



THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday June 21st 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. Larger worship space.
9. Retreat days.
10. Pride
11. World Aids Day service
12. Ministry boundaries. (Or - the challenge of wearing different hats).
13. AOB -
14. 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 Meeting 3rd May 2019 at Keith's Home

Present: Reverend Michael Hydes (chair), Reverend Peta Evens (Board Member), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Simon Markham (Secretary), Dameon Loukas (Lay Delegate) Sarah Barber (Safeguarding Officer), Wendy Burgess (Board Member)

Apologies: None

Keith opened in prayer

Minutes of last Meeting: Discussed and accepted with amendments.

Proposed: Reverend Michael Seconded: Reverend Peta Vote: All

Pastors Report: Discussed and accepted.

Proposed: Simon Seconded: Wendy Vote: All

Treasurers Report: Discussed and accepted.

Proposed: Reverend Michael Seconded: Wendy Vote: All

Keith Proposed we increase Reverend Michael's salary, Seconded by Wendy, all voted and Reverend Michael abstained.

Lay delegates Report: Dameon said he was recovering, but was having some memory problems. He said his Visa was valid for the U.S.A for the conference. Keith said he need to put information together for the conference and for voting.

Associate Pastors Report: Discussed as Reverend Peta had written it earlier and all had read it. Reverend Michael thanked Peta for covering for him at church the previous Sunday.

Pickle Fund: Revered Michael had made a payment this month.

Items for A.O.B: Reverend Peta and Keith both had a item to add.

Safeguarding: A potential safeguarding issue was discussed.

Health & Safety: No new issues.

Charitable Status: Reverend Michael to arrange a brainstorming and word smithing session.

Larger Worship Space: Reverend Michael had spoken to some people and Brighthelm was mentioned as MCC Brighton no longer use it. And Isla had suggested a refurbished place in the Brighton Marina. Reverend Michael said we needed to be actively looking.

Any Other Business: Reverend Michael said he had received a email from Wanda, about our churches start date. Are we using the date we became a full church or the date of our first service. It was discussed and decided we are using the date of our first service.

Keith said when we have our Worlds Aids Day service it would be good to contact the Martin Fisher Foundation.

Reverend Peta said that the Rainbow Hub were fine with them using the space and a Wednesday is the best day. Reverend Michael asked if he could get together with Reverend Peta to talk about planning.

Reverend Michael said there was a couple of events in June, Faith in Action and Working to Connect both on the 6th. Faith in Action in the Market off London Road, and Working to Connect at the Friends Meeting house, Charlie said had mentioned that he would go to the Working to Connect and Reverend Michael asked if anyone could come and support the events.

Sarah said it would be nice to send a card to SJ and Andrew on the birth of their baby, all agreed.

Reverend Michael closed in prayer

Pastor's report for May 2019

It seems as though I'm writing for a longer period than usual, having moved the board meeting back a while, so forgive me if I stray into June's events.

The month began with the *Clergy standing together* event on 2nd May, sponsored by *Brighton and Hove faith in action*. I'm often amazed by the warmth with which we are welcomed to multifaith groups, and this occasion was no different. There was great food and representatives from the Buddhist, Old Catholic Church, Muslim, Bahai, Greek Orthodox, and freechurch traditions. We spoke about ways in which we could connect more freely and visits to churches and mosques were explored.

Our very first scheduled Deacon's meeting was on May 7th, followed by the second on June 4th. Wendy, Isla, and Charlie are all exploring what it means for them to be deacons of the church, and the meetings have been a great way to see various aspects of The Village MCC life. There is so much going on under the radar! I am so proud to work with a team, (including Rev. Peta of course), that genuinely cares for congregation members in very real ways, from a get well or birthday card to going with someone to a hospital appointment. There's some very gentle and affirming pastoral care happening that can only be a good thing for the life of the church. The next meeting will be led by Rev. Peta as I will be away.

Rev. Peta and I met May 8th, the first of our scheduled monthly meetings. Until now we've met ad hoc, sometimes a few times in a month and on one occasion not for three months. Peta's idea that we set a regular date means that we never go too long without meeting. The truth is that we both have busy schedules, so we can't always meet as planned, but we can ensure that we reschedule so that we don't leave it too long.

The Phoenix affirmations conversations are going well. The least in attendance has been 4, the most 12, the conversation always lively. Ten meetings gone by and only two left. I'm happy to entertain suggestions if you have ideas for further groups.

The Kemptown festival was on June 1st and Chris and I threw the doors open to guests. It was nice that folk dropped in and the festival was fun, if noisy! I did like the fact that by 6pm it all closed down. There was a stage just outside our front door! I would like us to be involved next year and suggest that we start making plans soon.

