



THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday January 5th 2018 7:30pm

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
3. Reports:
 - Pastor's report (written)
 - Treasurer's reports (written)
 - Lay delegate report (verbal)
 - Associate pastor's report (verbal)
 - Pickle fund report (verbal)
4. AOB for Item
5. Safeguarding.
6. Health and Safety.
7. Policy: church leadership and gift acceptance.
8. Formalising the associate Pastor's position as a board position.
9. Board positions
10. Queerying Christianity.
11. Soul Safari.
12. Easter
13. Working party to look at document wording.
14. AOB.

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.

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 November 3rd 2017 7:30pm at keith's home.

Present: Rev Michael Hydes (Chair) Keith Fish (Treasurer) Simon Markham (Secretary) Wendy Burgess (Board Member) Sarah Barber (Safeguarding Officer). Guests: Dameon Loukas and Rev. Peta Evans

Opening Prayer: Rev Michael Hydes opened in prayer at 7:35pm

Minutes of the last meeting:

Proposed by: Keith Seconded by: Wendy Yes all

Rev Michael noticed a mistake in placing a dollar sign instead of a pound sign.

Plan to write to members who have not been for a while about their membership.

Pastor's Report:

Proposed by: Simon Seconded by: Wendy Yes all

Treasurer's Report:

Proposed by: Rev Michael Seconded by Simon Yes all

Keith said there had been a positive response to the appeal put out about finances.

Wendy thanked Keith for his hard work.

Pickle fund report:

Two payments made in October.

Safeguarding: No issues reported

Health and Safety: No issues reported

AGM Reports:

Reports needed from the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. The AGM will be held on the 3rd December, members to be told two weeks in advance.

Board Re-election:

All posts are up for re-election. Dameon said he would stand for Lay - delegate. And a change to the constitution should be considered to automatically add associate pastors to the board.

Rev Peta Evans: Rev Michael said it would be good to have Rev Peta on the board and to have a voice on it. We agreed to co-opt Peta onto the board.

Christmas Eve Service:

Rev Michael and Rev Peta have arranged a Open Mic evening with a pass the parcel.

Soul Safari:

Rev Michael said he had met with Billie about it. And he is looking for funding as the Rainbow fund is not funding it. Rev Michael said he will know more on Tuesday and let the Soul Safari team know more.

Any Other Business:

Wendy said could we as a church send Rev Darlene Garner some flowers as a "Thank You". Rev Michael said he had already sent a letter to her. Rev Michael said there had been major restructuring of MCC which had been problematic for some. Rev Michael asked myself and Rev Peta could write a short report for the AGM.

Rev Peta closed in prayer at 8:45pm

Pastor's report for November and December 2017

It seemed like much of November was spent getting ready for the AGM, with membership classes and drafting the annual report, and then much of December was focused on our Christmas Eve service.

Of course there were other events, and we began the month with Rev. Peta's installation service on November 5th. Rev. Kate Harford preached and during the evening there was a real feeling of affirmation for Rev. Peta's calling to work with us at the Village.

I was asked by VIVA magazine if I would allow them to write a guest article about me for their magazine. I spent some time with the editor and then, a few days later, the photographer. I was very pleased with the finished article.

November's *LGBT Community Safety Forum* meeting was focused on the *B-Right-On festival* in February. There were some changes proposed that affected us and slowed our plans for *Soul Safari* as we revised them, revised them again, and are still working around some of the obstacles.

We decided on a format for the *Queerying Christianity* program and booked the day centre for Wednesday evenings during Lent. We start on February 21st and run through to Holy Week, with baptisms at Nigel and Gerry's home on Easter Sunday morning. Thank you to Charlie and James who have been instrumental in making this happen, and to everyone who has volunteered their time and home to it.

During November I took five pastoral calls, only one of which was a *Village MCC* attendee. Then through December I took another four, (not including incidental email and telephone support). I have become increasingly aware of a gap in services in the Hastings area and will explore that more throughout the coming months.

The Trans Day of remembrance service was held at Dorset Gardens, and then at *The Village* Rev. Peta set up a remembrance tree on which we placed purple ribbons to remember those affected by transphobia and hate. The following week we added red ribbons to remember those lots to, or affected by HIV. And then the following week added sparkly decorations in memory of loved ones.

Late in November I was invited to guest on *Queersay* again and facilitated a private ashes scattering ceremony for the friends of a couple that had no family to mourn their loss.

December began with a membership class at Charlie's home and the following day we acknowledged two new members, two transferred memberships, and two friends of the church. We also held our AGM and I was very pleased that because of the hard work done by our board everything went smoothly. A special thank you to Keith for our accounts, welcome to Dameon as our Lay Delegate.

In December I met with two people who needed help from the pickle fund. As a rule our referrals come from the Percival terrace team, but can come from the Community safety forum or through *sleepsafe*. Both referrals were in desperate need, and neither could believe that the help came with no strings attached. It's often a little help that makes a huge difference.

