



THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday July 19th 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 (Written)
 - Pickle fund report (verbal)
4. AOB to be scheduled in for this meeting?
5. Safeguarding.
6. Health and Safety.
7. Charitable status.
8. Retreat days.
9. Pride
10. New banners
11. World Aids Day service
12. AOB -
13. Close in prayer.

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 Board of Trustees 21st June 2019 at Keith's home.

Present: Reverend Michael Hydes (chair), Reverend Peta Evans (Board Member), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Simon Markham (Secretary), Sarah Barber (Safeguarding officer), Wendy Burgess (Board Member)

Apologies: Dameon Loukas (Lay Delegate)

Reverend Peta opened in Prayer

Minutes of last meeting: Read and discussed. Minor amendments.

Proposed: Reverend Micheal **Seconded:** Reverend Peta **Vote:** All in favour.

Pastors Report: Read and discussed.

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

Treasurers Report: Read and discussed. Keith said that a couple of standing orders had changed and we had a donation of £150 towards Pride expenses.

Proposed: Reverend Micheal **Seconded:** Simon **Vote:** All in favour.

Lay Delegates Report: Dameon was unable to attend.

Associate Pastors Report: Read and discussed.

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

Pickle Fund: Reverend Michael said he hadn't made any payments and was not aware of any of other member of the team doing so.

Any Other Business for later: Nothing to add.

Safeguarding: No new issues.

Health & Safety: No new issues.

Charitable Status: Reverend Michael said he would sort out the details when he returns from the MCC conference.

Larger Worship Space: Was discussed at length. Brighthelm was discounted due to many issues. Reverend Michael said he thought about changing the layout at the centre for now, but we need to keep looking. Reverend Peta said that St Marys next door is now free and Reverend Michael asked Peta to look into it.

Retreat Day: Reverend Micheal said he has decided to have two retreat days this year. One for leadership at Wendy and Sarah's in September. And a general one at Mary's new unit in October.

Pride: Reverend Michael said that Billie and his team are not doing the accessibility tent this year, it has gone to a outside company. So we are having a stall this year, we will do Jesus deck readings and temporary tattoos. He will arrange tickets nearer the date. Wendy and Sarah said that they would go through the books of tattoos, sort them out, and let Rev. Michael know if we need to add more.

World Aids Day: Reverend Michael has talked to Rev. Heather Leake-Davies and has agreed for it to be held at Dorset Gardens at 4pm. This will replace our usual Sunday service on that day and the Rainbow Chorus can use the centre for rehearsals that evening. We will still have some parking there.

Ministry: Reverend Michael reminded us that there are challenges as a small church. Wearing different hats means that we can easily forget that those different hats come with differing responsibilities and different confidentiality expectations. If in any doubt speak to Rev. Michael.

Any Other Business: Reverend Peta asked when he was leaving for the conference.

Reverend Micheal said he thought it might be good to have Baseball caps printed with our logo, as t shirt sizing can be challenging.

Keith asked about table banners and suggested that we needed some new ones.

Reverend Michael said he would like a double sided flag for outside our venue, as when the wind blows in the wrong direction our current one cannot be read.

Reverend Michael closed in Prayer.

Pastor's report

Since my last report was only a week before conference there's not a lot to report except from the conference itself. The week prior to conference I was busy preparing everything so worship could run smoothly in my absence. Three orders of service and related readings etc. to arrange and send out. Although we returned on the Sunday morning I know how badly I travel, and how much jet lag affects me, so I arranged to be absent just in case. In fact it was just as well as it was a difficult flight back and it's taken most of the week to recover from it.

But, conference was great! You'd have been proud of Chris and Dameon. Chris volunteered and spent 14 hours a day running the conference app, streaming services, and all the virtual stuff, (as a volunteer). Dameon sat through all the business sessions, and despite the unusual length only once did he pop back to the room to get more pain killers. Despite the pain and discomfort he sat through hour after hour of business meetings, some of which were exciting but most of which were inevitably tedious. One day we had a continuous session that lasted 7 hours! The business meetings went on so long they had to be extended into Friday, and many of the other events had to be rescheduled or omitted altogether. As a denomination we use *Roberts Rules of Order* which help facilitate the meetings, but can also drag them out. Elder Don Eastman did a creditable job stepping in as chair, and the mood was generally good humoured. After the last conference, which failed to elect a new moderator, there was definitely a determination not to have a repeat of the events. But, with the inevitable points of order, points of information, friendly amendments, etc., they were long days.

