

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
11.15 am Sunday 07 December 2025**

In attendance: 49 Chairperson: Bruce Ind

Apologies: 12 Secretary: Craig Mackenzie

1.0 WELCOME, KAURNA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT and APOLOGIES

In opening the meeting and welcoming those present, Bruce, acknowledged:

- That we meet on the land of the Kaurna people.
- Welcomed everyone with the traditional Kaurna greeting of welcome "Niina Marni"

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.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES and AGENDA

The draft agenda was confirmed by consensus

Draft copies of the Minutes– 13 April 2025 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.**

3.0 MINISTERS REFLECTIONS

Anne Buttler was welcomed to present her first reflections.

I have now been your minister for 6 months.

I am still in the honeymoon period – very fortunate to feel so welcomed.

It is a joy and privilege to minister here, and I thank you all for your support.

Just getting along together is not enough, just maintaining the excellent things you already do, is not why I am here, and I know many of you feel the same.

What structures do we have the freedom to offer to our community and beyond, without draining our people resources and provide life-giving opportunities to our own people? I am suggesting what I consider to be the way forward, at least for the foreseeable future.

- I think we need to focus on being a community one day a week that isn't Sunday.
- I think we need to outreach to younger people one evening a week, particularly in the warmer months – because staying at home in the winter is a much better idea.
- I think we need to look at one Saturday a month. The community day could include many different activities such as worship, particularly for people who think 10:00 doesn't exist and they can't get out of bed and get ready in time; exercise; craft; lunch; a pop choir; labyrinth; or a coffin club.

The idea that small teams of people come together once a month to teach or learn more of what brings joy to their lives, to share these with everyday people who live and

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work in our local area, There is a concept among church experts that we need to become indispensable to our local community, so that if we were ever to cease worship here, the good work we have done would be continued by those people who have benefited from it. Obviously, we need to check what other churches and groups in the area are doing because there is no point duplicating what already exists. We need to focus our greatest asset, which is our people then our people, then our buildings, then our hope for the future. The three assets that we have. Then we need some teams of people to offer a wider menu of community building and exposure to church people so that others get to see how amazing you are. They don't know. I want them to know. I'm going to be introducing you, I hope. This could include other spirituality opportunities such as meditation or labyrinth, some support groups, particularly a grief support group or a suicide prevention group, times to chat over a cuppa. Many people have been keen to tell me about the successful Wednesday lunch for the community that you used to have. I believe we could have volunteers learning to cook and providing simple meals for others. This may be the place where I can bring my vision of a place of work and worship in the style of the Iona community where people from around the world would offer their time in exchange for board and lodging and the chance to experience real community and expansive Christian spirituality.

One of the sadnesses of ministry is the farewelling of good and faithful servants. I arrived to a flurry of funerals and I know many other deaths and losses have occurred in families and circles of friends. We need to streamline how we offer support to families so that not everyone needs to be involved with every funeral, A team approach with the funeral roster would lessen the amount of personal effort needed while still ensuring we do our best for each occasion. Simplicity should be our guide.

Thankyou for entrusting me to lead you. Maythe good shepherd be our guide, leading the with gentleness, finding the safe way forward for all of the flock. May God continue to bless all those who are associated with Morialta. Amen

Comments:

RP: It sounds great, but we are getting old, and I found it quite daunting – all those things you were talking about wanting us to participate in – that's my problem – evening things I find I can't drive at night anymore – it sounds wonderful, but it sounds too hard.

Response: But you could manage one thing once a month in the day, and that's all I am asking. If everyone was doing everything, you would have a right to complain.

BI: I think what you are saying is that nobody will be asked to do more than they can, but they will all be asked to support however they might the activities that are provided to help people in our community learn what it is that gives us a reason to come to Morialta Uniting Church. I see this as an opportunity. I recognize that there are people who are perhaps concerned about their health , age but as I heard somebody down here say, you' are not dead yet and as I heard somebody at a recent Synod say, you can always pray for success, and if that's all you can do, then that is a mighty thing to do. But certainly, I think we are called to be challenged by our minister. How is it, that we are called to provide worship and share in ministry with each other and the community? How is it that we are called to provide mission and missional activities to the community? That's what I heard from Anne.

