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**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION  
10.45 am Sunday 27 August 2023**

**In attendance:** 42  
**Apologies:** 5

**Chairperson:** Bruce Ind  
**Secretary:** Craig Mackenzie

**1. WELCOME and APOLOGIES**

In opening the meeting and welcoming those present, Bruce

- acknowledged that we meet on the land of the Kaurna people
- acknowledged the people of faith who have gone before us in this place and enabled the mission we are called to
- Outlined the method for indicating to speak to the meeting (blue – cool response, orange – warm response, yellow – raise a question,
- Members joining the meeting online – able to ask questions and make comment via SMS text message
- Members attendance to be recorded by the secretary and invited members to voice apologies they may know of to the secretary after the meeting.

**2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

Bruce drew attention to the purpose of this important congregational meeting:

- To confirm the Congregational Profile developed by Church Council
- To appoint members of the congregation to the Joint Nominating Committee

All members of church council who were involved in developing the profile of the Congregation were present and seated at the front of the meeting, for members to recognise the experience of those who developed the Congregation profile and to be available to assist in answering questions.

**3. MATTERS RELATED TO MORIALTA UNITING CHURCH'S PLACEMENT**

**3.1 Presentation and Consideration of the Draft Congregational Profile prepared by Church Council  
Congregation Profile**

Carole was asked to share information about financial projections over the next five years.

Part of the profile information needed to present to the presbytery in calling for a minister is to confirm we are financially viable.

Carole noted that we have all had access to this information, a paper copy is available, and Carole has a detailed analysis supporting this summary.

Carole acknowledged the assistance of Steve Begg, in preparing the financial position.

A summary was presented to the meeting by Carole.

The summary presented takes into investments, inflation and income.

- By end of 2026 our invested funds will be depleted.
- Since June 2019 income has dropped by \$1500/month, declining membership and members circumstances may be impacting on ability to give.
- This year we received a \$10,000 donation to assist with deficit.

This situation is one that the Council is not happy to present, but as a congregation we must address.

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Summary presented:

| BUDGET PROJECTION            | 2023           | 2024           | 2025           | 2026           | 2027           | 2028           |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| TOTAL INCOME                 | 191,200        | 187,849        | 182,621        | 176,403        | 169,521        | 162,537        |
| TOTAL EXPENSES               | 208,931        | 232,193        | 244,894        | 247,037        | 248,055        | 246,377        |
| PROJECTED OPERATING DEFICITS | -17,731        | -44,344        | -62,273        | -70,634        | -78,534        | -83,840        |
| FUNDING OF DEFICITS          | 2023           | 2024           | 2025           | 2026           | 2027           | 2028           |
| Term Deposit                 | 48,950         |                |                |                |                |                |
| Operating Investment         | 124,299        |                |                |                |                |                |
| Sinking Fund                 | 50,054         |                |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Total Invested Funds</b>  | <b>223,303</b> | <b>205,572</b> | <b>161,228</b> | <b>98,955</b>  | <b>28,321</b>  | <b>0</b>       |
| <b>Yearly Deficit</b>        | <b>-17,731</b> | <b>-44,344</b> | <b>-62,273</b> | <b>-70,634</b> | <b>-78,534</b> | <b>-83,840</b> |
| <b>Remaining Funds</b>       | <b>205,572</b> | <b>161,228</b> | <b>98,955</b>  | <b>28,321</b>  | <b>-50,213</b> | <b>-83,840</b> |

Questions raised;

Bev. Tredrea: Q: Asked if this summary was based on a full time minister?

A: This maintains what we currently have in place

Q: Have the Council considered options/ predictions such as not having a full time minister?

A: This can be done, but it does not make a huge difference. what we currently have in place

A: Council did consider this, In reducing the (Full Time Equivalent) FTE, it would draw out the time for providing support for that ministry, but it would also diminish our ability to provide that mission. The most significant resource to provide that mission, apart from the contribution of volunteers, is the stipend minister, who supports and challenges us. It was decided to go to presbytery, acknowledging we have funding for 3 years in the event of nothing changing, rather than a part time position and arriving at the same place in 5 years.

