



# THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

## **Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday July 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. New equipment purchase.
9. Charitable status
10. AOB.
11. 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 meeting of the board of trustees**

## **Friday June 6<sup>th</sup> 2020 on Zoom.**

**Officers Present:** Rev Michael Hydes (Chair), Keith Fish (Treasurer), Sarah Barber (Safeguarding Officer), Wendy Burgess (Board Member), Bill Tinsley, (Board Member), Tony Wares (Board Member).

**Guests:** David Nichols

**Apologies:** Simon Markham, Dameon Loukas, Wendy Burgess.

**Opening Prayer:** Rev. Michael

**Minutes of the last meeting:**

**Proposed by:** Keith **Seconded by:** Bill **Yes All No Abstain**

Dameon had been omitted from the attendance record and neither Bill or Tony's board member positions had been recognised.

**Pastor's report:**

**Proposed by:** Bill **Seconded by:** Tony **Yes All No Abstain**

**Treasurer's report:**

Keith noted that although direct deposits remained steady that those who used to give via the basket on a Sunday presently not supporting the church. Ways of encouraging direct deposits were explored. Fortunately some out of town guests continue to be generous.

**Proposed by:** RM **Seconded by:** Tony **Yes All No Abstain**

**8pm:** One minute's silence in support of global peace.

**Lay Delegate – Verbal report.** Not present

**Social media report:** Tony. Facebook service views are always higher at the end of the month, and last Sunday there were over 1,000 views. We are looking at ways of encouraging people to 'share' the service to increase coverage.

**Pickle fund report:** Last month we gave out one payment of £20

**Safeguarding:** Rev. Michael needs a renewed DBS check, and we also need DBS checks for the deacons. Rev. Michael to look at ways of doing this.

**Health and Safety:** No issues

**AOB** The Church email addresses are now invalid as the system no longer operates. We talked about opening a church email address that all leadership could use. We also looked at the charity application and we hope to have that in for assesment before the end of the month.

**Closing Prayer.** David closed in prayer for us.

## Pastor's report for June.

Again, another busy month, but with a little more structure than April or May allowed. As time has gone by I have found that there has been a slowing of pastoral care requests. Prayer requests now come in less frequently and worship attendance is down a little from the early days of lockdown. None of this is surprising as the general feeling of panic caused by the rising death toll has diminished as the figures have gone down. As the lockdown has lifted many are hoping that we can soon return to 'normal'.

However, for those who are 'sheltering' because of their vulnerability to the virus, the current period is just as worrying. Perhaps more so considering the lack of clear social directives and the knowledge that the virus is still out there. We continue to offer what support we can and an online worship service every Sunday.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> we shared a worship service with Dorset Gardens Methodist church. Chris and I met with Rev. Debora at the church to record some of the worship elements and others were sent in by video. In truth all the hard work was done by Chris who worked tirelessly through the week to ensure that the video was created and that it simultaneously went live on both The Village MCC and Dorset Gardens Facebook pages. Thank you to Tony and Keith who have helped to ensure worship has run smoothly. It is still odd preaching to a pc in the spare bedroom rather than a 'live' congregation, and zoom is not so nearly as intimate as actually having a coffee with folk after church. If we continue to worship on Zoom then perhaps break out rooms would be good since it's very difficult to have a conversation with a dozen folk at once.

After some work it was decided that we would need some new equipment if we were to continue to stream worship in the future. The need to record worship in different circumstances, sometimes where there was no wi-fi available, led us to the conclusion that we would need an i-phone, a gas strut smooth line tripod, zoom lens, and boom mic. With the addition of a sim we could broadcast from anywhere there is a phone signal. We have been gifted £450 by Working to Connect, have received a very generous anonymous donation of £500, (thank you – whoever you are), and I have applied to the Sussex police for a small grant. If we receive the grant we will also cover the costs of the recently acquired new laptop as well as the other equipment. Fingers crossed.

Our Wednesday group study is usually attended by 6-8 people and the Gospel of Thomas offers an unusual lens through which to examine the Gospel accounts. Sometimes it's just plain weird! Fortunately we have a broad spectrum of ideas and I enjoy playing devil's advocate.

My work in the funeral sector has been busy, but since Chris has not been able to do any massage work we've welcomed the extra income. Most people check me out on facebook, the village mcc website, or on google, and I have only received praise so far. It certainly does put us on the map as a church that is caring and radically inclusive, of which I'm very proud.

I was invited to create a video for the greater London NHS trust Pride event and received good reviews. It is available online (facebook) if you'd like to see it.

During the month I made 2 pickle payments – one for £20 and one for £200. The application form for the latter was approved by Keith and is on file in the pickle hotmail account.

After many months of work I submitted the application for charitable status and was again turned down. To be honest I did think that we'd dotted all the i's and crossed all the T's so it's very disappointing to be set back. Alas, the application is lengthy and not easy to understand, and the rules change often enough that by the time I feel like I have a grip on things the goalposts have moved. It is frustrating that we have to start from scratch again. However, by law we have to have charitable status to operate legally, and so we have no choice but to try again.

Love  
Rev. Michael.

June '20 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

<u>Balance in account 31 May 2020</u>	<u>£7094.70</u>
<u>31 May collection</u>	<u>75.00</u>
	<u>£7169.70</u>

Income

Collection			
07 Jun o/l	150.00	31	
14 Jun o/l	30.00	28	
21 Jun o/l	30.00	32	
28 Jun o/l	30.00	30	
Donation	500.00		
Standing Order	1111.50		<u>£1851.50</u>

Expenditure

Rev Michael	500.00		
Ufmcc tithe £130 in credit	0.00 (net 28.85 cr)		
Costs expenses May	214.39		
G Scene	0.00		
Rent Sundays	0.00		
Online payment commission	0.59		<u>£714.98</u>

*(conference transfer £100.00)*

<u>Balance in account 30 June 2020</u>	<u>£8306.22</u>
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Forecast.

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Rev Michael	500.00		
Ufmcc tithe £130 in credit	141.30		
Costs expenses May	76.38		
G Scene	86.40		
Rent Sundays	0.00		<u>£804.08</u>

Forecast Balance	<u>£7502.14</u>
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Allocated

<u>PickleFund</u>	<u>£1460.77</u>
<u>Sleep Safe</u>	<u>£87.03</u>
<u>Conference Fund</u>	<u>£ 1109.48</u>

<b>General funds</b>	<b>Avail</b>	<b><u>£4844.86</u></b>
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