

Brunswick Uniting Church

Annual General Meeting, 25th February 2018

Minutes

Attendance (42): Chair – Daniel Broadstock; Secretary – Saide Cameron, Jane Allardice, Tess Alston, Gwen Arnold, Richard Arnold, Daniel Broadstock, Helen Burnham, Ray Cameron, James Clough, Richard Collard, Vilma Collard, Glenice Cook, Naomi David, Ruben David, Ian Ferguson, Faye Findlay, Kristin Flint, Claire Foley, Christine Hornby, Peter Hornby, Alistair Hunter, Colin Hunter, Jenny Hunter, Anika Jensen, Jim Kilpatrick, Graeme Lawrence, Nicole Lowe, Susan Matthews, Wayne Matthews, Peter Middleton, Andrew Moorhouse, Alison Nixon, Meg Orton, Natalie Papworth, Jenne Perlstein, Richard Phelan, David Rees, Val Remedios, Janet Reus-Smit, Kate Scull, Ann Soo, James Thom, Linda Wannan, Amelia Ware, Shawn Whelan

Apologies (19): James Balsillie, Kirsty Bennett, Adrian Brown, Anita Brown-Major, Valmai Brunlow, Meredith Budge, Tim Budge, Michael Cameron, Barry Cook, Colma Fechner, Lucy Hardman, Caitlin Mullen-Beagley, Rachel Mullen-Beagley, Julie Perrin, Annie Quail, Courtney Rohde, Helen Rowe, Mal Rowe, Natalie Sims

1. Welcome – Daniel welcomed us to the 2018 Annual General Meeting outlining the agenda which had been emailed on the previous Monday.
2. Opening Prayer – Ian offered an opening prayer asking God's blessing as we prepared to listen, to celebrate and to prepare.
3. Acknowledgement of Country – Daniel acknowledged the land on which we meet and paid our respect to elders past and present.
4. Attendance & apologies – Daniel invited those present to sign the attendance sheet and to note any apologies.
5. Consensus process – Daniel explained the consensus model and the use of the orange, yellow and blue cards.
6. Voting rights – Daniel further explained that if a decision is moved to a vote that we offer voting rights to people who meet at least one of these categories: confirmed member or member in association, participant in a welcoming ceremony, have attended for at least 6 months.
7. Presentation of Reports, opportunity for questions

Daniel announced each report by title and invited questions or comments from the floor. None were forthcoming.

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| • Minister of the Word | Ian Ferguson | • Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op | Helen Rowe |
| • Youth & Student House Support Worker | Anika Jensen | • FUNdraising | Saide Cameron |
| • Olive Way Outreach Ministry Co-ordinator | Peter Blair | • Discipleship & Education Committee | Daniel Broadstock |
| • Church Council | Daniel Broadstock | • Mulling | Daniel Broadstock |
| • Worship Committee | Saide Cameron | • Presbytery | Kate Scull |
| • Christian Meditation | Richard Arnold | • Communications Team | Saide Cameron |
| • Table Church | Tim Budge | • Property Committee | Andrew Moorhouse |
| • Pastoral Care Committee | Jane Allardice | • Bookings Officer | Julie McKinnon |
| • Children, Youth & Young Adult Committee | Anita Brown-Major | • Congregation Secretary | Saide Cameron |
| • Culture of Safety | Helen Rowe | • Sacred Harp | Natalie Sims |
| • Justice & Mission Committee | Saide Cameron | • Saturday Coffee Group | Leanne Salau |
| • Olive Way Steering Group | Richard Arnold | • Out & About Group | Helen Rowe |
| • Olive Arts Collective | Ann Soo | • BUC Cycle Group | Colin Hunter |
| | | • Book Group | Christine Hornby |
| | | • Finance | Linda Wannan |

