



THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday January 3rd 2020 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. Training in congregational life.
8. Charitable status.
9. Social media reporting
10. Board roles
11. Anniversary service
12. Worship space
13. Retreat 2020.
14. Networking gathering.
15. AOB -
16. 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 8th November 2019 at Keith's home.

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

Apologies: None.

Reverend Michael opened in prayer.

Reverend Peta announced to us that, he had been asked to the role of Pastor at MCC North London. Although sad to leave us, it is a request he feels called to do. We all wish him well and every success.

Minutes of last Meeting: There were in fact two sets of minutes to be approved. The last board meeting and the one before that, due to lack of people present to vote. Both sets of minutes were discussed and approved. With 3 yes and no abstentions.

Pastors Report: Discussed and Wendy thanked Michael for doing the funeral of James Ledward for MCC.

Proposed: Simon **Seconded:** Wendy **Vote:** All in favour

Treasurers Report: Discussed and Reverend Michael thanked Keith for his work on them.

Proposed: Simon **Seconded:** Wendy **Vote:** All in favour

Lay Delegates Report: Dameon said that someone had said, that the seating rows could do be staggered. So that everyone could see to the front. Reverend Michael said he was thinking of have a relief lay delegate as well as Dameon.

Associate Pastors Report: Was discussed. Garden quiet and muddy, mostly clearing still and planning for next year.

Pickle Fund: No payments had been made this month, but two had been made the month before.

Any Other Business to add: Tony had a social media update.

Safeguarding: No new issues known at the moment.

Health & Safety: No issues at the moment, the church garden is ongoing.

Training: Reverend Michael said it would be a good idea to have some training around visual impairment and blindness. Was suggested he inquires at the RNLB for information.

Charitable Status: Reverend Michael has begun doing the paperwork. But has decided to wait till we have a new board after the AGM so all signatures needed are up to date. Wendy asked that after that would we as a board become personally responsible for things, Reverend Michael said not with the option we are going for.

World Aids Day Service: Everything is all set for the service.

Christmas Service: Everything coming along, Reverend Michael said if anyone had any ideas for music pieces to let him know. On a catering matter, it was suggested to make a list and get people to bring something on the night to help, just not loads of dips this year.

Beach Hut Event: Mary is having her beach hut event close to our Christmas service. And asked if the choir could come along and sing, as it is outdoors and a long event it was decided some would not be able to do it.

Anniversary Service: February is our 5th anniversary, and to celebrate it the Reverend Elder Ines-Paul will be joining us. Reverend Michael said that he was staying with them, so only the flight to cover. Wendy suggested we have a collection beforehand so we can give him it on the night. Keith asked Michael if there was anyone special he would like there on the night.

Worship Space: Was discussed. Reverend Peta had checked on St Marys, but it was not going to benefit us. So still to keep looking. I mentioned a large space in a sheltered housing complex across from the day center, and will check it out.

Annual Accounts: Keith went through them and explained them well. Reverend Michael thanked Keith for his work on them. They were voted forward.

Day Retreats: Reverend Michael asked if we enjoyed the ones we attended. All had, some had attended one or the other and some both. The numbers attending had been about equal.

Network Gathering: In 2020 will be in September in Northern Ireland. It needs to be publicised.

Eastbourne: Reverend Michael had messaged Jaz about it, but had not heard back yet. And with various issues, thought it might be over stretching things for us at the moment.

Any Other Business: Need to update our church fliers. And Tony said that we have 40 new followers on Instagram, more on Facebook but nothing on Twitter. Reverend Michael said it would be good to have a quarterly report on the social media side.

Reverend Peta closed in Prayer

Pastor's report

Besides the usual pastoral visits and support we offer throughout each month November and December were unusually busy months.

November was a month of preparation. Creating the annual report, connecting with prospective board member applicants, pastoral care meetings, preparation for the WAD service, community safety forum meetings, and getting to know community members better. David, Philip, Sheila, and Chris all shared some of their journey with the congregation helping us all to get to know them better.

December began with the world Aids day service, and despite being in a different venue, at a different time of day, there were 32 in attendance – the majority of which were Village MCC folk. The service went well and all participants were excellent, especially our guest speaker Dr. Robert James from the Martin Fisher foundation.

A few days later I attended a council meeting on homelessness in the city and how it relates to the LGBT community. There was myself and representatives from the Rainbow fund and The Beacon.

It was wonderful to welcome David Nicholls as a member of the church at our first December service. Then our AGM went smoothly and in addition to Wendy and Simon's extended terms (for a year so we can stagger board terms) Tony W and Bill both joined the board. It's lovely that we have some new eyes and different points of view to draw on as we move forward. Both the reports and 2020 budget were approved. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to bring it together, especially Keith who drew together the annual financial reports.

Mary and Rev. Peta celebrated Advent with a service of light, and the following week Rev. Alex Mabbs guest preached for us and wore a wonderful jumper! Preaching on Joy he talked about ways we can make a difference in the world.

Throughout December the Village choir met and gave a couple of wonderful music offerings at our Christmas service. Thank you to everyone, especially Will for taking extra time out to play for them, and Chris for organizing the music and leading them.