JW: I was intrigued to hear that there could be a labyrinth, and I wondered how we could have a labyrinth here.

Response: When I was at Clayton Wesley Uniting Church, not that far away, on the first Tuesday of the month, a labyrinth would be rolled out, candles arranged, and people would walk it – it was a beautiful experience , a little cold in winter, but something we could do in the hall, or even in the church if we move the chairs. Now moving the chairs is a big task. They don't do the labyrinth at Clayton Wesley anymore,

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but it still exists – it is a Chartres labyrinth - it is a kind of prayer walking, that can be done inside.

JW: I am glad that I asked the question because I was not aware that it could be done inside in this way!

CG: I want to support the idea of the labyrinth. There were two or three things that were mentioned that I thought “oh maybe I could do that”, I have limitations these days like many of us, but I am encouraged by what you have put together and particularly in the meditation.

LY: It’s a fabulous idea. What would be your way of starting the process? I come from a community development background – how are we going to approach the community – letter drops, face-book, - ways for community members to pass on to people they know in the community who may be interested in something that is happening. Let’s have a meeting to look at the different ways of broad casting our ideas.

BT: I remember that we did sometime, ago have a Lenton labyrinth, in the Church, and perhaps this may be an opportunity, to give focus, to what a labyrinth is about – Just an idea.

RP: How can we approach the young people in the student houses next door, and get their input, into what might work as a catalyst for reaching out to young people?

CC: Remembers a high school student pastoral worker, Nigel, used labyrinths with students with some success. He is now working with young offenders, and his labyrinth worked well with that community – so there may an opportunity to reach out to Nigel, to see what may work for younger people.

Response: I imagine we would start small, and build up, if we have a great idea we would try it and if it doesn’t work well, we would drop that idea and pick up the next one. The idea isn’t for people to feel burdened because we need to find the things that give us joy, and we need to do them with other people.

BI: There are obviously lots of ideas buzzing around, were not here today to solve the challenge – I guess the challenge is to take away the challenge Anne has given us and think about how we might be involved. Anne will be interested in hearing your ideas, questions, and ways you could be involved in particular projects, we will start in a small way, and that will start next year.

Bruce thanked Anne, and we hope that your time with us never becomes not a honeymoon period.

4.0 FINANCE REPORT – to end October 20253

Carole Lyons provided a summary of the year to date:

FINANCE TEAM	
SUMMARY TO 31 OCTOBER 2025	
TOTAL INCOME	\$223,326
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$211,690
OPERATING PROFIT TO 31 OCTOBER	\$11,636
BUDGETTED DEFICIT TO 31 OCTOBER	\$13,967

- Batteries were installed in the student houses and in the church hall for a total cost \$34,000 This was an ex-budget item authorised by council. The batteries will be paid off in several years. This expense will put us in deficit this year.
- The Magill Market raised \$9,000
- Donations to end of October of \$12,000 have been received this year (includes catering for funerals, Kimba UC, Kiwanis Club of Rostrevor Campbelltown, Magill Community Garden, and Morialta Netball club \$3,800)
- Grant from Synod of \$2,500, for a new projector in the hall
- Have become part of the net zero campaign initiative – annual cost of \$523

CL: Happy to take any questions and provide full copies of the finances

BI: Bruce reinforced this is the time to ask any clarifying questions: We have been responsible stewards of our property our people and our finances

5.0 DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2026

Carole Lyons presented the draft budget for 2026

BUDGET 2026 - DRAFT	BUDGET 2026 INCOME	2026 TOTAL
Giving Envelopes	14,000	
Giving Electronic (eGive & EFT)	79,000	
Giving Loose Plate	8,000	101,000
Student Accomodation Rent	42,000	
Student Accomodation Utilities	8,400	50,400
Hire of Facilities	21,000	21,000
Rent of Manse	35,000	35,000
Major Fundraising	11,000	11,000
Interest Received	11,000	11,000