June 6th was busy as we had stalls at both the Brighton and Hove faith in action resource day, and the Working to connect resource fair in the evening. Thank you so much to Rev. Peta, Isla, Sheila, Philip, Dameon, Charlie, Stephen, Simon, Tony, and Keith, for helping out during the day. It really was a great witness to the city.

As we move forward the hon. Alexandra Phillips will be the special guest speaker at our Pride worship service on Sunday August 4th. She was recently appointed as the youngest ever mayor of Brighton & Hove, and is also now our M.E.P..

This year we will be holding two one day retreats. A church leadership retreat on Sat Sep 7 at Wendy and Sarah's home, and an all Church retreat on Sat Oct 5th at Mary's new facility in Shoreham. Both from 10am – 4pm. The leadership retreat is just for those folk who are members of the church or active in church ministry and/or worship. Some of the day will be spent planning the next church year. The all church retreat will be open to anyone, friends and family included, and will be a day of fun and healing.

On Thursday June 13th WTC held a Funding at Dorset Gardens Methodist Church. Where we were able to look at funding options. I have some ideas to be explored after the craziness of conference and Pride! I am also talking to Heather Leake about the World Aids day service on Dec 1st and we have some options to discuss.

Over the last few weeks I've made two pastoral visits and taken a number of pastoral calls. I have not made any pickle fund payments.

Alas, we had to say goodbye to our beloved Fred last week. He had been with Chris and I almost 18 years and will be terribly missed. Too much personality for one cat!

Next week is conference and I would appreciate your prayers, not just for Dameon, Chris, and I, but for our denomination as we move forward. We continue to live in turbulent times, and our denomination is not immune from the challenges we face.

Much love - Rev. Michael

Associate Pastor's Report, June 2019

It's been a busy month for meetings and outreach so far, and with Pride and Trans Pride coming up it looks set to continue that way. I had many useful conversations at both of the events on Thursday 6th – Faith in Action and Working to Connect – and have been asked to speak at an Interfaith event. Another event which was useful was the Fundraising information event last Thursday, where again connections were made and we got useful information about the different funding options.

Besides preaching, celebrating etc at the Village, I have also been guest preacher and celebrant at MCC Brighton this month, as their Pastor was away, which gave me a chance to experience their outdoor worship service in its new location – a very interesting way of solving the perennial worship space problem common to MCCs!

I also marched with Christians Together at Pride in Oxford, and attended their Pride prayer and worship services, which have been growing fast since Oxford Pride's relatively small beginnings. As the time of General Conference and the business meeting approaches, I've been asked to contribute my theological perspective to the discussion about baptism in advance of the proposed bylaw amendment, which will take place shortly, so I've been giving careful reflection on my answers to those questions.

The garden project continues, literally, to grow – a little too fast in respect of the weeds, which are at their busiest in this quarter of the year. I've met with Mary to discuss future plans for the project, and volunteers have done good work in planting out young plants and seeds. Sadly it's been too wet for the eco-brick building projects, which can only be done in fine weather – but it's still only June.

The prayer team continues to meet, and to come up with ideas – especially as Pride month approaches – and we have attempted to revive the tradition of prayer for those facilitating the worship, just before service, with patchy success so far, as it's easy to get too busy in the run up to service.

In pastoral care, I've had a few chats over coffee and more, as usual, online with people from outside the Brighton area, mostly trans folk struggling with family issues.

On a personal level, I've continued to struggle with health and employment issues, and I'm actively looking for chaplaincy work to replace the care role which I no longer feel able to continue. It's been a difficult time for Marshall as well, but things are looking up, as we've taken a leap of faith in giving notice to our employers and trusting God to find new avenues for us both. I've also taken on a small volunteer role at the Rainbow Hub, where I will be the link person for faith issues, and I'm undertaking to bring their information on LGBT+ faith groups up to date and more complete.

May'19 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Balance in Account as at 30 April 2019 £6880.12

Income

Collection

05 May	48.50	25	
12 May	39.00	23	
19 May	62.00	27	
26 May 31, 2019	47.00	27	
Standing Order	1091.50		<u>£1288.00</u>

Expenditure

(conference transfer £100.00)

Rev Michael	450.00		
Rev Peta	50.00		
Ufmcc tithe	117.17		
Costs /expenses	254.55		
Rent Sundays	144.00		
Be a Gem	139.00		
Global Justice	101.05		
Conf voting fee	80.00		
		<u>£1335.77</u>	

Balance in account at 31 May 2019 £6832.35

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Rev Michael	500.00		
Rev Peta	50.00		
Ufmcc tithe	111.30		
Costs /expenses	114.85		
Rent Sundays	180.00		
		<u>£956.15</u>	

forecast Balance available £5876.19

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Keyboard fund	<u>£ 0.00</u>
PickleFund	<u>£1076.27</u>
Sleep Safe	<u>£345.53</u>
Community Works	<u>£ 0.00</u>
Conference Fund	<u>£ 874.40</u>

General funds Avail £3579.99