

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION, 10.30 am, SUNDAY 28TH MAY 2017

In attendance: 82
Apologies: 10
Chairperson: Margaret Cargill
Secretary: Christine Secombe

1. WELCOME

Chairperson Margaret welcomed members of the Congregation to the meeting and introduced the members of the Joint Nominating Committee (JNC):

Chairperson: Rev Wendy Prior, Urban Mission Network Representative appointed by the Presbytery: Susan Burt (travelling overseas), Morialta's elected members: Rhonda Amber, Katrina Mackenzie, Bruce Ind, Margaret Cargill, John Secombe, Helena Begg.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance rolls had been distributed for signing and recording known apologies.

3. AGENDA

Proposal: the purpose of this meeting is to bring a name to the Congregation for consideration for a Call to be extended to ministry at Morialta. AGREED

4. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

Proposal: the Congregation appoint Neville and Miranda Clarke to act as scrutineers for the secret ballot that will take place later in the meeting. AGREED

5. SUMMARY OF THE PROCESS AND ACTIVITY OF THE JOINT NOMINATING COMMITTEE

5.1. Process

JNC Chair Rev Wendy Prior thanked the Morialta members of the JNC and outlined the process which had been followed in compliance with Uniting Church requirements.

The work of the JNC began in January when the Committee met to familiarise themselves with the process and to set dates for meetings. The discernment process began on receipt in early February of the names of three Ministers whose gifts and graces the Synod's Placements Committee discerned to be a match to Morialta's mission and ministry.

Conversations were held in early March with all three and decisions taken against proceeding with one of them.

The process paused for a few weeks during March while Church Council and the Congregation acted on a request from the Presbytery that we ensure there are sufficient funds to commit to a full-time Placement for at least the next five years. On receipt of that assurance, Presbytery gave the go-ahead for the process to continue.

Further conversations with the two remaining Ministers followed and by the end of April it was clear to the JNC that a Call could be issued to one of them.

Wendy Prior presented the name of Rev Bob Hutchinson.

Margaret Cargill handed Chair to Wendy and JNC members were invited to report on various aspects of Rev Hutchinson's profile.

5.2. Previous Placements and other relevant experience

Rhonda Amber spoke of Rev Hutchinson's previous placements and other experiences.

"After completing his training at theological college, Rev Hutchinson and family spent many years in placements at Kangaroo Island, Spicer and Athelstone, where he was the Uniting Church Minister of the Word. Prior to these placements he was a Youth Worker at Pilgrim Uniting Church and Lay minister to Port Adelaide/Alberton Parish. During the last 12 months he has undertaken more studies and provided Supply Ministry to several congregations.

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In 2006 Rev Hutchinson was recommended to take up an appointment at Athelstone, during a very difficult time in the history Athelstone Uniting Church. Through his ministry and leadership at Athelstone he was able to create strong foundations upon which God could bring a sense of stability and strength to the people of Athelstone, mainly through his excellent preaching.

Rev Hutchinson with his previous experience and a deep knowledge comes to us as a very able preacher. He shows how relevant the message of the Bible is while also making it easily understood, challenging and always proclaiming the gospel of Jesus. His preaching is the message of caring, teaching, and listening to what God wants, loving each other and, ultimately, living in God's grace!

With his previous experience, Rev Hutchison will serve to encourage us as a church community to thrive and grow and to share in our wider community because the ministry and message is "Grace to the world - the best news ever! We are to accept it as a gift to us - it is that simple."

With his experience and through his faith and theology he will lead, direct and enable us in the following areas - worship to all ages, singing, prayer, silence, social Justice, fellowship, mission and pastoral care to each other and the wider community.

He has demonstrated his pastoral care in his previous churches through men's shed, playgroups, wider community activities held on church properties, meeting people in the streets, sharing a coffee with individuals.

His faith and manner is such that he says: "it is God, who enables us to do all these things"

Rev Hutchinson has a keen interest in cricket, golf, football and other sports and it's great to know that he is very interested in pastoral opportunities and outreach via our Netball Club.