In the first round of voting Cecilia was ahead with around 50% of the votes, whilst Tony and Liz each had around 25%. Tony graciously stepped out after the first round and on the second round Cecilia was decisively voted in as our new moderator. I don't know what it will mean for us to have an English moderator based in the UK, (Cecilia lives just outside Bath), but I suspect there are changes afoot! Please lift Cecilia and our new board in prayer as they wrestle with some of the challenges ahead.

As to the rest, the voting went much as you (The Village MCC) asked Dameon to vote. The new board has quite a task on hand but looks very capable. The vote on whether baptism should be a requirement for church membership was postponed and a theologies team will be set up to look at it. You can read more about it on the mccchurch.org site. All in all it was a good conference experience.

However, Orlando was much more expensive than we expected. I forgot about the general rise in prices since I was there, plus taxes, resort fees, and with the pound being in the tank the poor exchange rate makes everything even more pricey. It was way too expensive to eat out in the hotel all the time - (the first night we were there we went for burgers in the hotel bar and, with two beers and a coke, it was over \$100 for the three of us). The breakfast buffet was \$30! Needless to say we bought food from the local shops and when we were able to get out of the hotel we ate at the cheapest places we could find.

It was good to meet up with old friends, and there were a couple of tearful reunions. There seemed to be a spirit of determination in the air, and a consensus that God has not finished with us yet! Wherever people are marginalized, denied their rights, taught that God's love does not include them, it was agreed that there is a place for MCC.

Of course, whilst I was away church life here in Brighton continued without missing a beat. We are all the body of Christ and *together* we are the church, so thank you to everyone who helped. I do want to say a special thank you to Rev. Peta for being available 24/7, and to Tony for recording the sermons. I've heard that I missed some great worship. Although *I can't believe that you had lemon drizzle cake without me* lol!!!

I was thrilled to hear that Rev. Peta has a group of volunteers to help out with Trans Pride, I hope the weather holds out for the weekend.

Wednesday was the last in the Phoenix Affirmations series and we all agreed that it was a rewarding experience. When the deacons and I meet next we will talk about series and events for the future – I am especially excited about the resources garnered at conference.

Again, my health hasn't been great but it hasn't stopped me from doing anything essential. It was nice to get away, but equally nice to get home!

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Pride season – may we all be blessed.

Love

Rev. Michael.

Associate Pastor's Report July 2019

It's been a quiet month on the whole, though Rev Michael was away, he had prepared things thoroughly in advance, so I was left with little to do beyond the usual! Even the church phone didn't ring very often.

It's just as well, as I've been quite unwell for a week, and an unexpected situation at work meant that my final month there has been hectic.

I was sorry to miss Conference, but I was glad to be part of the online discussion about baptism beforehand, although having just 2 or 3 minutes to present one's theology of baptism is a tall order. Still, it was a fascinating discussion and many different perspectives were brought to the table.

A number of people have signed up to volunteer at Trans Pride – we're taking responsibility for a part of the set-down at the end of the day, which is one of the hardest volunteer slots to fill, as most want to get to the evening partying, or to lie down with some sunburn cream! So well done to the volunteers.

The garden is doing well, though we have had some antagonism from the site representative – not due to MCC, it seems, but because she has some objection to the service-users from Aspire being there. However, I do not believe she is within her rights there, so it shouldn't affect us. We have, excitingly, had our first crops – courgettes and chard.

We had the deacon's meeting, I've met with Mary to discuss garden plans, and Sunday worship has gone well, and my particular thanks to Keith for calmly keeping everything organised, and to Wendy for checking in with support during the week, it was very much appreciated.

June'19 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Balance in Account as at 31 May 2019		<u>£6832.35</u>
Income		
Collection		
02 Jun	46.00	24
09 Jun	65.00	22
16 Jun	64.00	22
23 Jun	53.60	27
30 Jun	33.00	22
Standing Order	621.50	
Pride donation	150.00	<u>£1033.10</u>

Expenditure

(conference transfer £100.00)

Rev Michael	500.00	
Rev Peta	50.00	
Ufmcc tithe	111.30	
Costs /expenses	114.85	
Rent Sundays	180.00	
Barber Burgess Pickle fund	20.00	<u>£976.15</u>

Balance in account at 30 Jun 2019	<u>6738.70</u>
Cash in hand	<u>150.60</u>
Balance	<u>6889.30</u>

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Rev Michael	500.00	
Rev Peta	50.00	
Ufmcc tithe	93.31	
Costs /expenses	142.71	
Rent Sundays	<u>144.00</u>	<u>930.02</u>

forecast Balance available £5959.28

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<u>PickleFund</u>	<u>£1136.27</u>
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	<u>£345.53</u>
<u>Conference Fund</u>	<u>£ 974.40</u>
<u>Pride</u>	<u>£150.00</u>

General funds Avail £3353.08