



# THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

## **Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday March 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. Music leading.
9. Guest visit review
10. Easter events and Easter offering
11. Seder (esp. Lamb)
12. Annual events.
13. Social media policy
14. 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 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at Keith's home

**Present:** Reverend Michael Hydes(Chair), Reverend Peta Evens(Associate Pastor), Keith Fish(Treasurer), Dameon Loukas(Lay Delegate) and Simon Markham(Secretary)

**Apologies:** Wendy Burgess(Board Member) and Sarah Barber(Safeguarding Officer)

Reverend Michael opened in prayer

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** Minutes were discussed and accepted.

Proposed: Reverend Michael    Seconded: Reverend Peta    Vote: All

**Pastors Report:** Was read and discussed.

Proposed: Simon    Seconded: Keith    Vote: All

**Treasurers Report:** was read and discussed. Keith said we could allocate £250 towards the lay delegates air fare for the conference.

Proposed: Reverend Peta    Seconded: Reverend Michael    Vote: All

**Lay Delegates Report:** Dameon said he had been sending out birthday cards and asked if it was ok to use Christmas stamps still.

**Associate Pastors Report:** Reverend Peta said that he had been doing some pastoral care for a Trans guy in the Midlands. And had gone to the Trans day of Remembrance, which had been very moving. Peta said that a member of the Brighton and Hove Alzheimers society, who are focusing on the LGBT community about going to a event. It was suggested if they knew about the Older and Out group and see if they could be brought together. A list of all the donated seeds had been put together and Peta now had some Perspex for growing outdoors.

**Pickle Fund:** Reverend Michael had made 3 payments. But had been unable to arrange delivery of a wardrobe for someone.

**AOB to add to meeting:** Alternative events to replace the Brighton festival.

**Safeguarding:** No new issues.

**Health & Safety:** No new issues.

**Charitable Status:** Reverend Michael said that Robert Douglas and a friend of Stephen had offered to help. Reverend Peta had sent in the old document from North London MCC to look at. Peta said that people who are not granted asylum could not be a trustee. Michael said he needed to go through the guidelines carefully.

**Guest Speakers:** Michael asked if there were any speakers we wanted. He said it would be nice to have Alex Mabbs again and to have more women speakers too. We have Mark Kandolsky speaking in March and Sophie later on. He said he had also asked a local woman, Asmat, a Muslim activist, coming to speak as well. Peta suggested a couple of possible speakers.

**Annual Events:** Michael said he was thinking of doing a longer retreat this year, either a 2 or 3 day one. He asked if we had any ideas, Dameon said for some 3 days might be difficult. Keith said a garden party would be a nice thing to do. And we discussed the churches 5<sup>th</sup> birthday coming up.

**Any Other Business:** Peta asked how much time was needed to put a Soul Safari together, Michael said that 6 months is needed. Michael thanked Peta for the social Media document and had given it to Chris and Tony. And hoping to adopt the document at the next meeting.

Reverend Peta closed in prayer

## Pastor's report for February 2019

Dear Friends,

February was a little less frantic than January, although not without it's highs and lows.

Alas, one young man that I'd been supporting, a friend of a church member, killed himself. It's been a weight to carry and pastoral care has been a heavier weight than usual.

On a positive note Will's surgery went well and he is recovering, albeit slowly, at home. He is missed in worship for more than his music.

Other church members continue to suffer with ill health, and neither Peta or I have escaped a share. Life is always more of a challenge when you're under the weather.

Mark Kandolsky's visit was a positive experience. We raised £200 for his work in Russia and there were 34 people in worship, 9 of whom were guests or newcomers. William very kindly played piano for us and Simon made the most delicious chocolate cake. It was a lovely evening.

In February I made one pickle fund payment and three pastoral visits, as well as offered pastoral care via the telephone and email. The fortnightly group based on the *Phoenix Affirmations* is exciting and well received. The average attendance is 10 and on occasion Charlie's home is so full that some have to sit on the floor. It is certainly helping us to redefine who we are as a community and I hope to make a sermon series from the same foundation. During February I visited with my spiritual director and looked at ways of moving the church forward.

Easter is nearly upon us. I canceled the traveling group as there were only three people to sign up, one of which was Will who is now unable to join us. I am looking forward to Sophie visiting at the end of the month and to the Easter celebrations and Seder meal.

Rev. Ines-Paul Bauman has kindly agreed to come and preach for us at our fifth anniversary celebration, and our application for full church status is being considered.

The Rainbow Hub is live and there is always room for more volunteers. Chris helps out regularly with a shift and I would encourage everyone to sign up if they have the time.

In February I had two minor surgical procedures that slowed me down a little but were more of an inconvenience than a handicap.

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.

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

Opening Bal at 31 Jan 2019 £6251.77

### Income

#### Collection

03 Feb	86.00	21	
10 Feb	35.00	19	
17 Feb	47.00	18	
24 Feb	43.00	22	
Standing Order	£636.50		
Pickle donation	£100.00		
Conference donation	£100.00		
			<u>£1047.50</u>

### Expenditure

Rev Michael	450.00		
Rev Peta	50.00		
Ufmcc tithe	97.47		
Costs /expenses	178.75		
Rent Sundays	144.00		
Christmas gratuity	50.00		
Conference Flight Loukas	250.00		
Conference Fee Loukas	247.21		
			<u>£1467.43</u>

*(conference transfer £100.00)*

Balance in Account as at 28 February-1105.64= 2019 £5831.84

### Est Mthly pyt

Rev Michael	450.00		
Rev Peta	50.00		
Ufmcc tithe	74.75		
Costs /expenses	350.89		
Rent Sundays	180.00		
			<u>£1105.64</u>

forecast Balance available £4726.20

<u>Keyboard fund</u>	<u>£ 7.18</u>
<u>PickleFund</u>	<u>£ 990.21</u>
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	<u>£345.53</u>
<u>Community Works</u>	<u>£ 0.00</u>
<u>Conference Fund</u>	<u>£ 462.26</u>

**General funds Avail £2921.02**