- We anticipate the manse will continue to be rented out for all of 2026

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Donations - General	3,000	
Donations - MUC Netball Club	3,500	
Sundry Income	500	7,000
Hospitality & Catering	3,000	
Japanese Playgroup	2,000	
Tai Chi	1,000	
Art & Craft Circle	1,000	
Library	300	
Shed Group	300	
Friendship	300	7,900
TOTAL INCOME	244,300	244,300

There were no questions raised about income

EXPENSES	BUDGET 2026 EXPENSES	2026 TOTAL
Pastoral Care		
Gifts & Gratuities	100	
Pastoral Care - Stationery	200	
Resourcing Events	200	500
Worship & Faith Education		
Copyrights & Licences	1,000	
Worship Resources	100	
Flowers	200	
Incidentals	100	
Special Events	100	1,500
Audio Visual		
Audio Visual	10,000	10,000
Finance		
Library	200	
Shed Group	200	
Fellowship	300	
Visiting Preachers	1,300	
Mission & Service/Presbytery/Redress	21,060	
Minister - Stipend & Allowances	123,000	
Office Coordinator - Salary & Super	37,000	
Office Coordinator - Profess. Dev.	750	

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Finance Continued		
Accounting & Audit Fees	1,000	
Computers & IT	2,000	
Internet - NBN - Church	1,320	
Office Expenses - General	1,000	
Photocopier - Lease & Copy Charges	2,400	
Hospitality & Catering	3,000	
Sundry Expenses	1,000	
Advertising & Promotions	300	
Congregation Travel & Utilities Offset	500	
Fundraising Expenses	2,000	198,330

Property - 26 Chapel Street		
Building / Equipment Repairs & Maint	12,000	
Rates - Water, ESL	2,400	
Electricity & Gas	4,400	
Capital Purchases	0	
Insurance	11,000	
Major Works	0	
Cleaning Subcontractors	13,000	
Cleaning Materials	2,000	44,800

Property - Manse - 13 Highland Ave		
Repairs & Maintenance	5,000	
Rates - Council, ESL, Water	4,000	
Insurance	1,500	
Telephone & Internet	0	
Manse Management Fees	3,000	13,500

Property 24 Chapel St. Student Accom		
Repairs & Maintenance	8,000	
Rates - Council, ESL, Water/Sewerage	8,000	
Telephone & Internet	800	
Insurance	2,000	
Gas & Electricity	5,500	24,300
TOTAL EXPENSES	292,930	292,930

SUMMARY		
TOTAL INCOME		244,300
TOTAL EXPENSES		292,930
DRAFT BUDGET DEFICIT		-48,630

CL: Are there any questions about expenses for 2026?

BI: Recognising that property insurances have been going up over recent years there may be a slight decrease in 2026

RP: Are people over eighty covered by insurance if they work in the kitchen?

Answer: Yes, believe everyone is covered by insurance - will verify this.

BI: This is a budget deficit, however as in previous years the actual deficit has been smaller than budgeted. Recognizing many are on fixed incomes, and the value of volunteering. Please consider the possibility of increasing your weekly giving, and preferably through e-give as it would help with our budgeting.

PT: Anne has talked about doing community work, to encourage other people to become aware of and related to the church. With a deficit of \$50,000, If nothing changed how many years would we be able to survive on our reserve with that sort of deficit.

CL: We did that assessment about three years ago, and at that stage it was 4-5 years. The finance team will be looking at this quite closely. Not looking to be looking to close the doors. We have invested funds with UC funds, that help cover our deficits

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PT: Morialta is fortunate to be in this position that we have money in reserve to continue making a difference in Morialta, as many churches do not have these funds.

BI: We do have significant funds in reserve, and we are not looking at closing in the foreseeable future. Indeed, the challenge Anne has put before us, may well enliven this congregation significantly so that we will be able to welcome more people into the congregation and hopefully find the deficit as it usually does diminish this year and into the future. This is a responsible budget brought to you by the church council and the finance team.

