah for facilitating the event space.

The following Friday eight of us met at Jaz and Jean's home to watch PRIDE and then talk about the movie. Good conversation, great popcorn! Thank you to Jaz and Jean for hosting the event.

On the way home I picked up a voicemail from a young man who was in some distress He had just been released from a two week hospital stay. He came home on the Friday afternoon to his bedsit to find that the electricity had run out whilst he'd been away, and because he'd been unable to sign on there was no money in his account. Food in the freezer had all gone off. There was no heating, food, or even a fridge in which to store medications. Agencies were either closed or unable to help him until Monday morning. We were able to simply reach out and help, making sure that he had what he needed until the agencies were able to respond.

On Saturday 17th I spoke at the anti-hate rally on the Old Steine, and Chris sang. The weather was kind to us and the police rolled out a new app for reporting crime. It is now possible to submit video and picture evidence without having to be there in person – the app uploads everything to the police. To download the app go to: www.witnessconfident.org. (Presently only available on apple or android).

During October I was made aware of Tara Hudson, a trans girl in Bath who had been sentenced to 10 weeks in a men's prison. Through facebook and email messages *The Village MCC* was able to help with applying pressure. Many telephone calls, letters, emails later Tara's case was reviewed and she was allocated to a women's prison.

At the end of the month I attended the annual LGBT Community Safety Forum general meeting and learned that according to their annual survey hate crime in Brighton and Hove is up 50% on last year. Sleep Safe is one of the ways we are looking to address this, and I have been talking to both the police and council members about how this can be addressed.

The Tuesday night group is going well and attendance varies between 3 and 8. I would like to hold a group in the west of Brighton and am looking at how to best create and support one.

I have dealt with a number of pastoral calls over the month, including some time talking with a young man who had trained to be a priest but in view of his sexuality was unsure how to proceed. We talked for some hours over coffee and I put him in contact with an MCC Elder to talk about some of the options available.

We received a very nice comment on an online sermon In reference to *Is the bible the word of God*. Mr. Owen Clutten of Robertsbridge wrote: *This is a fantastic, fascinating, honest, truthful and utterly illuminating presentation. Brilliant and I cannot recommend it highly enough. The speaker is superb.* It's nice to see that our work as a church is appreciated – thank you especially to Chris who films each sermon and publishes them online.

The events team met on November the first, (please see the report below), and talked about ways of supporting Mary in her Advent Beach Hut event. I will be visiting the day centre so that guests can help to make paper lanterns, and Mary is donating solar lights to a local homeless charity for clients to use over the winter months.

Thank you to everyone who donated towards our music ministry. We have now got a piano and Will Mason has very generously agreed to be our music minister. I have written Thank you letters to the donors.

In October our attendance was 4th – **17**, 11th – **17**, 18th – **14**, 25th – **24**.

Love

Rev. Michael

Five year vision for *The Village Metropolitan Community Church*.

(Visioned at the first annual retreat October 2015)

By October 2015 *The Village MCC* will be the core of an exchange based community hub, a fully integrated LGBT* community resource in the heart of Kemptown.

We have a cafe, with a well equipped kitchen, adjacent to a multi-use space that hosts worship every Sunday. Both spaces are used by various voluntary groups for meetings and events throughout the week. (There are folding window-doors between the two spaces with privacy blinds available for closed group meetings. The cafe and meeting space can be combined for large events). There is a small room used for general office and filing needs. Parking is available and there is a remunerated building services manager.

The building has first rate audio and media equipment that facilitates both excellent worship and a variety of group needs. It is a safe space staffed by well trained volunteers. We offer free wi-fi access. All facilities are non gender specific. The building is fully accessible.

We have a full time pastor who is remunerated a full time salary. The pastor oversees all aspects of *The Village MCC's* spiritual life and support processes, and liaises with local businesses and groups who contribute to the larger community through us.

The Sunday service has both a music/worship group and a choir. Average Sunday worship attendance fluctuates between 50 and 80. We have a strong Spirit led board that does a great job fund raising and grant writing. We budget realistically so that our annual income exceeds budget with expenditure under budget.

We have a well trained and grounded pastoral team who, with the Pastor, are responsible for spiritual life of the church. There is also a hospitality team that ensures that everyone in the area that wants to come to church or access our services is able to do so, and that those we serve feel welcome and valued. All volunteers are well supported and opportunities to volunteer are always available.

We run our own excellent training and spirituality courses, as well as facilitate a broad spectrum of affinity groups. We hold an annual weekend retreat, (in a rural setting), and an annual one day leadership retreat, which are both always well attended.

*as well as anyone disenfranchised because of sexuality or gender expression.

Events Report Oct 2015

Pride (August 1)

Pride was a success in that we raised awareness of the church whilst being able to offer a service to the community. We were staged next to the family tent so we had a lot of children in our traffic and were busy all day. We didn't do a head count but estimate the participation to be in the hundreds rather than the tens.

Retreat

Our first retreat was a great day of connecting, sharing, and planning. It was held at Wendy and Sarah's home (Thank you to them both for helping with this). Nine of us attended which was a great response to our very first event. I am planning a weekend retreat, in a rural location, learly autumn 2016, with a goal of 15-18 in attendance.

Halloween

No plans made for Halloween.

Christmas

Mary has asked us to help with her Beach Hut event on the 23rd from 5:30 – 6:30 pm, and our Christmas eve service will be ion the 24th, 7pm at the Day Centre.

Educational

A group of us saw the film PRIDE at Jaz and Jean's home, followed by a general conversation. Lovely popcorn and a great time.

Fund-raising

No immediate plans

Social

There have been a number of social evenings at Pastor Michael's home, invariably after church although we did have a social in place of a planed BBQ that was cancelled. The walk from the Red Lion and lunch was good, walk attended by four of us and lunch by eight.

The Village MCC Awareness.

Trans pride went well and we received a positive response with MCC Brighton and MCC North London. Alice Denny came in to share her poetry and was warmly received by the congregation, and gave a great review of The Village to the Trans Community.

Proposed budget for 2016

Income £9,600 (£800pcm)

Expenditure

Rent	£2,000
Pastor stipend	£4,800.00
Pastoral expenses	£600
Office Costs	£400
Adverstising	£600
Misc. costs	£240
Tithe	£960

Total Expenditure £ 9,600

N.B., The above budget does NOT include money raised for external groups, (e.g. UFMCC special collections or special causes), special events (eg. Pride or the annual retreat), ministries, (eg. an emergency relief fund) , or the expenses associated with such.