As a member of the Joint Nominating Committee I would like to recommend Rev Bob Hutchinson to be our new Minister of the Word at Morialta Uniting Church with his stability and commitment to guide us as a congregation in all areas that I have discussed in detail through this paper."

5.3. Ministry with children and young families

Katrina Mackenzie reminded us that at Morialta we have recognised a need for a Minister who can 'lead and assist in developing mechanisms for meeting the church's goals in the areas of children and young families as well as youth and young adults'.

Rev Bob Hutchinson has much experience working in these areas.

Previously he has

- been a Youth Worker and Youth Pastor at Pilgrim Uniting Church and a Youth Leader at Yankalilla Uniting Church
- been involved in the National Christian Youth Convention (NCYC)
- served in Placement at Athelstone and Spicer Uniting Churches where there is a strong presence of children, young families and youth.

The JNC believe that Bob's experience with children and youth will help us as a congregation to provide support working with children and young families, nurturing and supporting leaders and teachers to build a foundation that encourages continuing growth in their Christian life into adulthood.

5.4. Pastoral Care and wider community ministry

Bruce Ind spoke of Bob's willingness and joy in 'loitering with intent'.

His Pastoral heart for and clear commitment to pastoral care make Bob a great fit for this community and beyond.

5.5. Worship and approach to theology

Margaret Cargill focussed on worship and Bob's approach to theology, particularly important given the central role that worship holds here.

From the beginning of the process the JNC was impressed with how Bob's emphasis on worship in his written profile and his understanding of its centrality in the church and in his own life matched with Morialta's understanding and practice.

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Bob wrote that worship is listening for and with God, that it is the platform to enable the people of God to engage with God through a multitude of senses, activities and experiences, that it includes singing, prayer, silence, action/mission/justice, word, coffee, electronics and candles. He likes to be creative in worship and try different things. He advocates tolerance and promotes variety.

He sees that leadership should be shared and his style is facilitator, mentor, coach and guide. He wrote that his faith and theology are continually moving and growing through learning and experience, that faith to him is a journey of discovery, not having all the answers.

The core message of his ministry, he writes, “would have to be grace – the pardon, love, forgiveness and acceptance of and by God – the best news ever, which we are to accept as a gift to us.”

The more we spoke with Bob the firmer we became that there is a good fit between him and Morialta

5.6. Social Justice and inclusivity as well as reporting on conversations with referees

John Secombe opened with greeting all on this exciting day in the life of our church and went on to share with us some extracts from Bob’s “Ministry leadership Profile”.

To the question “In your opinion, what are some of the gifts you bring to serve the church?”, Bob’s response is “Wisdom, preaching, teaching small group, worship curator, administration, cooking, acceptance and tolerance”

In relation to his understanding of mission, part of Bob’s response is that “it was Rowan Williams, I believe, who said Mission is finding out what God is doing and joining in”. It is our call to join with God in proclaiming God’s love and grace, to share the good news in word and action and to seek baptism and sharing of and in the Eucharist, to do justice (for humans and creation), love mercy and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8).

Essentially Mission is working in partnership with God in going out to where God leads and where God is already at work. Mission is the life, witness, and call of the church”.

Bob’s personal statement of his primary theological values included in part that “the core message of my ministry would have to be grace, the pardon, the love, the forgiveness, and acceptance of and by God. This is totally God’s work directed at humanity, because God is love. The message of Grace is the best news ever. We are to accept it as a gift to us. It is that simple. Ministry is also encouraging the church community to share that message of grace in the wider community, to love, accept, and help.”

The JNC had two conversation where Bob was pressed on the issues of social justice and inclusivity. We were rewarded with his clear view that social justice, the inclusion of all people and hospitality to the stranger are essential to the working of the church – a clear match to Morialta’s values. Bob went on to indicate that he looks forward to not only working with the Social Justice Mission Ministry Team at Morialta but also working with a Congregation that is known for its hospitality.

The JNC talked to two referees, both of whom are known to several the JNC members and are held in very high regard. Both confirmed what we had discovered about Bob and put to rest a couple of small unknowns that our conversations with him had not revealed.

John strongly endorsed Bob as our next minister, stating that he believes Bob’s ministerial gifts and graces are what is required at Morialta at this time.

