

**Collins Street Baptist Church**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**17 October 2021**

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Because of the restrictions on gathering together due to the Co-vid 19 pandemic, the meeting was held by Zoom. The meeting opened at 1.00pm with prayer.

**Present:** Rev Carolyn Francis (Chair), Rev Simon Holt, Ros Otzen (Minutes), Laurie Buchanan, Lynne Chapman, Abi Chenoweth, Theresa & Thomas Cheok, Elizabeth & John Cramb, David Cundy, Clair Cvjeticanin, Alan Garman, Carol & Phil Geyer, Fraser Goff, Peter Hearne, Judy Henson, Brenda Holt, Robert & Lesley Iles, Katherine Jones, Len Lewis, Ian Manning, Sherry & Geoff Maddock, Amanda Mao, Barbara Martin, Judy & David Morgan, Rev Marita Munro, Penny Mulvey, Stefanie Pearce, Marilyn & Frank Rees, Rachel Stevens, Ben Varghese, Sean Winter, Neil Wright, Peter & Yelena Young, Jun Zheng

**Apologies:** Ian Angus

### 1. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM, 1 November 2021

Moved Carolyn Francis/Ros Otzen

**That the Minutes of the AGM on 1 November 2021 be accepted.**

Carried unanimously by show of hands

### 2. Presentation of Annual Report 2021

- Rev Simon Holt took the Report as read. The disruptions of last year have continued through this year, but the church has coped well, and we look forward to gathering again soon.
- 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, continuing to extend their digital expertise and their nuanced response to the pandemic.

#### Members' comments

- Barbara Martin: the election and retirement of Deacons was missed in the Report. Noted, to be included in the next Report.
- Neil Wright asked for comment on the current process of review. Simon responded that it was very encouraging that CSBC community has engaged so thoughtfully and willingly in this process, without being able to meet with each other. In these exhausting times, people have really given their minds to the future.
- Many churches are asking the same key questions: Who are we? What will we be post Co-vid?
- Frank Rees thanked the Deacons who have facilitated the on-line groups essential to keep us connected.

Moved Simon Holt/ Robert Iles

**That the Collins Street Baptist Church Annual Report for 2020/2021 be accepted.** Carried

### 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 until early 2022. David Morgan noted we can gather in person from 5 November so elections could be earlier that next year. The motion was amended, removing 'in 2022'.

Robert Iles/Ros Otzen

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

### 4. Audited Accounts

Laurie Buchanan/Stefanie Pearce.

**That the CSBC audited accounts for 2020/2021 be accepted.** Carried.

Laurie spoke as Assistant Treasurer, in the absence of the Treasurer who has ongoing illness. It is a day of thankfulness: the CSBC community did not lessen their giving, indeed, they increased it, even though we were unable to meet in person. We received \$163,000 in government support. The Trust Fund paid significant amounts for church maintenance, recorded as a notional grant to the church of c.\$88,000.

#### Members' comments

- Amanda noted accounts are complicated and asked that we continue the process of developing more clarity in our presentation of finances.
- Brenda asked re the Verandah Café: has CSBC applied for government payments to cover the café during lockdown? Laurie: that the Café's loss of revenue was included in our general data on decline in revenue.
- David Morgan noted maintenance costs doubled during the year. Will costs stay at that level? Laurie replied that he will need to drill down into the figures.
- Judy Morgan commended the work of Laurie during a difficult year. To receive financial matters in simple English would help many.
- **Laurie committed to write a simple and concise presentation on the budget.** The figures have only just come in.

JudyMorgan/Stefanie Pearce

**The Church formally expresses its affirmation of, and gratitude for the work of Laurie Buchanan.** Carried warmly.

Laurie Buchanan/Stefanie

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

#### **5. Current review of the church's vision and use of its resources.**

- Katherine Jones noted that the process of review is timely. How heartening it has been to have such active participation and engagement in the process, which was agreed in June and the timeline accepted.
- The whole-church discernment took place on 29 August. Six values were developed and presented by Deacons. Members' feedback led to three distilled values which were presented at the second workshop on 19 September.
  - *We aspire to be a Gospel-centred community.*
  - *We aspire to be a caring community of spiritual growth.*
  - *We aspire to be a Church for the good of the city.*
- Katherine and the team are currently working on collating and synthesizing the feedback, so it can be matched to how we will use our resources in the budget process in Nov-Dec. Deacons will meet with Finance Committee, to assist in working towards financial robustness. Goals will be developed around income, expenditure, fund-raising etc Both Katherine and Nigel stressed the need for CSBC prayers: we have places in the Diaconate for the coming elections. There is still much work to do and many have skills and interests to bring to the table.
- Carolyn expressed our gratitude to Katherine for the clear and invitational way she has led the process, and for the input of Nigel and Judy.

#### **5. The end of lockdown**

- Simon reported we are moving toward our first in-person service on Sunday 7 November. We have yet to fully understand the range of guidelines and restrictions required of us. To be advised. We will continue to live stream for those who cannot come in person.
- We will have Advent and Christmas together – good news! There will be a service on Christmas Day, a Saturday, but no service on Boxing Day. Thereafter we will meet in person from 2 January.
- Leigh Reeves asked if any thought had been given to forming a pastoral search committee. Simon: as our discernment process about our resources goes ahead, we will be addressing this.
- Teresa Cheok thanked Sherry for keeping the CSBC plants flourishing, and Geoff for his beautiful photos.
- Peter Hearne referred to the Fund AGM 21 November and encouraged people to nominate to join the Fund.

#### **6. Conclusion**

Carolyn offered a blessing.

The meeting closed at 2:00 pm.