



THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday October 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 to be scheduled in for this meeting?
5. Safeguarding.
6. Health and Safety.
7. Christmas Eve service
8. MCC History Month (Robert, Sarah, Peta, and I).
9. Stewardship month.
10. Constitution – (working towards charitable status).
11. AOB. Membership and next mtg. Liturgy training.

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 7th September 2018
7.30pm at Keith's home

Present: Reverend Michael Hydes (Chair), Reverend Peta Evans (Associate Pastor), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Dameon Loukas (Lay Delegate), Sarah Barber (Safeguarding Officer), Simon Markham (Secretary) and Wendy Burgess (Board Member)

Guests: None.

Apologies: None.

Opening Prayer: Rev Michael.

Minutes of last meeting: Wendy to look into a Health & Safety checklist.

Minutes accepted - Proposed: Keith **Seconded:** Wendy **Vote:** all for – except Rev Peta absent from previous meeting and so abstained.

Pastors Report: Dameon said he hadn't done Disability Pride with Chris. It had been a very busy time for Rev Michael.

Proposed: Keith **Seconded:** Rev Peta **Vote:** all for

Treasurers Report: Keith said we are ticking over nicely and our bottom line is up a bit. Our average weekly collection is around £30-40. Rev Michael asked about the keyboard fund money. Rev Michael thanked Keith for his work.

Proposed: Rev Michael **Seconded:** Rev Peta **Vote:** all for

Lay Delegate's Report: Dameon said there was nothing to report, all was going well.

Associate Pastor's Report: Rev Peta said the relationship with the Trans Pride team is good and that Trans Pride had gone well. Rev Peta also has been doing some pastoral care with some people. Stephen is stepping back from the prayer team and the suggestion was made to ask Sheila if she would be willing to help. Rev Peta said about using 50 years of MCC info for prayers. The church garden is going very well, crops growing well and Rev Peta said everything planted was growing and will bring the harvest in to church for people to take. And next year asking local groups, like Lunch Positive if they would like any produce.

Pickle Fund: Rev Michael said we have a large chunk of money in there, but it is not getting out to the people who need it. We will review the way we publicize the ministry.

Any other business to be added: Nothing to add.

Safeguarding: Nothing to report.

Health & Safety: Nothing to report. But a risk assessment for the church allotment is needed.

Annual Day Retreat: On Saturday the 6th October at Wendy and Sarah's place at Newhaven.

Drop in centre: Rev Michael said he was there last week. As the Rainbow fund are neutral they are going to run it, and will give us a space to use when we need it.

Interdenominational Day conference in Manchester: Rev Peta said that as the conference is on a Saturday and the topic is inclusion for Transgender people in the church, can travel up and get back for the service on the Sunday and has the chance to stay with relatives up there. It was decided to fund the cost of trip.

Proposed: Keith **Seconded:** Rev Michael **Vote:** all for

Constitution: Rev Michael had asked if the role of Lay Delegate and Safeguarding were combined. Keith said that they were currently one, but split in the proposed amended version. The Lay Delegate was privy to any safeguarding issues. Rev Michael thanked Keith and Sarah for their hard work on offering amendments to the constitution for the church to ensure it was suitable if we were to become a charity. Keith said we need to get it out to the members well before the AGM for voting on.

Pride: Rev Michael said that the Safety Forum was very pleased with our work on the day. Generally the needs of attendees wasn't well managed by the security firm on the Saturday, and the community area was badly

planned, but the Sunday was much more community based. Pride did bring nearly 30 million to the city and £250,000 to the rainbow fund.

Any Other Business: Rev Michael said that while the Pickle Fund is available primarily for the LGBT community, that no one in real need is ever turned away if we can help. There are plans for a non profit home safe project, and Rev. Michael will keep us in the loop as it moves ahead. We have a great team, and funds, but it is under utilized by the community.

Rev Peta closed in prayer.

Pastor's report for September 2018

September was a busy month, primarily because I left my part time secular job at the end of August and have been setting up my own business. Thankfully it seems to have been a good move and early results are positive. Since the work is primarily pastoral in nature it's in line with my calling and a great deal more satisfying than my secular work has been over the last couple of years. Of course any new venture takes a lot of work to get off the ground, and it's early days, but the prospects seem to be good.

During September I made six pastoral visits on behalf of *The Village*, (only one of which was with a church member), and supported two people long distance by phone. I also had a visit from a Brighton College student to talk about the birth of *The Village* and some of our experiences in the town. I also filmed two episodes of *Queersay* with Andrew kaye.

The Peterson Toscano event that Rev. Peter arranged was a success, although it was just a shame that more people didn't attend. I was pleased to see that *The Village* was well represented and will look at including some environmental themes into our liturgy over the coming year. Peterson stayed overnight with Chris and I and then I took him to the station in the morning to catch his train.

During September I visited my spiritual director and spent a pleasant morning talking about my experiences at *The Village* and my own spiritual journey.

Although I conducted five funerals during September none was so personal as the one for the late Michael Davis. I had supported Michael for some years, whenever he wanted to talk, and so knew him quite well. Of course he was a good friend of Keith's, and had sung with Chris in the Brighton Gay Men's Chorus. The Chorus sang, Keith read a poem, and the service went well. I was very pleased to be able to serve Michael, my friends, and my community, at such a personal and heartfelt event.

In some ways now it's difficult distinguishing between my own work and the work of the church. For example, this week I spent time with a 90 year old man who'd recently lost a good friend of over 60 years. He was gay, had lost his partner some years ago, and was so very very relieved to find that someone sensitive to his situation was available to talk to and conducting the service. At another arrangement I met some of the family that were trans, and it was such a blessing for all of us to be on the same page and feel comfortable with each other. At Wednesday's service over 100 ambulance drivers and paramedics formed an honour guard and it was wonderful to feel the church at the centre of such a community event. My hand still aches after shaking hands with over 100 emotional ambulance workers – regardless of gender they all have a heck of a grip!

I'm looking forward to our retreat and looking again at who we are and where God is calling us. I have no doubt that we have been called to be a part of the community and to serve the community. Even in Brighton there are LGBT people that still have not experienced God's all inclusive love. There is still work to be done.

Love

Michael

Sep '18 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Opening Bal at 30 Aug 2018 £6528.01

Income

Collection

02 Sep	37.50	24
09 Sep	94.00	27
16 Sep	46.50	22
23 Sep	23.00	25
30 Sep	37.60	22
Standing Order	636.50	

£875.10

Expenditure

Rev Michael	450.00	
Rev Peta	50.00	
Ufmcc tithe	97.25	
Costs /expenses	114.14	
Rent Sundays	180.00	
Rev Peta Manchester exp	92.90	<u>£984.29</u>

(conference transfer £100.00)

Balance in Account as at 30 Sept 2018	£6381.22
Cash In Hand	<u>£ 37.60</u>
	£6418.82

Mthly pyt

Rev Michael	450.00	
Rev Peta	50.00	
Ufmcc tithe	97.25	
Costs /expenses	114.14	
Rent Sundays	180.00	
Stamps	4.02	
Keyboard Bag	31.98	<u>£927.39</u>

forecast Balance available £5491.43

<u>Keyboard fund</u>	<u>£ 39.16</u>
<u>PickleFund</u>	<u>£ 1193.21</u>
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	<u>£345.53</u>
<u>Community Works</u>	<u>£ 71.92</u>
<u>Conference Fund</u>	<u>£ 1350.00</u>

General funds Avail £2491.61