

Collins Street Baptist Church
Annual General Meeting
1 November 2020

The meeting opened at 11.30am with prayer.

Because of the restrictions on gathering together imposed by the Co-vid 19 pandemic, the meeting was held by Zoom.

Present: Rev Carolyn Francis (Chair), Rev Simon Holt, Ros Otzen (Minutes), Ian Angus, Laurie Buchanan, Lynne Chapman, Theresa & Thomas Cheok, David Cundy, Alex Ding, Joy Etwell, Rae Farnsworth, Alan Garman, Carol & Phil Geyer, Shirley Graves-Mortimer, Peter Hearne, Brenda Holt, Jess Holt, Robert & Lesley Iles, Katherine Jones, Monica Lusardo, Amy Liu, Ian Manning, Sherry & Geoff Maddock, Amanda Mao, Barbara Martin, Judy & David Morgan, Derek Mortimer, Rev Marita Munro, Penny Mulvey, Carolyn Newall, Stefanie Pearce, Paulo Pereira, Merilyn & Frank Rees, Karl Stacy, Mardea Tachee, Graham & Merle Van Cooten, Ben Varghese, Megan Williams, Sean Winter, Elizabeth Woodall, Neil Wright

Apologies:

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM, 20 October 2019

Moved Carolyn Francis/Ros Otzen

That the Minutes of the AGM on 20 October 2019 be accepted.

Carried unanimously by show of hands

2. Presentation of Annual Report 2020

- Rev Simon Holt presented the Report and spoke movingly to it. The disruptions of the year were huge, but in discussion with the deacons, it was agreed that a thoughtful record of this particular year is very important: a spiritual practice of intentionally recalling how we continued Church during the crisis, and of God's presence with us, in our services; our priorities of justice, care, spiritual growth; our ongoing commitment to each other in individual caring, and in many small groups; the amazing ongoing financial support; a continuance of our city presence. We are as much the Church when we meet virtually: we are the gathered people of God, we are the scattered people of God. The Church is defined not by a building but by the people living in the fullness of God's love; we are embedded in the world, in, for and with the world in whatever it faces. This annual report represents all that we have been and all that lies beneath us.
- Robert Iles, in seconding the motion to accept the Report, spoke of the importance of acknowledging with deep gratitude the leadership of Simon and Carolyn – so innovative in unusual circumstances; and also of the service of Anne Junor over 21 years, her constant grace & dignity. His remarks were greeted with warm applause. He also commented on the situation surrounding the condemned timber emergency stairs of Central House, and the continuing work of the Trust Committee, despite lockdowns, especially of Peter Hearne. He thanked Geoff Maddock for his beautiful photos and Simon and all others who have contributed to the Annual Report.
- Penny Mulvey reinforced Robert's comments and expressed her great gratitude for the extraordinary work of the Pastors, bringing us amazing services each week, addressing us in our hearts and honouring the depth of emotion we have all been feeling, rather than simply streaming a 'normal' service – hours of thought and work engaging so many people, so many other voices in our services. Many members indicated in various ways on the Zoom screen their enthusiastic agreement and thanks.
- Mardea Tachee thanked the pastors very much and prayed God will continue to strengthen them. She especially expressed her appreciation of Anne Junor, who was so helpful when the family was newly arrived in Melbourne and her husband was so sick.

Moved Simon Holt/ Robert Iles

That the Collins Street Baptist Church Annual Report for 2019/2020 be accepted, with gratitude. Carried unanimously, with Zoom acclamation.

3. Election of officers

Because of the difficulty in electing officers of the Church under the terms of the CSBC Constitution, Deacons proposed that the elections be deferred.

Moved Robert Iles/Paulo Pereira

That the election of Deacons, church officers and BUV delegates be postponed until the earliest possible opportunity for an in-person meeting in 2021. Carried.

4. Audited Accounts

The audited accounts were not yet available and will be presented later.

Paulo Pereira/Peter Hearne

That Renshaw, Dawson and Lang (Chartered Accountants) be re-appointed as Church Auditors. Carried.

5. Gospel Hall

Stefanie Pearce reported that the Trust has kept going during the pandemic. The residents have been well supported by MCM. It is hoped to continue Intersection – the excellent schools program.

Barbara Martin was impressed by Intersection and grateful for the work they do. There are invitations to participate through short learning programs. The leaders are constantly reimagining their work and ministry, communicating to visitors and residents about how to engage with the city with justice and care.

Moved Stefanie Pearce/Monica Lusardo

That the Gospel Hall Report for 2019-2020 be received. Carried.

Moved Carolyn Francis/Stefanie Pearce

That the current members of the Gospel Hall Committee of Management, as listed in the Report, continue to serve. Carried

5. Conclusion

Rev Carolyn Francis

- spoke about the future, buoyed by the extraordinary resilience of our church in 2020, continuing to participate, encourage, learn, and care for each other.
- A December Picnic for us all to gather is planned. We are hopeful we can meet. Details to follow.
- On-line resources will continue, with a plan to regather at Collins Street in February 2021, as in January many are away. There will be regulations to be adhered to.
- We hope to then move seamlessly into Lent and Easter. We have learned we have remarkable ways to share our lives together, and ask for ongoing support and participation, and graciousness.
- We will continue to offer an element on-line for those who cannot attend the church building for services. Any questions or comments can be put to the Pastors.

The meeting was closed by Carolyn in prayer at 12:00.