5.7. Overview / Summary

Helena Begg opened by remarking that she felt she didn’t need to say too much more, and reinforced that the JNC is very enthusiastic about recommending Bob to the Congregation at Morialta, just as the JNC has seen that Bob is very excited at the prospect of joining us here.

The gifts and graces the JNC has seen in Bob match very closely Morialta’s hopes and expectations for a new Minister. In conversations, the JNC has felt Bob’s warmth and understanding of our situation.

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Bob has a strong track record of getting alongside people of all ages in both church and wider community situations. (He refers to “intentional loitering”!)

Bob is a very able and interesting preacher, who is keen to enable others to be involved in worship, and is open to new ideas. He reads widely and conveys his ideas clearly, both in preaching and in small groups, and is also a good listener.

Bob has a good history of involvement in social justice issues, which fits well with our interest here at Morialta. He is experienced in providing pastoral care where needed, and also in interacting with youth members and young families.

We do not expect Bob to come here and do everything, but to share in the ministry of Morialta here and in the wider community. The JNC is happy that he can be an excellent and inspiring addition to the community at Morialta.

6. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The questions from the congregation sought information about Bob’s family and whether they would move into the Highland Avenue manse.

Wendy vacated the Chair and handed the meeting back to Margaret.

7. SECRET BALLOT

Margaret reminded the meeting that a secret ballot is required and brought a decision from the April meeting of Church Council that “confirmed members and all regular attenders on the Morialta roll are eligible to vote to call a Minister to the placement here.”

Ballot papers were distributed, completed and counted by the Scrutineers.

8. MEETING CLOSURE

Margaret thanked Wendy Prior and Susan Burt for their leadership and guidance through the JNC process, closed the meeting and invited members to morning tea in the hall where it was announced that a unanimous decision had been achieved in favour of extending the Call to Rev Bob Hutchinson.

As a result, a Call to ministry would be issued by the Chair of the Joint Nominating Committee on behalf of the Morialta congregation and confirmed in writing.

Those present applauded.

CONFIRMED

Chairperson Date

MORIALTA UNITING CHURCH

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Merv Boundy	Roger Whibley	Christine Secombe	Jennie Hosking
Margaret Boundy	Cynthia Story	Margaret Cargill	David Purling
Dale Corrigan	Doreen Matheson	Matthew Mackenzie	Judith Purling
Brian Corrigan	Margaret Clogg	Sharon Mackenzie	Colin Cargill
Doug Hosking	Ray Clogg	Katrina Mackenzie	Graham Buckton
Aileen James	John Secombe	Helena Begg	Michael Feast
Margaret Dix	Barbara Buckton	Peter Norman	Barb Sullivan
Linda Johnson	Joan Wagner	Pauline Norman	Jan Thornton
Julie Lomman	Brian Hogben	Jing Luo	Fay Goldsworthy
Bob Lomman	Jey Edwin	Craig Mackenzie	Arthur Tideman
Tiffany Winn	Jan Schroeder	Rhonda Amber	
Jane Feast	Margaret Whibley	Beverley Tredrea	
Christine Garner	Valerie Whittle	Adam Yearsley	
Paige Buckingham	Aileen Brogan	Mary Thornley	
Erin Buckingham	Averil Nash	Jill Thompson	
Cheryl Buckingham	Ruth Wise	Yvette Piller	
Carole Lyons	Sophie Saegenschnitter	Miranda Clarke	
June Thompson	Ruth Pitt	Neville Clarke	
Margaret Pittman	Helen Drew	Peter Thornley	
Marion Beard	Jill Kerr	Bob Lloyd	
John Beard	Jenny Hancock	Pam Ayles	
John Thornton	Mary Watson	Chris Ayles	
Lesley Tideman	Pam Johnson	Robert Cheel	
Ruth Carter	Marie Elson	Kath Cheel	
John Powers	Margaret Peckham	Barry Peckham	
Lorraine Powers	Jenny Swanbury	Craig Ottmann	
Colin Sampson	Bruce Ind	Tomoko Divett	
Anne Ind			