



THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday November 15th 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 to be scheduled in for this meeting?
5. Safeguarding.
6. Health and Safety.
7. Christmas Eve service
8. Constitution – (working towards charitable status).
9. Ministry and LGBT refugees.
10. Rite of membership – Dec 2nd.
11. Liturgy Training Nov 18th 4:30pm.
12. 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 Friday 5th October 2018
at Keith's home**

Present: Reverend Michael Hydes (Chair), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Simon Markham (Secretary), Reverend Peta Evans (Associate Pastor)

Guests: None

Apologies: Dameon Loukas (Lay delegate), Sarah Barber (Safeguarding Officer), Wendy Burgess (Board Member)

Minutes of Last Meeting: Accepted with an amendment. Lay delegate role is presently combined with safeguarding in the constitution, and it will be proposed that the roles are split in the revised constitution.

Proposed: Rev Michael **Seconded:** Keith **Vote:** All in favour.

Pastors Report: Reverend Michael had another busy month.

Proposed: Simon **Seconded:** Rev Peta **Vote:** All in favour.

Treasurers Report: Keith said standing orders were down due to a short month. Generally still doing well. Rev Michael said the Sleepsafe money needed utilizing in the LGBT homeless community. Rev Michael asked if we had any ideas and will explore some options.

Proposed: Rev Michael **Seconded:** Rev Peta **Vote:** All

Associate Pastors Report: Reverend Peta said the Interdenominational Day Conference had gone well. People from all over attended and there was many interesting speakers and workshops. The church garden needs better access, and Peta will set up a working party when the weather improves. Reverend Peta said that the preparation for the one day retreat was progressing.

Pickle Fund: Nothing to report.

A.O.B Adding: Membership.

Safeguarding: Issue Discussed.

Health & Safety: No Issues.

Christmas Eve Service: Reverend Michael said that with Christmas Eve being on Monday, we would hold our service on the Sunday. And that all entertainments to be arranged well in advance.

History Month: All preaching has been arranged and services sorted.

Stewardship Month: There is no stewardship month this year, so we will have it early next year. To be discussed at the retreat.

Constitution: Keith asked if everyone could read through the revised constitution to see if any amendments needed to be made before it was offered to the members for their consideration.

Membership & Next Meeting: Keith said the AGM is coming up and some people wanted to come into membership. Reverend Michael said maybe he and Reverend Peta could arrange some membership classes. Keith said that next months meeting is the last before the AGM and could it be put back a week, Reverend Michael said he would poll for the best dates.

Any Other Business: Reverend Michael said Billie has put back the Soul Safari back till the end of March the beginning of April. Reverend Peta suggested that we add a Harvest Supper to our church life next year.

Keith closed in prayer

Pastor's report for October 2018

At the beginning of October I filmed a couple of episodes of *Queersay* with Andrew Kaye at *latest TV*. As much of the world embraces right wing politics it's become increasingly difficult to find positive news stories, although Andrew does a great job of always finding something to make you smile.

A few days later we held our annual retreat and I was thrilled that there were 19 of us there to study and plan together. Thank you so much to Wendy and Sarah who organized the space, and to Peta who brought a wonderful workshop on how to use the bible. Thank you to everyone who brought such wonderful food and contributed to the conversations. In the afternoon we planned the worship themes for the coming year and looked at our vision for the future. It became apparent that the vision we forged three years ago needed amending. Some of it had become reality, and some had become redundant. However, we could see that we were on the right track and we continue to pray that we continue to listen for where the Holy Spirit is leading us. For the time being our vision is brief, however I am sure that when the time is right a new vision for the future shall reveal itself.

In five years time The Village MCC will be known as an inclusive Christian community church that is grounded in the LGBT community and welcomes all. For many it is a spiritual anchor, empowering change in the lives of individuals, the community, and the world.

During October I met with Sophie from the *Switchboard* to look at ways in which the council can improve the city for LGBT people of faith. She is looking at forming work groups and I'll let you know as soon as we get to the stage of recruiting participants. My hope is that some from The Village MCC will be able to offer input and advice.

On October 17th the Community Safety Forum held an event at *The Hub* designed to raise consciousness around hate crime in the city. Community leaders gathered and speakers from the both the bus company (which have launched a new reporting campaign) and from the refugee forum spoke passionately about the need for groups to connect and offer mutual support. We had a minute's noise. It was noisy!

Over the past month I have made five pastoral visits, and three pastoral phone conversations. I was glad that Steph was able to make it to church. They live on the Isle of Wight so it was good to meet them in person. I was also glad that Julie was able to worship with us a couple of times as she hunts for a home in the area. Both Steph and Julie have been connected to *The Village MCC* for some time via email and I am glad that we have been able to offer support at a distance.

I've been meeting with folks who would like to become members of The Village MCC and I believe four or five folk will be committing themselves to the life of the church this December. Members will join the church at the first service in December, also the evening when we hold our AGM.

On Sunday Nov 18th I will be offering liturgist's training to anyone who would like it. It will be at the day centre at 4:30pm. I have talked with Jude (Jules' assistant) who said we are welcome to take the extra hour at the usual rate. My hope is that we can broaden worship participation.

Tony asked if I would say a few words as his father's ashes were scattered. Tony, Bernie, and other family members gathered in the gardens of remembrance at Woodvale Crematorium and I performed a brief service. Will scattered the ashes in a clearing that will be thick with wild flowers come spring, and Vick Wares was finally laid to rest.

I attended a public conversation on LGBT refugees and was sad to hear how unfair the system is and how many LGBT refugees are unsupported and victimized during the process. I will be connecting with various groups over the next few months, including MCC North London, to explore the processes in more depth before bringing all the information to the board to see if we are able to help in any way.

My own work is going well although I would appreciate your continuing prayers please!

Love

Michael

Oct '18 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Opening Bal at 30 Sep 2018 **£6418.82**

Income

Collection

07 Oct	64.00	32
14 Oct	94.27	25
21 Oct	47.00	21
28 Oct	46.00	26
Standing Order	1236.50	
Anniversary Collection	101.50	
		<u>£1589.27</u>

Expenditure

Rev Michael	450.00	
Rev Peta	50.00	
Ufmcc tithe	77.51	
Costs /expenses	109.18	
Rent Sundays	144.00	
Stamps	4.02	
Keyboard Bag	31.98	<u>£866.69</u>

(conference transfer £100.00)

Balance in Account as at 31 October 2018 **£7141.40**

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Rev Michael	450.00	
Rev Peta	50.00	
Ufmcc tithe	128.78	
Costs /expenses	195.37	
Rent Sundays	144.00	
Anniversary collection	101.50	<u>£1069.65</u>

forecast Balance available £6071.75

Keyboard fund	<u>£ 7.18</u>
PickleFund	<u>£ 1293.21</u>
Sleep Safe	<u>£345.53</u>
Community Works	<u>£ 0.00</u>
Conference Fund	<u>£ 1450.00</u>

General funds Avail £2975.83