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**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**  
**11.15 am Sunday 10 December 2023**

**In attendance:** 44  
**Apologies:** 8

**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.
- Opened the meeting with prayer for those in our congregation who are doing it tough, for those going through difficult times, please help us to express your love for them in a way that is best for them.

**2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES and AGENDA**

Bruce reminded the people that the main business and purpose of the last meeting was:

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

Draft copies of that meeting have been made available and asked if there were any questions about those minutes. As no questions or comments made, confirmation of the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting was confirmed with consensus.

The draft agenda was confirmed by consensus.

**3. INTERIM REPORT FROM THE JOINT NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) has met several times, a couple of times in person and once by zoom. We have met with presbytery representatives Rev. Paul Turley and Rev. Rebecca Purling and are presently waiting for names from placements. Due to the Christmas season, the Synod Placements Committee (PC), next meet on the 22/1/2024, following which we will receive names, until then we are fortunate to have Rev. Alison Whish, with us until the middle of January and we look forward to her participation in the life of the Morialta congregation. Bruce asked that we pray for the members of the JNC and PC and the work that they in considering suitable names for the community of Morialta to work with in the future.

Bruce asked if there were further comment the JNC members would like to make, and also if there were any questions from the members of the congregation about the JN process. There were no questions. Bruce reminded members that he is available at any time, as are other members of the JNC, to answer questions or address concerns you may have about the joint nominating process.

**4. FINANCE REPORT TO END OF OCTOBER 2023**

Carole presented the accounts to the 31 October 2023

<b>ACCOUNTS TO 31 OCTOBER 2023</b>			
<b>MAJOR INCOME</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>DIFF</b>
All Giving	87,500	90,526	3,026 Over
Hire of Facilities	13,333	18,462	5,129 Over
Fundraising	8,000	12,905	4,905 Over
Interest Received	2,333	5,525	3,192 Over
Donations		500	
Funerals		4,650	
Bequests		10,000	
Deficit Reduction		10,000	
Miscellaneous		740	
		25,390	24,890 Over
<b>TOTAL OVER BUDGET</b>			<b>41,142 Over</b>

Carole noted that income from:

- Planned giving was above budget
- Hire of facilities was above budget, largely due to hire of facilities by Dawoodi Borhas
- Fund raising was above budget, with the market raising in excess of \$10,977.
- Interest on investment -due to interest rate rise
- Donations were also above budget – mainly donations from funerals, a bequest from the estate of Ralph Holmes, deficit donation.

Income above budget was \$41,142

**Questions raised.**

- Ruth Pitt (Q) Asked about income from student accommodation.  
 (A) Income from student accommodation contribute significantly to the Church – income is known (rental etc) and is running to budget.

<b>MAJOR EXPENSES</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>DIFF</b>
<b>26 Chapel Street</b>			
Maintenance	9,167	5,398	3,769 Under
Rates	750	1,034	284 Over
Utilities	3,333	3,660	326 Over
Cleaning Subcont.	9,166	8,615	551 Under
<b>Manse - 13 Highland</b>	6,417	5,927	490 Under
<b>24 Chapel Street</b>	16,250	17,980	1,730 Over
<i>Several expense lines have not been utilised to date.</i>			

The properties are the major expenses:

- The Chapel Street properties maintenance is below budget – thanks to Chris Ayles
- The Manse property is below budget, however there will be some maintenance expenditure required associated with a new minister.
- Rates for properties are slightly over budget
- It is expected that expenditure on properties will be close to budget by end of year

**No Questions were raised**

**Summary of Financial position**

<b>P &amp; L ANALYSIS (OCT)</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>DIFF</b>
TOTAL INCOME	153,750	196,534	41,142 Over
TOTAL EXPENSES	183,000	179,195	3,804 Under
TOTAL SURPLUS (OCT)			44,946
<b>2023 BUDGET DEFICIT</b>			<b>35,580 9,366</b>
UCINVEST	229,726		
AS AT 31 OCTOBER			

Carole noted that to end of October 2023 we have a surplus of \$9,000 with respect to the budget deficit that was expected, this has resulted primarily from an increase in giving, fundraising, and a reduction in property maintenance expenses.