CL: Put this Draft Budget for approval by the congregation.

The Draft Budget was accepted with consensus

CL: The Beyond Morialta Mission Projects for 2025 - \$1500 was raised for AKWAK (Australians Knitting for War Affected Kids) and \$1500 for Uniting Church Frontier Services

CL: Donations for the Christmas Bowl are on the table in the foyer.

Appreciation was shown for Caroles efforts.

6.0 COMMUNITY BUILDING and FUNDRAISING REPORT

Colin Cargill thanked Helena Begg, Judith Purling and Carol Lyons, who are the rest of the fundraising team, and work closely with AV team (concerts) and Lesley Tideman (teas/lunches).

Proposed Program for 2026

- **February/March/April**
 - Ramadan / Pre-Polling /Kimba Easter & AGM Lunch
- Leigh Newton Concert – 17th May preferred (or 10th May – Mother's Day) at 2.00pm - invite your mothers and children -&& afternoon tea
 - Leigh is a South Australian singer/songwriter known for his music published in various church song collections
- Concert with Harp2Harp – 21st June 2.00pm & afternoon tea
- Guess who is coming for lunch? 16th August
- Lunch & Film clip afternoon – 8th September
- Kym Purling Trio – 4th October at 2.00pm & afternoon tea
- Illumina Voices – 1st November 2.00pm & afternoon tea
- Merry Magil Market 21st November (To Be Confirmed)

Ways to get involved

- Facebook uses can post the flyers and photos on their FB page
- Tell our friends and relatives about concerts
- Distribute flyers to our neighbours, local shopping centre etc.
- Volunteer to cook for an afternoon tea
- Volunteer to help serve afternoon tea or lunch or work in the kitchen
- Volunteer to sell raffle tickets on the day
 - It was great to see Pauline Norman, and Doreen Matheson sell Raffle tickets seated in walkers this year.
- Volunteer to help set up or pack up the church and hall
- Volunteer to run a pop-up stall
- Buy tickets

Bruce thanked Colin and the fundraising and community building team, for an interesting, varied and challenging program

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7.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT at MUC: TUESDAY MORNINGS

Margaret Cargill spoke about Community Engagement at Morialta Uniting Church on Tuesday Mornings.

Part of what we have been talking about is how we can encourage more members of the community to see us as indispensable, and one of those ways is for us to be open more. I think I may have mentioned that it would be really great if we could have enough volunteers so that we could have a roster every Tuesday morning the church is open. Open for people to come in / open to drop in for a cup of coffee. Would like to have some more volunteers, so that we can have the church open between 10 am and 1 pm, open doors, banners out, and a welcoming presence for anyone who comes past. We may well be able to have the church open most of the week.

BI: It might be an opportunity for you to spend some time at church on your hobbies.

JK: How will people know we are open – we are on a very quiet street?

MC: We will use our banners, and promote by word of mouth, and explore ways to spread the church is open message.

8.0 WIDER CHURCH ENGAGEMENT

BI: Asked anyone who is involved in wider church activities, to stand, and the opportunity for other voices to be heard. they were acknowledged with a show of appreciation by the congregation

BI: Normally Beverley Tredrea, would present a Presbytery Report, - but as there is nothing of import to report from the last meeting. But if you have any questions about presbytery and Synod matters you can talk to Anne, Bruce or Beverley.

9.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

BI: Are there any other matters, that anyone would like to bring to the attention of the congregation meeting that relates to Morialta's worship and mission. If something has been on your heart for a while, and you would like to share it, this is an opportunity for you to raise it.

RP: Acknowledge the contribution of all church leadership and officers.

10.0 MEETING CLOSE

BI: Thanked people for their attendance and acknowledged those participating online. Invited those who were staying for lunch, and a time of sharing over the meal. Called the meeting to a close

AGENDA



Draft agenda -
Meeting Morialta Cc

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES



Attendance.docx