



# THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

## **Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday February 8<sup>th</sup> 2019 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 to be scheduled in for this meeting?
5. Safeguarding.
6. Health and Safety. .
7. Charitable status.
8. Guest speakers.
9. Annual events.
10. AOB.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Keith's home

**Present:** Reverend Michael Hydes (Chair), Reverend Peta Evans (Associate Pastor), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Simon Markham (Secretary), Sarah Barber (safeguarding Officer), Wendy Burgess (Board Member)

**Apologies:** Dameon Loukas

**Minutes of last Meeting:** Read and Accepted.

**Proposed:** Wendy Burgess **Seconded:** Reverend Peta **Vote:** All in favour

**Pastors Report:** Read and Accepted.

Sarah asked how you can do a course and learn about challenging behaviour online. Reverend Michael explained that it was run by Chichester College as part of their curriculum.

Keith asked how the social media work that Tony was doing was going, Reverend Michael said it is all coming together. Reverend Peta said he would send a social media policy document to us to have a look at.

Security options were discussed after an incident at a recent Sunday worship service where a visitor defaced the prayer book and acted inappropriately.

**Proposed:** Simon Markham **Seconded:** Keith Fish **Vote:** All in favour

**Treasurers Report:** Keith said that everything is still going well.

Reverend Peta asked about a cheque, it was a donation for Lindas mother bequest to the Air Ambulance instead of flowers. Sleepsafe money still sat in the account, Michael to talk to Mary about where the charity is in becoming part of her CIC.

**Proposed:** Reverend Michael **Seconded:** Reverend Peta **Vote:** All in favour

**Lay delegates Report:** Dameon not present at meeting.

**Associate Pastors Report:** Reverend Peta said it has been a quiet time in the church garden due to the weather. But had been given lots of seeds. Also been quiet on the pastoral care front too. Prayer team doing well and the craft day was a success. Sarah asked if they had any storage space, Reverend Peta said they had some. Reverend Michael said we need a list of who has what.

**Pickle Fund:** Reverend Michael said that Stephen would like to help on the team. Reverend Michael said he wants to arrange a meeting when he can get everyone together.

**Any other Business to Add:** Look into the police report on indecent.

**Safeguarding:** Ongoing issue discussed.

**Health and Safety:** Mary has not been at church for a while. Keith mentioned the risk assessment for the church garden.

**Annual General Meeting:** Our A.G.M was discussed. Some grammatical errors and missing members list was noticed from the minutes. All corrections done.

**Proposed:** Reverend Michael **Seconded:** Wendy Burgess **Vote:** All in favour

**Christmas Service:** All said it was very enjoyable. We had 39 people attending that night. All said that Keiths sketch was hilarious and Robert was a great narrator.

**Charitable Status:** Reverend Michael asked what is our next step? Wendy asked if we really wanted charity status at the moment? Reverend Michael said it would be good to do it. Reverend Peta said he could send to Keith about responsibilities of Trustees. Reverend Michael said it might be good to apply for full church status, as we are a functioning church. The board voted for Reverend Michael to start the process.

**Proposed:** Reverend Michael **Seconded:** Keith **Vote:** All in favour

**Annual Events:** Reverend Michael said he had sent out a list of events. And that he is unable to move the day of the mid week group.

**Any Other Business:** Sarah asked if there was anyway of getting a copy of the police report for our records. Reverend Michael said he would look into it.

Reverend Michael closed in prayer

## Pastor's report for January 2019

January was a busy month personally as I officiated at 12 funeral services and church life was busy.

First the bad news. Very few were available to volunteer at the B-Right-On festival. The change in date and work rota's meant that many of our core volunteers were either not available on the day or unable to take part in the organization and planning. I have let the Community Safety Forum know that we will not be able to host our usual festival day and the Survivors of Sexual abuse network have taken the date for their annual gathering. I have assured the forum that we will be able to help out in other areas of the festival as needed, and that we will assist with *Accessibility Matters* at Pride again this year.

I made three Pickle fund payments during January. One in concert with the *LGBT Community Safety Forum* (lgbtcsf) and *Mindout* to an individual who was moving into their first flat and needed both a fridge freezer and washing machine. (We are still organizing a wardrobe unit for them), Another was a single mother who had her benefits cut and we were able to help with heating and food. The third was a local person who had lost their job and needed a little help.

Tony W, Chris, and I met to talk about social media and Tony has very kindly agreed to be the church social media coordinator. We now have Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram pages, and Tony is ensuring that content is appropriate. Rev. Peta offered us a social media policy they have already created and both Tony and Chris suggested slight amendments in line with our policies. (Please see attached)

The quarterly LGBTCSF meeting went well and speakers included Daniel from *Switchboard* and a representative from the Fire service. The meeting is now streamed live.

Rev. Peta and I, along with a half dozen pastors from churches in the area, met with Lord Bourne, the minister for faith. We talked about how churches are picking up much of the work that was once done by the council and how the government can support that work. It was an interesting conversation and he was very keen to hear about the work of The Village MCC.

I made three pastoral visits during the month, none of which were with church members.

There's lots going on in the church. William has been quite unwell and unable to be with us since Christmas. James has also been unwell and out of action. Will has been given a date for his operation, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, and so will be out of action until at least Easter. Julie has found a nice place to live within an hour of Brighton and so will be able to visit with us more regularly. Wendy remains very poorly, Jan is recovering from surgery, and there have been health issues for many more of us.