## 5. DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2024

Carole presented the draft budget

<b>MORIALTA UNITING CHURCH INCOME</b>	<b>2024 BUDGET INCOME</b>
Giving Envelopes	25,000
Giving Electronic (eGive & EFT)	80,000
Giving Loose Plate	3,000
Student Accomodation Rent	37,400
Student Accomodation Utilities	8,000
Hire of Facilities	18,000
Major Fundraising (net of cost)	10,000
Community Centre Programs	3,100
Hospitality / Catering	2,000
Interest Received	7,000
Donations - general	4,000
Donations - MUC Netball Club	5,000
Sundry Income	500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>203,000</b>

<b>EXPENSES 2024 BUDGET EXPENSES</b>	
Children & Youth	
Community Centre	2,700
Pastoral Care	300
Worship & Faith Education	1,850
Audio Visual	14,000
Administration	157,425
Communications	800
Finance	4,000
Property	66,700
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>247,775</b>

# MORIALTA UNITING CHURCH

*Living Streams - Giving Life*

## Questions raised:

- SB (Q) Requested further detail on property expenses:  
(A) For the 26 Chapel Street property
- Repairs and maintenance \$10,000
  - Utilities excluding rates and gas and electricity \$1,000
  - Utilities gas and electricity \$4,000
  - Capital purchases and major works \$0,000
  - Insurance – expected to rise \$8,000
  - Cleaning contractors including 24 Chapel St to rise \$10,000
  - Cleaning supplies \$1,000, toilet paper, hand wash etc,
- (R) Thanks that was helpful – there doesn't appear to be any discretionary items
- (Q) Requested further detail on audio visual costs particularly the projector  
(A) An allowance to replace the front projector (or TV) for the front of the Church to project to back of the church, which is useful for singers/minister.
- Replacement cost is expected to be \$3 -10,000
- CL (R) Expressed concern that this may not necessarily be a wise expense given the financial situation of the church.
- SB (R) This seems like a luxury item, a nice to have and not essential
- BI (R) Arising from our “Spring into Action” consultations over the last year or so, the congregation considered and agreed to was that our live streaming and online worship was core to our being. The budget has been considered by team leaders and council, the budget is reserving funds and explaining how funds might be expended. It may not be required in this financial period. The church council are small in number and would welcome broader assistance in recognising the resourcing needs for the church, a small group has already met several times to discuss and strategize how best to address this issue.
- SB (R) Not questioning our on-line ministry, but it seems like the projector is a luxury, - a nice to have.
- PN (R) Committee do a wonderful job.
- EH (R) Agrees with the comments made by SB and CL
- RW (Q) Keen in reducing expenses, interested in reducing the cleaning costs of the students housing – some years ago this was undertaken by the property and student housing committee.  
(A) Student housing is cleaned fortnightly and church twice weekly. Student housing cleaning needs to be done to ensure they remain in good condition – students contribute to cleaning communal areas (this in their fees) and clean their own rooms. The \$10,000 cost covers the church and student housing.

Carole presented the budget summary – which is a **DEFICIT BUDGET**

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>203,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>-247,775</b>
<b>DRAFT BUDGET DEFICIT</b>	<b>-44,775</b>
<b>BEYOND MORIALTA MISSION PROJECTS</b>	<b>3,000</b>

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Bruce Ind put the proposal to the meeting to accept the budget as presented.  
A number of blue cards were presented:

### Responses

- SB Can't accept the budget as presented, given the financial concerns of the church. The costs are significant and an area where this could be examined further - given we have decided on a full-time minister are the administration costs. Also, the expenditure on a front projector is not justifiable given our situation, and is a sign we are not taking our situation seriously – a lack of discipline in the church.
- CL We are charged with the responsibility as the keepers of this church, and we have presented deficit budgets for a number of years now and it is a mix of good luck and good management that we have not realised some of these deficits. Can't see the expenditure of \$10,000 as being necessary to keep the church operating – can't support this budget.
- BI Asked if those who presented the blue cards if they have been heard. BI discussed the process for reaching a decision, and asked if there were any questions.
- RP Agrees that we don't need the projector – too hard to read from the front – Can we have a vote about that projector and then a vote on the budget?
- BI How do people feel about removing the expense item for the projector.
- CL Could we consider that if the projector fails, that we then consider replacement of the projector.
- BI The budget is a consideration of all the likely expenses – the intent is not to buy a new projector if the budget is approved – but the purchase would be considered if it fails. With reference to the discussion that has taken place, that in the case of replacement of major equipment items, that council be given the authority to make the decision.
- RW Asked why the TV screen at the front could not be used?
- AP From the perspective of a musician – he does not use the screen at the back – only the TV at the front.
- CG Relies on written material rather than refer to screens.
- CL We are not here to resolve this – can we return to the question of the budget.
- SB This blue card is not going down – If the projector fails, given the financial position – we should not replace it – we have managed for many years without it.
- CC Removal of the projector from the draft budget deficit will reduce the deficit from \$44,000 to \$34,000 and both indicate the same problem. As time goes on, we will continue to find it harder to live within our income.
- BI **Proposed that we remove the projector item from the budget, and if the projector fails, we consider its replacement at that time, and that the draft budget presented be reduced to \$34,000, by removal of the projector/TV line item.**

