

## AN INTRODUCTION TO CSBC WORKSHOP #1 SUNDAY AUGUST 29, 2021

Dear members and friends,

In February 2020, the deacons met for a day of visioning. As part of the day, and with a view to good planning for our future, we identified what we understood to be the ‘non-negotiables’ that shape the ministry of the church.

Immediately following this, we entered one of the most challenging seasons in the church’s history, a season we are still in. Since March 2020, Melbourne has moved in and out of lockdown multiple times. Consequently, the doors to our church have been closed more than they have been open and we’ve had to pivot regularly in our expression of ministry. In many ways we have done this well, thanks in large part to the health and generosity of our community.

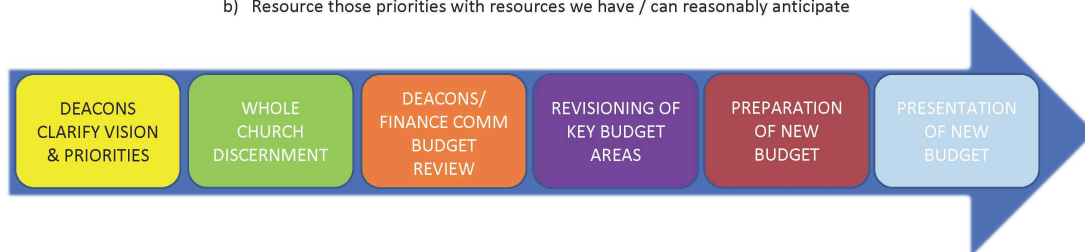
In the midst of this season, we’ve faced the financial challenges of maintaining our presence and mission in the city. The return on investments that complement our tithes and offerings have been at an historic low. With an eye on the church’s long-term sustainability, we need to ensure the wise allocation of our resources in the years ahead.

At a church meeting in June, the members made two decisions: (i) to approve a budget for 2021/22 with a considerable deficit; and (ii) to begin a 12-month discernment process to ensure more balanced budgets into the future. The process the members approved is outlined below:

### CSBC 12-month budget revisioning process 2021 - 2022

**AIM:**

- a) Identify core mission / ministry / community priorities
- b) Resource those priorities with resources we have / can reasonably anticipate



JULY / AUG 2021	SEPT / OCT 2021	NOV / DEC 2021	FEB / MARCH 2022	APRIL / MAY 2022	JUNE 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deacons' visioning day July 17</li> <li>Deacons clarify key values / mission / ministries</li> <li>What are our "non-negotiables"?</li> <li>What are we willing to reconsider?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole church involvement (workshops/ discussion groups) in clarifying key values/ mission/ ministries</li> <li>Are we in agreement about our "non-negotiables"?</li> <li>What are we all willing to reconsider?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finance committee and deacons engage in thorough examination of income / expenditure inc. building expenses</li> <li>Identification of key questions / decisions for the church members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole church involvement (workshops / discussion groups) in addressing key questions and decisions</li> <li>Revisioning of roles and structures in light of new priorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deacons and finance committee work with new information to construct new budget</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of 2022-3 budget within agreed parameters at church meeting</li> </ul>

As you'll see, in the first step of this process (YELLOW) the deacons were asked to consider the church's core commitments and values — those that shape our mission. To do this, we've revisited our 2020 conversation and more carefully refined our list. Consequently, we have drafted a set of six statements that we believe reflect the commitments of our church.

The second step in our process (GREEN) involves the whole community with two church-wide workshops:

- At the **first workshop** (August 29) we want to ensure our list of core commitments is an accurate representation of the church's priorities in ministry moving forward.
- At the **second workshop** (September 19) we will flesh out each of these commitments with a view to identifying (a) what we currently do and want to keep on doing, and (b) what new things we might do to meet these commitments.

To prepare for this first workshop, we ask that you review the attached document. It begins with a simple diagram that highlights the **values** to which the deacons believe we are committed. What follows is a listing of those values as **statements of aspiration**, each one accompanied by the **commitment** that underlies it. We are hoping that in our conversation on **Sunday August 29**, we can hone these statements together to ensure they reflect God's calling us to in the days ahead.

We look forward to your input and to a good conversation on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

**Deacons:** Katherine Jones, Nigel Smith, Judy Morgan, Amanda Mao, Abi Chenoweth, Ros Otzen, Robert Iles (secretary) and Laurie Buchanan (acting treasurer)