

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Congregation held at Burnside Uniting Church (BCUC) on Sunday 5 December 2021 at 11.30am

Welcome

The Chair, Nita West opened the meeting by welcoming all present, followed by the Acknowledgement of Country.

Opening Prayer

Following prayer, the Chair opened the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Congregation of BCUC.

Present / Apologies

Final number present 59, final number of apologies 10. See attached.

Consensus

Chair reminded the meeting that a show of hands for consensus rather than blue and orange cards would be used for all voting matters other than Council member election. Council member election will be conducted through secret ballot using voting slips provided. Only congregation members may vote.

Minutes of Congregational meeting 28 August 2021

Chair called for the acceptance of the Minutes of Congregational meeting 28 August 2021. Acceptance of Minutes moved by Peter Morris, seconded Deb May. No matter arising, accepted as distributed without question.

Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting

Having been accepted at the Congregational meeting 28 August 2021, Chair called for the noting of the Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting. Noted.

Business arising from the Minutes, Congregational meeting 28 August 2021

No business arising.

Acceptance of the 2021 Annual Report

Chair called for comments on the new format of the Annual Report. New format was received favourable. The team who worked on the new format were acknowledged. Chair called for

acceptance of the 2021 Annual Report. Acceptance moved by Valerie Aloa, seconded John Lawry. Acceptance unanimous.

Minister's Report

The Minister, Benji Callen took the floor, acknowledging the Chair Nita West.

Benji, spoke of 2021 being a year of great change and how BCUC managed to consolidate this change. He thanked the congregation and acknowledged all teams for making it possible for him to take long service leave in good health and peace. Benji gave special thanks to Rob Williams and Stuart MacAdam for their continuous support.

Highlights of the year

- The Great Getaway (Microcosm of our future together)
- Community outreach (Fellowship groups, Mainly Music and Playgroup, Youth, Netball)
- Worshiping as a community in Christ
- The structure of our Church (nurturing the Child of God at all ages, all stages of faith)

Some goals for the future - 2022 BCUC will look at our values, "What does it mean to be a child of Christ?" 2023 will work towards building a discipling culture.

The challenge for the future is, "What are we praying for?"

Benji concluded with a photomontage of the highlights of 2021 The year that was BCUC.

Chair of Council Report

The Chair of Council, Nirmal Robinson thanked those in attendance. It is time for reflection of the year and what has God done for us. God presence was felt throughout this year of restrictions. Nirmal went on to explain the principles of UP, IN, OUT.

UP – Looking at God for his grace and blessing. Worship was the major focus.

Through UP, thanks expressed to the Worship Consultation Group and the congregation for embracing the changes, Benji and the Ministry team, Worship Working Group, those supporting the on-line service. It was noted the BCUC on-line service is watched nationally and internationally.

IN – Discipling within our own Church. Spiritual nurturing was the focus.

Through IN, thanks expressed for the Minor Prophets workshop, Science and Faith workshop, Children and Youth Ministry, Pastoral Care.

OUT – Reaching out and raising more disciples. God's graciousness was the main focus.

Through OUT, thanks expressed for children and family outreach programmes, community outreach activities, links with Seymore College, Schools Christmas programme.

BCUC Council have agreed to appoint a connections (outreach) leader in 2022.

Nirmal extended a welcome to Rev. Ashley Davis to BCUC. He gave thanks to the Church Elders, Tim Piper and the Mission Trust Fund managers for their support. Nirmal concluded his report with Luke 10: 38-42.

Financial Report

Chair welcomed the Treasurer, Tim Piper to the floor. The Treasurer referred the meeting to the BCUC 2021 Annual Report Financial Reports, available in advance. No question of the Treasurer. The Financial Report and all other reports as presented in the written 2021 Annual Report were accepted.

The Treasurer presented the 2022 budget, made available in advance. Two questions raised from the floor in relation to future deficit and the increase in Facilities expenditure. The Treasre explained both questions referring to his earlier comment that BCUC needs to be looking towards the next 2 to 3 years. A deficit can be managed for that period.

Chair thanked the Treasurer for his report and asked that the 2022 Budget be accepted. Acceptance moved Mike Croft, seconded Ian Olver. Acceptance unanimous.

Election of Elders/Councillors

There are three vacancies on Church Council. Nominations for Anne Wierenga and Andrew Pruszinski were received. A nominee must receive over 50% of the votes cast to be elected. Candidates and congregation will be notified of the results as they come to hand and will publicised. Chair led the meeting in a moment of prayer for wisdom and discretion when casting a vote. Completed ballot papers, made available prior to the meeting, were then collected by the scrutineers.

Following prayer, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.22pm.

Confirmed on

By

Signature