### Consensus on this proposal was achieved.

Bruce thanked everyone for their comments and expression and sharing of their concerns, and asked to show appreciation for those who have thoughtfully and frugally expended money over the last 12 months, and for those who have participated in the preparing the draft budget.

## 6. FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

Helena Begg provided a brief report.

Helena thanked everyone for supporting our fundraising efforts during the year, particularly the concerts that have been put on. Fundraising from concerts/performance, is a relatively easy way of raising funds, even though the funds are split 50/50 with the performers. The major fundraising activity was the Market which was a fantastic fundraising effort this year. Realistically given the amount of effort and number of people involved in organising and managing the market, we need to seriously think about how we manage this in the future, if we do it in the future. We have budgeted for raising \$10,000 through fundraising activities, so if we don't hold a Market, we will need to increase our support from concerts. If you have any ideas for fundraising that are relatively easy to hold and earn good income, please share them with Helena and the fundraising committee.

Helena received a note from the Community Garden across the road acknowledging the support that the Church gives them and appreciated being able to use the Church facilities to move their Christmas celebration from the garden due to inclement weather on the day. Their members have noticed the use of facilities by the Dawoodi Bohra and were interested in that, the food pantry at the front of the church and the support and connection they feel with the church.

Bruce thanked Helena for her report.

## **7. WIDER CHURCH ENGAGEMENT**

Beverley Tredrea, is our presbytery representative and provided a report on her recent Presbytery meeting.

Beverley started by bringing to our attention a notice this week in our newsletter, about the closure of 'Churches Together South Australia'. Colin Cargill has been a representative for many years, and we share with Colin, your disappointment about the ceasing of this aspect of our church's activity.

The last meeting (twice yearly) of the presbytery was held on the 28 October 2023 at Enfield Uniting Church. The meeting is an opportunity for congregation members to have an input into the business of the presbytery and to receive information to share information with our congregations. A number of speakers were heard - a message from the General Secretary, Rev. Phillip Gardiner and heard an interesting talk from two members of the Port Adelaide Church - is a huge property, it can no longer function as a church, but it was interesting to hear how they were using their property. Accepted a proposal for Leanne Davis is to be ordained, and Leanne will be our new chairperson of the presbytery next year. There was an interesting debate on whether churches should meet on Sundays. It was an opportunity to hear what was happening in our churches, and a time of hospitality and getting to know each other.

Bruce thanked Bev for her report.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Ruth Pitt reported that a group from the church, met recently at the home of Ray and Margaret Clogg to make 400 Christmas bon-bons for Uniting Care.

Nicole Charisson, our office coordinator may not be in the office next week, as her son Calvin, has influenza A. Because of the vulnerability of some of our members, we have asked Nicole to stay at home and care for her son. Carole Lyons will sit in the office and be a welcoming presence, and assist with providing information on Monday and Tuesday, Helena Begg on Wednesday, and Sharon Mackenzie on Friday, if anyone is able to assist on Thursday, it would be appreciated if you could let Bruce know.

Bruce thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting, and for those on camera and AV, who bring this meeting to those unable to attend.

## **9. MEETING CLOSE**

Bruce closed the meeting in prayer.

God,

You have been with us throughout our life as a congregation,  
You have been with us through the ups and downs, the difficulties, and joys,  
God, in this advent season as we look to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who became the Christ,  
Help us to look forward to a future filled with Joy and Peace and Hope and Love,  
Help us to be those things to those people we meet, both within this congregation and community,  
Be with us now as we go, stay with us when we arrive,  
Be with those who need you most in their time of uncertainty, or illness,  
Now we go in the name of Jesus,

Amen.

DRAFT



**AGENDA**



Draft Agenda.docx

**ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

DRAFT