A: This is not a matter that Council takes lightly. Members of Council met last week with Sue Page the convenor of the Synod Strategy and Planning Mission and Property Task Group, that is looking at the future of all congregations within the Synod of South Australia. It transpires that on any Sunday only 30% of available seats are in use. There are many congregations that are in a similar situation, considering their future. The Council acknowledge while there is an end time, there are other opportunities and process so that mission we are called to may continue, not necessarily in this place but in this name.

Susanne Pfitzner Q: Can we join with other churches.

A: Those of you who have been involved with Morialta for a longer time will know, that Morialta came into being by joining with four other precedent congregations. There are opportunities to work together with other adjacent congregations to envision a future that provides opportunities for worship and mission. These are things that Council are expecting to undertake.

In the absence of further questions, Bruce outlined the process so far:

- The congregation have been given the time to review and consider the first draft of the Congregation Profile prepared by Church Council

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- Following input from a number of people a second Draft Congregation Profile prepared by Church Council that is before us today, that includes the expectation that we will go to Presbytery and Placements with a request for a full time minister (1.0 FTE minister). Council discerned this would be the best way forward for Morialta.
- The Congregational Profile is extensive document, that seeks to explain and describe the activities and desires of this community.
- Bruce asked members if they have any comment or questions about the accuracy of the Congregational Profile before asking for an indication of their warmth to this document.

## Questions raised.

- J. Wagner: Q: Asked why sharing in Holy Communion was not considered as one of the priorities of our Church life – expressed disappointment at this, and why it has not been given the same importance as other things.
- A: Margaret Cargill, responded by saying, Holy Communion is marked with an asterisk as is Contemporary Style of Worship and Music. The Council received feedback that indicated that these two aspects to church life are most valued by attendees be marked with an asterisk and a note made that states that these represent different aspects identified as important by the congregation and are included here to ensure their inclusion in the picture presented as our worship style overlaps and transcends the descriptors given. Council felt that there were more than 8 aspects to church life most valued by attendees.
- A: Bruce responded; that he is sure that the we all understand that the sacraments that we share as part of our faith journey are important to all of us. One wonders why it is necessary to have such a foundational part of our faith and life together, on this form, surely all congregations would consider the sharing of the Holy Communion would be an essential part of our life as Christians. Hopefully the response and they way in which it has been captured in the document addresses your and others concerns.
- Response: Joan, thanked Bruce and Margaret Cargill for their clarification which addresses her concern.

In the absence of further questions, Bruce, then asked for expressions for acceptance for the Congregational Profile. – **Consensus was given.**

The Congregational Profile will now be presented to the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee, - they will add some comments and then it will be presented to the Synods Placement Committee at the end of September. This will then enable conversations to commence with ministers who meet the profile and consider undertaking a journey with us.

Bruce thanked Council for their efforts, and the contributions (comments and questions) from members of the congregation.

## 3.2 Appointment of Congregation Members to the Joint Nominating Committee

Council brings to you the following people, which it discerns are six people that have thinks have the gifts and graces, experience and ability to undertake the important role as congregational representatives on the joint nominating committee.

- Rhonda Amber
- John Secombe
- Chris Ayles
- Helena Begg
- Margaret Cargill
- Bruce Ind

Along with the congregational representatives there are two presbytery representatives.

- Paul Turley
- Rebecca Purling

Bruce asked if there were any further nominations to be added to the Joint Nominating Committee, paper was available if people wanted to submit a written nomination.

As there were no other nominations, Bruce asked for an expression of acceptance for Rhonda Amber, John Secombe, Chris Ayles, Helena Begg, Margaret Cargill and Bruce Ind as congregational representatives on the joint nominating committee. **Consensus was obtained.**

**4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Bruce said that there are many causes for celebration in Morialta and acknowledged that Jan and Peter Sillett were married in this place 50 years ago last Friday, and we thank them for their continued participation in this congregation and congratulate them on 50 years together.

**5. MEETING CLOSE**

Bob closed the meeting in prayer.

In prayerful thought for ministry placement in this congregation  
Ongoing discernment and prayerful thought of the newly formed Joint Nominating Committee,  
For guidance of Council,  
God Bless us as we go,  
Holy Spirit inspire us as we go,  
Jesus, continue to feed us in word and sacrament,  
God Almighty, creator, Son and Spirit,  
Be with us,

Amen.

**AGENDA**



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**ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**



Attendance list.docx

DRAFT