



THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Agenda for the meeting of the board of trustees Friday May 8th 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. 8pm – 5 minute break.
5. AOB to be scheduled in for this meeting?
6. Safeguarding.
7. Health and Safety.
8. Worship.
9. AOB
10. 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 May 8th 2020 7:30pm via Zoom.

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

Guests:

Apologies: Simon Markham (Secretary),

Opening Prayer: Wendy

Minutes of the last meeting:

Proposed by: Keith Fish **Seconded by:** Tony Wares **Yes:5 No:0 Abstain:0**

Pastor's report: Wendy, Bill,

Proposed by:Wendy Burgess **Seconded by:**Bill Tinsley **Yes:5 No:0 Abstain:0**

Treasurer's report: Collections are down – perhaps we could mention it in an email? Also, it might be good to mention that you can still begin a new standing order for the church if you wish. Tony mentioned that some don't like to give online because of perceived security concerns. Keith said that in reality do not have any further details than names. A new PC for the church was discussed and approved, a Dell laptop at £479

Proposed by: Rev. Michael **Seconded by:** Tony Wares **Yes:5 No:0 Abstain:0**

Lay Delegate – Verbal report. Some didn't get the email that Dameon sent out to church members so Rev. Michael will re-send via a newsletter to ensure no one is missed.

Social media report: Good reports from twitter and Facebook, less so from Instagram. There's a bit of a drop off from week 1, but folk are stopping with us. Hopefully we should be able to continue to stream on Facebook when we are able to meet again in person.

Pickle fund report: There was one £10 payment during the month.

Safeguarding: None

Health and Safety: None

AOB None

Closing Prayer. Keith Fish.

Pastor's report for May.

I am writing this month's pastoral report on a brand new Dell laptop, which is a dream to use! I have moved all the church data onto it, with excess info (Music and video files) stored on the backup drive. This should be a great deal more secure than my old pc, which is still chugging along on its last legs! The new one is really lovely to use, and I can run *Zoom* on it too.

This Sunday will be our 12th online service. I want to thank everyone who has contributed so far, either with music, or prayers, or a reading. I also want to thank everyone who has contributed with special music and encourage you to reach out to anyone you know who might like to add a contribution to a future service. A special thank you to Chris and Tony, without whom none of this would be happening - at least not to the standard we currently enjoy.

At present most of the worship content, (readings, music, prayers, special music), is pre-recorded and then pieced together into the service on the day. This helps us to get the recording levels right and ensure that everything goes as smoothly as it can. Will records hymns, and then Chris and I re-record them adding vocals to help layer the sound. The reading and prayers are mixed to ensure that the sound levels are consistent. Likewise with the special music which may be sound or video.

I was hoping to connect a number of MCC's together for a Pentecost service, but communication is slow in the Network and after missing a Zoom call we were suddenly out of time. I did connect with Rev. Elder Ines-Paul who very kindly celebrated communion for us in German.

It is difficult to know what is being received well, and what is not, when there is not the physical feedback that would normally happen in church. If you enjoy something, (or don't), then please let me know.

I believe that it is becoming apparent that the structure of 'church' is changing. The focus for us has always been a physical church worshiping in a physical location, recorded so that we can offer an online (youtube and website) presence as an extra. However, as folk from greater distances join us regularly for worship, and regulars find that they can worship with us every week, (even if they can't get out of their homes), I believe we may be looking at a switch. It may be useful to think of ourselves as an online community that has a physical presence in Brighton. I'm not suggesting that worship change – in fact I am hoping that we will be able to worship at Dorset Gardens when conditions allow – however I am suggesting that our focus as a community broaden to the wider LGBT+ community, allies, and friends.

Charlie, Wendy, and Isla have each taken greater responsibility for the Village community pastoral care. However, all four of us have had varying degrees of ill health to deal with, making the job a great deal harder for us all. I want to thank Isla, Wendy, and Charlie for all their hard work to date. They have all gone way above and beyond anything that could be expected from a Deacon in order to connect with everyone. None of us trained to be support in a time of pandemic, and they continue to be amazing ambassadors for God's love in both the church and the wider community. As a team we have gone shopping for the housebound, ensured that members could access Zoom and/or facebook, have provided physical, spiritual, and emotional support. I can't tell you how proud I am of them and the work that they do.

Funerals continue to take up much of my time as families need a great deal more support and hand holding than normal. Some were not able to visit loved ones as they died, or see the body after they have gone. My role has often been more one of 'Chaplain' than celebrant. Chris lost all of his income from his massage business, and lost the contract with MCC. He still does a little ad-hock work for them but our income took quite a hit. Ironically the extra funerals have helped to make up some of the difference.

On top of the virus the world has been in a tail spin over the events that have taken place in the USA. During our board meeting (Friday at 8pm) I will be stepping out for a few minutes to pray in solidarity with my neighbors. If practical for you I encourage you to do the same. The I360, Brighton center, and pier, will all be lit in purple as an act of solidarity with all those who are crying out for justice. I have

been in touch with Rev. Pat at MCCNY as New York once again becomes a place of protest. It has not escaped my attention that just over 50 years ago those same streets were in riot as the LGBT+ community fought for justice too.

Over Easter we took a special collection and sent £130 each to the denomination and to *The Global Justice Institute*. We received a note of thanks from Rev. Pat on behalf of GJI. *Thank you so much, Michael. Please extend my heartfelt gratitude to the congregation. We are very, very hopeful that we can keep up all the work begun with GJI because of the generosity of congregations in this very challenging time. - Rev. Pat Bumgardner.*

I continue to work on the application for charity status and I believe that we have a draft in place that just needs a few minor tweaks. It's a lengthy process. I'm working with Rev. Deberough at DGMC on a collaborative service of healing on June 21st. Their processes continue and occasionally they come back to me for more information or clarification.

I have made an application to Working to Connect for a small grant, £430, to help with our expenses. As we work out what hardware we need in order to better live stream our service I shall make application to other organizations for help with that too.

I hope you are keeping well. Thank you for all that you do in the community. I pray that you continue to be healthy and safe.

Love
Rev. Michael.

May '20 Board Accounts for The Village Metropolitan Community Church

Balance in account 30 April 2020 £7566.13

Income

Collection

03 May o/l	50.00	36	
10 May o/l	55.00	39	
17 May o/l	125.00	38	
24 May o/l	55.00	30	
31 May o/l	75.00	42	
Standing Order	801.50		<u>£1161.50</u>

Expenditure

Rev Michael	500.00		
Ufmcc tithe	136.15		
Costs expenses April 2020	97.59		
Rent Sundays	0.00		
G Scene	43.20		
Pickle Payment	20.00		
Global Justice	130.00		
UFMCC Gift	130.00		
Laptop	479.00		
Burgess Pastoral	21.99		<u>£1557.93</u>

(conference transfer £100.00)

Balance in account 31 May 2020 £7094.70

31 May collection 75.00

£7169.70

Forecast.

Est Mthly Exp

Rev Michael	500.00		
Ufmcc tithe £130 in credit	0.00 (net 28.85 cr)		
Costs expenses May	214.39		
G Scene	43.20		
Rent Sundays	0.00		<u>£757.59</u>

Forecast Balance £6412.11

Allocated

PickleFund £1410.77

Sleep Safe £87.03

Conference Fund £ 1009.48

General funds Avail £3904.83