



THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday April 3rd 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)
 - Social media report (verbal)
 - Pickle fund report (verbal)
4. AOB to be scheduled in for this meeting?
5. Safeguarding.
6. Health and Safety.
7. Worship.
8. Close in prayer.

**Zoom meeting code : 504 390 105
Meeting starts at 7:30pm.**

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 Friday 6th March 2020 at 7.30pm at Keiths home

Present: Reverend Michael Hydes (Chair), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Simon Markham (Secretary), Sarah Barber (Safeguarding Officer), Wendy Burgess (Board Member), William Tinsley (Board Member), Dameon Loukas (Lay Delegate), Tony Wares (Board Member) and Bernie Durkin (Guest)

Reverend Michael opened in prayer

Minutes of last Meeting: Item was discussed. It was mentioned that it was not minuted about having a second person on the welcome table.

Proposed: Wendy **Seconded:** Keith **For:** All **Against:** 0 **Abstains:** 0

Pastors Report: Item was discussed. Reverend Michael explained about Emmaus, after Sarah asked about them.

Proposed: Tony **Seconded:** Wendy **For:**All **Against:** 0 **Abstains:** 0

Treasurers Report: Item was discussed. Keith said he had tested the card reader.

Proposed: Reverend Michael **Seconded:** Simon **For:** All **Against:** 0 **Abstains:** 0

Laydelegates Report: Dameon said he had nothing to report.

Social Media Report: Item was discussed. Tony said there had been interest in doing a Podcast. Tony explained about it, and said it would cost £79 for the equipment. Keith proposed and Wendy seconded and all voted that we should purchase the equipment.

Pickle Fund: Reverend Michael said he had made two payments via the Lawson Unit, one had needed approval due to the amount.

Any Other Business to be Added: Sarah wanted to discuss the Corona virus.

Safeguarding: Sarah had a matter to discuss.

Health & Safety: Sarah was concerned about the Corona virus spread. There is hand sanitizer at the day centre, and to mention from the front about taking precautions.

Charitable Status: The item was discussed.

Easter Collection: Reverend Michael said that we usually do the Global Justice collection at Easter and the Denominational collection during Fellowship month, (October). A request was made from the denomination that we hold their collection at Easter and perhaps take a Global justice collection sometime in Lent. We decided to stick to the usual format and hold the Global Justice collection at Easter and the Denominational collection during Fellowship month.

Worship Space: There is a new contract for the day centre, Reverend Michael has to sign. It was pointed out that as we prepare food at the centre, I need a up to date food hygiene certificate, I will look at options and complete one.

Retreat: The item was discussed. Suggestions for venues were given.

Any Other Business: Reverend Michael asked for prayers as they meet at Dorset Gardens.

Wendy closed in prayer

Pastor's report for March.

As I read through the pastor's report for last month I was reminded how much everything has changed in just a few short weeks. At our service on the 8th March we were asking people not to hug or shake hands, etc. A week later we had a 6' gap between chairs, and the following day the government locked the country down.

Firstly, thank you to Mary for her timely instructions as health and safety officer. I think we would have had a much bigger problem had we not heeded her advice. We were in the process of changing venue when the lock down came and we had to look at some very new ways of connecting with each other in worship. I'm so sorry that we won't get to share in Mary's interactive Palm Sunday service this year but do hope that we can come back to it once things settle back down.

In terms of worship I have been looking at different ways of facilitating it. The first week we tried Skype and Facebook, but Skype was problematic. Then we looked at just using facebook streaming, but we lost the interactive element and socializing that we had on Skype. This week we will be using Zoom and Facebook so that regulars can connect and interact, whilst others can tune in via facebook. I have sent out palm crosses for this week, and seed Paper to be used in our Easter service hoping to make them as interactive as possible.

Thank you to everybody who has helped to make this happen, especially Tony W. and Chris who have very gently led me through the maze of tech, to Will who has been overwhelmed at work, and to everyone who has contributed so far. Hopefully it will get easier, and we have learned to mitigate much of the stress by prerecording elements of the service (Reading, prayer, music).

Before all this kicked off I did meet with the Methodist circuit minister and two of the committee members from Dorset Gardens Methodist church. We had a really good meeting where we talked about what our worship presence would mean for them, and what worshiping there would mean to us. Once a month DG holds a healing service on a Sunday evening, with an open communion, but it was suggested that rather than this being a problem we could spend one Sunday evening a month worshiping together - with DG and The Village taking it in turns to plan the service. It is an open communion service, similar in style to what we already do, and I think it would be interesting to make new worship friends.

The big problems at DG for us are storage and parking, although they have said that we can leave the keyboard in the sanctuary. If we can find some kind of cupboard/keyboard stand, we could cloth cover it all and have storage too. We can have cupboard space in the kitchen for tea, coffee, etc.; and can use their cups etc. The church have an arrangement with a local school to use their car park. We can approach the school to talk about the possibility that the use be extended to us. When we are once again able to worship together we may be able to worship at DG as an interim measure if the day centre remains unsuitable.

A big thank you to Isla, Wendy, and Charlie for all their help over the last couple of weeks. We have made sure that between us every person on our Village MCC contact list who wants to receive a call once a week does so. For some, like David, this is a lifeline.

I am in touch with MCCNY where the situation is very bad, and Jochen sends out occasional reports from other churches in our network. I think we're all pretty much in the same boat, although to date Italy has suffered the worst.

Although it feels like a lifetime ago I did record an episode of Queersay with Andrew Kay early in the month, our Deacon's meeting went well and are planning some Zoom meetings to stay connected and supported.

As we move forward I pray that we can remain positive, safe, and open to the new ways God is calling us to serve.

Love

Rev. Michael.

March '20 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Balance in account 29 February 2020 £6259.40

Income

Collection

01 March	75.00	18	
08 March	75.00	20	
15 March	70.00	19	
22 March o/l	80.00	28	
29 March o/l	25.00	28	
Standing Order	1111.50		
Pickle fund	250.00		£1686.50

Expenditure

Rev Michael	500.00		
Ufmcc tithe	113.43		
Costs expenses February 2020	92.41		
Rent Sundays March	180.00		
Online donation fees	2.63		
Flowers	37.98		
Gscene	43.20		£969.65

(conference transfer £100.00)

Balance in account 31 March 2020 £6976.25

Forecast.

Est Mthly Exp

Rev Michael	500.00		
Ufmcc tithe	133.65		
Costs expenses March 2020	393.77		
Rent Sundays April	0.00		£1027.42

Forecast Balance £5948.83

- Allocated

<u>PickleFund</u>	<u>£1546.29</u>
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	<u>£87.03</u>
<u>Conference Fund</u>	<u>£ 809.48</u>

General funds Avail **£3509.03**