I have made the application for full church status and it is in progress. We have had offers of help to move us to charitable status from both within and outside the church. Tony W has been looking at ways in which we can use our sound system without the squeaks and squalls that have been an issue to date.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> our guest speaker is a young non-binary transman from Russia, Mark. He manages an LGBT centre in St. Petersburg which includes a thriving Trans group, Christian group, and Bisexual group. He will be talking about the situation for LGBT people in Russia, especially for Christians. Obviously there are no accepting/welcoming/affirming churches in Russia so it will be a special experience for him to visit the Village. Thank you to Shanon for arranging this for us.

Alas, Sophie Cook had to reschedule her visit with us and will hopefully be with us on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Much love

Michael

## Social Media Policy

Internet-based social networking and other sites, such as Facebook, contain particularly high potential for misunderstandings, disputes and careless comments to escalate and cause problems. This calls for a clear policy regarding their use.

As regards the social media accounts and websites of the church:

- Publicly visible Social media accounts, pages etc, belonging to the church are primarily for sharing information about the church and the church's activities.
- Information about other groups and churches and their events should be done by sharing a link to their own pages.
- Posting to publicly visible church accounts should be done by those who have been specifically allocated this ministry. If in doubt, check with the Pastor(s).
- Personal and sensitive information, such as prayer requests, should only be shared on closed or secret groups.
- Do not share material of uncertain provenance – always check the source.
- Do not share personal opinion as if it were the official position of the church, or in such a way as though it could be interpreted to be the position of the church
- Do not share offensive, abusive or derogatory content.
- Be aware that once information is in the public domain this cannot be taken back.
- Accounts should be monitored regularly, and any offensive or inappropriate comments removed. If necessary, remind members that these accounts are not appropriate places for disputes, and any such conversations should be removed.

As regards social media use by members of the church, which refers to or impacts upon the church, its ministries and its members:

First and foremost, as baptised Christians, any member of the church should be aware that, on social media as elsewhere, they are, in the words of St. Paul, ambassadors of Christ. Therefore our behaviour should be consistent with our calling to be Christ's body in the world.

- 1) Any person who has a leadership ministry of any kind in the church should take care to distinguish clearly between speaking as a private individual, and speaking as a representative of the church:
  - (a) Statements and information regarding or related to the church and church activities should be made only on the pages/ feeds belonging to the church, and by the designated individual (unless otherwise stated this will be the Communications officer or a member of the Communications team).
  - (b) Comments made elsewhere, as a private individual, about the church and church activities should be phrased in such a way as to make it absolutely clear that they are not official church pronouncements. If in doubt, avoid commenting.
  - (c) Comments derogatory to the church, or members thereof, fall under the heading of 'disloyalty and unbecoming conduct' as stated in the UFMCC bylaws.
- 2) Any person who has a leadership ministry in the church should be aware that their comments and conversations in public view are *likely to be read as if they were the opinions of the church*. Therefore they should exercise caution and common sense when making publicly visible comments.
- 3) Any person who has a leadership ministry of any kind in the church should avoid sharing personal information which would compromise or hinder their ability to perform their ministry. They should be aware that such information, once in the public domain, cannot be taken back.
- 4) Any person who has a pastoral ministry within the church should take care that any information, comments or conversations *viewable by* those for whom they have pastoral care should not in any way compromise or conflict with their pastoral relationship.
- 5) Advice to members of the church is that they should be aware that disputes which take place on social media forums are publicly visible and liable to bring the church into disrepute. All discussions should be 'characterised by prayer, love, kindness, honesty and direct dealing' as stated in our membership guidelines. As a basic guideline: do not post in haste or anger, and do not engage with people who post negative comments.
- 6) Post only relevant and trustworthy information, and not "feel good" content (meme's and "thoughtful" quotes). Just because information is posted by someone you know does not mean that it is trustworthy information.
- 7) Avoid any theological statements that are likely not shared by all at the church. Any theological statements viewed on the church public pages will be assumed to be the theology of the church, regardless of who posts them.

## Jan '19 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Opening Bal at 31 Dec 2018 **£7222.40**

### Income

#### Collection

06 Jan	50.00	23
13 Jan	45.00	18
20 Jan	48.00	20
27 Jan	45.20	24
Standing Order	£936.50	
		<b>£1124.70</b>

### Expenditure

Rev Michael	450.00	
Rev Peta	50.00	
Ufmcc tithe	121.99	
Costs /expenses	103.05	
Rent Sundays	144.00	
Pickle fund	423.00	
Conference flights	459.98	
Liability Ins	242.31	
CCLI License	76.00	
Chq linda	25.00	<b>£2095.33</b>

*(conference transfer £100.00)*

Balance in Account as at 31 January 2019 **£6251.77**

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Rev Michael	450.00	
Rev Peta	50.00	
Ufmcc tithe	97.47	
Costs /expenses	178.75	
Rent Sundays	144.00	
Christmas gratuity	50.00	<b>£970.22</b>

forecast Balance available **£5281.55**

<u>Keyboard fund</u>	<u>£ 7.18</u>
<u>PickleFund</u>	<u>£ 970.21</u>
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	<u>£345.53</u>
<u>Community Works</u>	<u>£ 0.00</u>
<u>Conference Fund</u>	<u>£ 1159.47</u>

**General funds Avail **£2799.16****