



THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday October 6th 2017 7:30pm

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Reports:
 - Pastor's report
 - Treasurer's reports
 - Pickle fund report
4. AOB for Item
5. Safeguarding.
6. Health and Safety.
7. AGM - Reports
8. Board renewals and positions.
9. Rev. Peta and the board.
10. Lay Delegate position.
11. Christmas eve service.
12. Soul Safari.
13. AOB

Closing Prayer.

Reminder: If asked the following questions please use these stock answers.

Why are there two MCC Churches in Brighton, and how are they different?

MCC is a *fellowship* of churches that are all very different to each other. *The Village MCC* is a Christian church that's happy to identify with the LGBT Community and support it. I don't know how MCC Brighton sees themselves, but I'm sure their website will have lots of information.

Why does Andrew Ramage wear a collar, even though he's not an ordained minister?

In the UK it's not against the law for anyone to wear a clergy collar, and our denomination now allows lay leaders to wear one. However, at *The Village MCC* only ordained ministers wear a clergy collar.

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 for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday Oct 6th 2017 7:30pm at Keith's home.

Present: Rev Michael Hydes (Chair), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Sarah Barber (Safeguarding Officer), Wendy Burgess (Board Member),

Guests: Rev. Peta Evans, Dameon Loukas.

Apologies: Simon Markham

Opening Prayer: Wendy

Minutes of the last meeting:

Proposed by: Keith Seconded by: Wendy Yes all

Pastor's report:

Proposed by: Keith Seconded by: Wendy Yes all

Treasurer's report:

Proposed by: Mike Seconded by: Wendy Yes all.

Pickle fund report:

£50 given out through September.

Safeguarding:

No issues reported

Health and Safety:

No issues reported

Visit from Brandan Robertson.

Visiting Oct 30th. Staying with Mike, paying £50, \$20 train fare, and a love offering.

Meet-up Groups.

Not yet arranged.

Budget for *Soul Safari 2018*. (Festival of LGBT+ Mind, Body, and Spirit)

No budget set, although we are probably looking at around £100 for temp tattoos and flyers.

AOB

We will be taking a collection for the denomination and have registered as a *pacesetter* church.

Peta has been receiving hate mail online. If there is an incident at the service then Chris and Keith will escort the offender out, Sarah or Wendy will call the police, Dameon will film the disturbance.

I will print out pledge forms and coupons to be placed in the collection plate.

We will have a membership drive in November.

Closing Prayer. Rev. Peta.

Pastor's report for October 2017

October really started for me with the annual church retreat day. Thank you to Mary for allowing us to use her space free of charge. A dozen of us met to share some time together, walk together, and plan worship together. Thank you to Stephen, who crafted a lovely opening worship service, and Rev. Peta who put together both a wonderful workshop on healing plants, and our closing worship. I led a couple of meditations - to mixed reviews! Some people loved them, some were ambivalent, and some absolutely hated them. However, we had a lovely lunch together and planned worship for the coming year.

Subsequently the order of service has changed slightly to accommodate an introduction to the Acclamation and a highlighted request for quiet during communion. I was also asked to invite fewer guest speakers in the coming year and preach more myself. It can be quite a struggle to find the time it takes to properly craft a message, but rev. Peta is now on the team and has proven to be a great preacher. Rev. Peta and Stephen have created a prayer team responsible for worship prayers. I'm not only grateful to have one less chore, and a great preacher, I'm looking forward to a variety of prayerful interactions with God each Sunday.

My surgery went well. I didn't have to take time off from the church, and only half a day from work. However, I wasn't able to meet a couple of commitments so a big thank you to Dameon for representing me at *A Night with the Stars* and to Chris who went along to support the Forum at *The Day of Hope* event.

There is an update to the lent Queering Christianity program brought together by James Stewart, Charlie Notley, and myself. It will now run on Wednesdays instead of Mondays (Feb 21,,28, Mar 7, 14, 21, 28,) finishing the Wednesday of Holy Week. This is because the day centre is occasionally used on a Monday evening for internal meetings so wouldn't be available for all the meetings. A reminder that the group will pose questions like: *What is the good news really? Who was Jesus? What is the Bible? What is the trinity? Does God approve of you being LGBTQ? What is Easter?* On Easter Sunday we'll be holding a baptismal service at Nigel's pool.

During October I made two pickle fund payments of £20 each, and Sarah also made a payment of £20.

Everything went well with Rev. Brandan Robertson's visit, and it was great to see him again. He is preaching a really sound and well grounded LGBT affirming theology and I'm proud that we were able to act as a launch pad here for that. Although it was a small group, 18 of us, there were a few local clergy who I believe felt challenged by his message.

I did another two episodes of Queersay with Andrew Kay. I also did an interview for Viva magazine, which will be in the December edition. I believe that the magazine is free.

Last week the LGBT Community Safety Forum held their annual AGM and I was voted onto the board. (I had been previously been co-opted). I'm hoping that the role will help to bridge the gap between church and community and create more opportunities for us to be involved at a community level.

Plans for Soul Safari are moving ahead although we have less time on the 18th than originally planned and have to finish my 2pm. We'll talk as a team how to meet this challenge so - watch this space!

Much love

Rev. Michael.

Oct17 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Opening Bal at 30 September 2017 **£4741.96**

Income

Collections		Attendance	
01 Oct	38.00	18	
08 Oct	43.00	24	
15 Oct	52.00	26	
22 Oct	72.69	26	
29 Oct	15.10	25	
Standing Order	981.50		
Pickle fund donation	100.00		
Bank test repay	.01		
			<u>£1302.30</u>

Expenditure

Rev Michael	£400.00	
Costs Exp. reimbursed	£135.00	
Rent	£180.00	
Tithe	£ 48.54	
Brighton in need	£500.00	
Rev P Evans Network Travel	£ 50.00	<u>£1313.54</u>

(conference transfer £50.00)

Balance in Account as at 31 October 2017 £4730.72

Forecast

Rev Michael	£400.00
Costs Exp. reimbursed	£256.16
Sarah Barber Pickle	£ 20.00
Rent	£144.00
Extra room rent	£ 36.00
<u>Tithe</u>	<u>£104.23</u>

forecast Balance available £3770.33

<u>Keyboard fund</u>	<u>£ 39.16</u>
<u>PickleFund</u>	<u>£877.42</u>
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	<u>£363.63</u>
<u>Community Works</u>	<u>£ 00.00</u>
<u>Conference Fund</u>	<u>£ 600.00</u>

General funds Avail **£1890.12**