Daniel offered the following highlights from 2017

- Growth in youth group numbers
 - Growing numbers in the Olive Way and the ten year celebration
 - Redevelopment of the church website
 - Financial Giving campaign which for the Church Council was a fantastic endorsement from the congregation of what we've been doing
 - Development of the Strategic Plan
 - Incredible growth of the art space both as a healing ministry and an outreach ministry through events like the Exhibition and the Studio Walk
 - Engagement with the Marriage debate
 - Uniting in Song UCA 40th Anniversary celebration for which BUC took a leading role
 - Special events in childrens' ministry like Nourish
 - Fantastic FUNdraising events like Disco Bingo (which Daniel said was a huge highlight for him)
 - Jenny Hunter offered the Rug making as another highlight
8. Council Update – Shawn Whelan as Chair of Council offered a brief update highlighting the following items
- Church Council welcomed a number of **new members** bringing the Council to its full complement of 10 for the first time in a few years. He commented on the new energy that they bring and thanked the new members in particular for stepping into the role.
 - The **Leaders retreat** held on 3rd & 4th of February was opened to other church leaders for the first session which Shawn said was an endorsement of how leadership works in our congregation, with lots of decisions being made by committees that Council doesn't even need to know about. He offered encouragement to anyone wanting to get involved in the mission of the congregation to join a committee.
 - Arising from the **Strategic Plan** the Council is asking not just our major programs but all committees and groups to write goals for the year. He affirmed that these don't need to be new things but rather a naming of what we are doing in a way that invites reflection at the end of the year. This will provide an opportunity to celebrate what has been achieved and to learn from the work that has been done.
 - Commitment to **improving communication** to committees and the congregation
9. 2018 Calendar presentation – Saide Cameron indicated that a calendar of key events and FUNdraising activities is available and has been attached to these minutes. The FUNdraising events were highlighted:
- Backyard band parties with Terry Towelling & the Tank Tops for the Olive Way, available all year
 - Trivia Night & Auction on 16th June to support local groups and programs engaged in respectful listening
 - Bush Dance, Sausage Sizzle & Op Shop on 21st July for the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre
 - Worship stalls
 - Lent stall (March) – our usual wonderful array of baked goods and preserves
 - Pie stall (June) – an opportunity to make a range of pies, order in advance and sell to family & friends
 - Make your favourite cake/dessert/etc, write a story (September) – hopefully someone else will buy it!
 - Christmas Bowl stalls (December) – amazing crafts and Christmas gifts
10. 2017 Finance Report presentation – Linda Wannan, Treasurer, took us through the Finance report in detail. Please take the time to read through the report and refer any questions or comments to Linda or a member of the Finance Committee – Mal Rowe, Tim Budge, Naomi David, Ray Hardman
- The 2017 Finance report was accepted by consensus and with applause
 - The Finance committee was thanked for their work with a round of applause
11. 2018 Budget presentation – Shawn Whelan, presented the budget, please see his printed comments in the finance papers pack for full details of this presentation. The following points were noted
- In setting the budget the intention is to keep in mind that we are called to be part of God's mission
 - The budget is set to support a sustainable pattern of expenditure and income over a three year period
 - A list of projects that sit outside the budget, which would be funded from reserves if approved by Council were noted and discussed.
 - Playspace for the kids is a long term project with no fixed costings available as yet

- Olive Way Kitchen redevelopment is seen by Council as a good project in principle with work being done to develop the project
 - Chairs to replace the benches in the hall to address comfort & OHS issues
 - Community scape storage facility to provide storage for worship equipment, the Olive Arts Collective and the ASWC Art group and also to be incorporated into a future redevelopment of the space in front of the youth hall to be an open to the public prayer & meditation garden
 - The 2018 Budget was accepted an operated budget by consensus
 - Linda commented that the budget is generous with respect to expenditure and cautious on income.
 - Gratitude by applause was expressed to Linda, Shawn and all involved in formalizing the budget.
12. Election of office bearers – Daniel called for any additional nominations and with none forthcoming all were accepted into the positions by consensus.
- Congregation Chair – Daniel Broadstock
 - Congregation Secretary – Saide Cameron
 - Presbytery Representatives (2) – Kate Scull, Steph Gesling
13. Thanks – Daniel thanked retiring Elders
- Ray Cameron – 5 years on the Council and representative for the Property Committee
 - Ann Soo – 2 years on the Council and representative for the CY&YA committee and also involved with the Student House Program and key advocate and organizer for our BUC Arts program & Olive Arts Collective.
14. Closing prayer – Ian invited us all to take a deep breath and prayed that God would hold our community in love.

The meeting concluded at 12:27 pm having commenced 11:18am.