December's *LGBT Community Safety Forum* meeting left me none the wiser and I think we're going to have to 'wing it' to some extent. It's frustrating and stressful.

I wrote a piece in December's G-scene about miracles at Christmas and received some very positive feedback. We could use a few miracles! - Especially since so many of our members have been ill. Wendy was gravely ill with Sepsis and is slowly recovering at home. It will be some time before she recovers completely. Ann's surgery didn't go well and her hand is giving her a lot of pain. Will's daughter

gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Savannah, who has been very unwell. Will himself then became unwell over Christmas. Tony had a serious bout of bronchitis which laid him out for a few weeks. Marsha has been unable to work because of an injury, and Peta was quite ill over Christmas too. I had to have minor surgery to remove a tooth embedded in my jaw, and then was ill with a chest infection that just would not go away. It feels like flu and bugs have been going round the congregation and very few have escaped without some discomfort.

Despite illness 12 contributors (not including myself) brought music, stories, and verse to our Christmas eve service. I think the term 'open mic' confused some folk, as it may have given the impression that they could choose whether or not to contribute on the evening. I will ensure that I let everyone know that if they want to bring a contribution they should register with me *in advance* so I can plan the structure and length of the service. Singing in Elvish whilst Keith celebrated communion was a really interesting experience but not one I'm inclined to repeat. We were intending to have a 'pass the parcel' in the service, but when we realized that there were so many contributors the program was amended. 31 attended our Christmas eve service, one of our largest attendances to date.

Brighton's annual LGBT carol service was organized by Nigel Nash and held at St. George's church in Kemptown on Friday 22nd. There were four of us to represent *The Village*, and I participated with a contemporary reading. Fr. Andrew from St. Mary's church preached and the choir offered Christmas music. It wonderful to see that it was well attended.

Alas, my spiritual director passed away just a few short weeks after I saw her last. We had been working together almost four years. Despite being in her 80's Aileen was as sharp as a pin and as disciplined as an athlete. Her daily routine included prayer times and study periods. I will miss her greatly. However, we both knew that our time was coming to an end, that our relationship had accomplished what God wanted from us, and that I would soon need someone new. Hopefully I've found that person and our first meeting is this coming Monday. Please pray that we are a good match for each other.

Our membership is currently 19, with two friends (Matthew and Sheila), and Charlie and Will having expressed an interest to join soon. I'm pleased to see that we continue to grow; In our first year the average attendance at worship was 17, in 2016 it was 19, and over this last year it was 21.

As we move forward my focus now is the Soul Safari and how best to facilitate that. Prayers please!

I hope that you have a wonderful new year, and that we continue to be led, and blessed, by Christ throughout the year.

Much love

Rev. Michael.

Nov 17 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Opening Bal at 31 October 2017 **£4730.72**

Income

Collections		Attendance	
05 Nov	58.00		29
12 Nov	28.00		20
19 Nov	44.50		27
26 Nov	38.50		20
Standing Order	726.50		
Pickle fund donation	514.00		
Pickle Fund load repaid	50.00		
Donation F Brophy	35.00		
			<u>£1494.50</u>
Expenditure			
Rev Michael	£400.00		
Costs Exp. reimbursed	£256.16		
Rent	£180.00		
Tithe	£104.23		
Pickle fund Payment	£ 20.00		<u>£960.39</u>

(conference transfer £50.00)

Balance in Account as at 30 November 2017 **£5264.83**

Forecast

Rev Michael	£400.00
Costs Exp. reimbursed	£ 61.30
Rent	£180.00
Tithe	£ 88.05

forecast Balance available **£4535.48**

<u>Keyboard fund</u>	<u>£ 39.16</u>
<u>PickleFund</u>	<u>£1381.42</u>
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	<u>£363.63</u>
<u>Community Works</u>	<u>£ 00.00</u>
<u>Conference Fund</u>	<u>£ 650.00</u>

General funds Avail **£2101.27**

Dec 17 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Opening Bal at 30 November 2017 £5264.83

Income

Collections		Attendance	
03 Dec	30.60	18	
10 Dec	60.20	20	
17 Dec	75.00	20	
24 Dec	79.92	31	
31 Dec	30.00	15	
Standing Order	676.50		
Pickle fund donation	50.00		
			<u>£982.22</u>

Expenditure

Rev Michael	£400.00	
Costs Exp. reimbursed	£ 61.30	
Rent	£180.00	
Stamps	£7.80	
S Markham	£6.90	
Tithe	£ 88.05	<u>£744.05</u>

(conference transfer £50.00)

Balance in Account as at 30 November 2017 £5503.00

Forecast

Rev Michael	£400.00	
Expenses costs for Dec	£255.68	
Ufmcc Tithe	£ 88.22	
Christmas Gifts	£150.00	
CCLI license	£ 76.00	
Rent	£180.00	<u>£1149.90</u>

forecast Balance available £4353.10

Keyboard fund	£ 39.16
Pickle Fund	£1431.42
Sleep Safe	£345.53
Community Works	£ 00.00
Conference Fund	£ 700.00

General funds Avail £1836.99