Our Christmas service was great fun, and 35 of us celebrated as only *The Village* can. It was a wonderful mix of music, verse, and story. Of course we can't publish any of the service on the web (copyright laws) but some pieces were recorded by individuals on their phones and uploaded without our consent. Very quickly they had been shared too widely on social media to request that they be taken down.

We have two huge bags of toiletries for the Beacon and Keith, Wendy, and I are making arrangements to deliver them.

It was both joy and sadness Peta reported that they had been offered the post of senior pastor of MCC North London. Joy because we celebrate Rev. Peta's first step out as senior pastor, and sadness because they will shortly be leaving us. We wish them all of God's richest blessings as they move into this new part of their ministry journey.

Moving into the new year we have the charitable application to tie down, the fortnightly prayer group and bible study groups start, and this Sunday Chris will begin to led the choir towards our 5 year celebrations! As the new year starts so does our church year begin again. I can't wait to see what it brings!

Rev. Michael.

Associate Pastor's Report January 2020

Since the last Board meeting, there has been an important event on almost every Sunday! In Brighton, Trans Day of Remembrance was marked on the 17th November, and I attended the service at Dorset Gardens, and marked the occasion with special prayers at The Village's service afterward. The following Sunday I was guest speaker at Northern Lights MCC in Newcastle, for their TDOR service – a good chance to connect as well as to contribute to the service.

The following Sunday, World AIDS Day (and the first of advent) I was again away, candidating at MCC North London, which was fairly intense!

The Advent Spiral service was a collaboration between Mary and myself, and seemed well-received, Mary certainly created a beautiful setting for worship, with the greenery and lights.

It was also lovely to welcome David into membership, and to have the privilege of teaching the membership class.

And of course the Open Mic is always a highlight, and despite the general air of frustration created by wider political events, The Village was able to find the meaning of joy in the season. I enjoyed being part of the choir, (even though my cold made me sing an octave lower than usual), Chris' hard work really paid off. Mele Kalikimaka! (Or, as we say in my country, Nadolig Llawen!)

Outside of Sunday Services and so forth, it's been quiet. The Garden has quietened down to just keeping it clear and tidy, and handing over to Mary important information. A few parsnips and a little kale have gone to Lunch Positive, but the slugs had made merry with the winter cabbages, I'm sorry to say – one of the drawbacks of organic gardening.

Prayer team has had a bit of difficulty getting together for meetings, what with illness and the holiday season, so I've just been keeping it ticking over, writing prayers and so forth. I'm hoping to fit in a meeting before I go to hand everything over.

Also, since I've had an opportunity to start learning Braille, I'm preparing a card or two for the Village to give to David for birthday / next Christmas.

Take this moment to say how very much I have enjoyed being part of The Village. Your dedication, love, gentleness and determination have been a delight, and I've learned so much from all of you. Thank you.

November '19 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Balance in account 31 October 2019 £6500.79

Income

Collection

03 Nov	43.00	20	
10 Nov	54.00	22	
17 Nov	73.67	22	
24 Nov	50.00	22	
<u>Standing Order</u>	<u>611.50</u>		<u>£832.17</u>

Expenditure

Rev Michael	500.00		
Rev Peta	50.00		
Ufmcc tithe	124.45		
Rent Sundays	144.00		
Fellowship Sunday	151.00		
<u>Rathan Room Hire</u>	<u>50.00</u>		<u>£1019.45</u>

(conference transfer £100.00)

Balance in account 30 November 2019 £6313.51

Est Mthly Exp

Rev Michael	500.00		
Rev Peta	50.00		
Ufmcc tithe	73.22		
<u>Rent Sundays</u>	<u>144.00</u>		<u>£767.22</u>

Forecast Balance £5546.29

- Allocated

<u>PickleFund</u>	<u>£1306.27</u>
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	<u>£345.53</u>
<u>Conference Fund</u>	<u>£ 409.48</u>

General funds **Avail** £3485.01

December '19 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Balance in account 30 November 2019 £6313.51

Income

Collection

01 Dec	203.00	32	
08 Dec	75.60	30	
15 Dec	53.00	24	
22 Dec	108.91	35	
29 Dec	50.00	14	
Standing Order	1211.50		<u>£1702.01</u>

Expenditure

Rev Michael	500.00		
Rev Peta	50.00		
Ufmcc tithe	73.22		
Rent Sundays	144.00		
Martin Fisher Foundation.	203.00		
Rev Michael Exp/Costs	478.88		
CCLI License	78.00		
<u>EI Brokers. Insurance</u>	<u>211.79</u>		<u>£1738.89</u>

(conference transfer £100.00)

Balance in account 31 December 2019 £6276.63

Forecast.

Est Mthly Exp

Rev Michael	500.00		
Rev Peta	50.00		
Ufmcc tithe	150.20		
<u>Rent Sundays Jan + 2hr</u>	<u>180.00</u>		<u>£767.22</u>

Forecast Balance £5509.41

- Allocated

<u>PickleFund</u>	<u>£1386.27</u>
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	<u>£87.03</u>
<u>Conference Fund</u>	<u>£ 509.48</u>

General funds Avail £3526.63