

Annual Church Meeting

Thursday 2 December 2021

Proxy held by Chair:

Scribe: Margaret Thompson

Partner count: Quorum established at 7:43pm

Apologies: Andrew Sharp

Total Present in Person and on Zoom: 117

1. Welcome - Prayer and Worship

Welcome to New People – Ben

Prayer – Congregation

- Led by God
- Godly direction
- Godly wisdom

Prayer – Sarah Gray

Voting Process: Braddon Wheeler - in person & proxy voting.

Gemma Westlake - online proxy votes and zoom polling.

2. Appointment of Chair – Braddon

Confirmed Quorum established.

- Nominate Chair
Peter Abrahams appointed as Chair
- Nominate Scribes
Margaret Thompson appointed as scribe
- Nominate Scrutineers
Gemma (zoom), Simon Batt, Jan Reardon and Alan Thompson appointed as scrutineers.

All approved, none against.

3. Review Minutes of last Meeting - Chair

Acceptance of minutes not voted on as not everyone was able to access the minutes

No comments or questions taken due to this matter.

No Vote held due to lack of access to minutes due to technical issues.

4. 2021 Looking Back

Scott shared on the church reports and summarised as:

- A year of adaptations.
- New small groups have been formed.
- Chipping Norton has been continuing strongly.
- Life Care has been very active over these last 12 months
- Staff have worked hard in incredibly hard in challenging situations over the last 12 months. So thankful for their flexibility and agility in an ever changing environment
- Thankful for the CLT team. Their role in leading the church over the last three years has been crucial.

- It has been a year where we have prayed more as a church.
- As a church we have held together well, it doesn't mean it has not had its challenges but we have seen the Lord at work on many levels across the church over the last 12 months.
- We are very thankful for the feedback from all of the church around discipleship and the conversations we have had especially in these last couple of months.

Katharine shared on Financial Reports:

- Thank you to Terry and the finance committee for all their help over the last 12 months
- Nik Karanikas (Chair of Finance Committee), Drew Coulson stepping down from Finance Committee, have faithfully served since 2018.

2020 Audit

- Not much to work on.

Reports

- 15% below the expected budget.
- July amended our budget as we went back into lockdown.
- Last year an approved deficit of \$97k was approved but unexpectedly qualified for job keeper which decreased the deficit to \$60k
- Staffing costs are our main expense line

Questions for 2020 Reports:

No comments or questions

Voting Process- Motion 1

Accept the 2021 Church Reports?

Braddon Wheeler moved to accept 2021 Church Reports.

Mark Pfeiffer seconded.

Majority in favour, motion carried.

5. Property Management resolution - Braddon

As the Baptist Association, not Georges River Life Church own the property at 23 Stanley Street, to stay aligned with the requirements of the Baptist Assoc. formal approval is being sort for delegation of property management for 23 Stanley Street to Financial Controller – Katherine Montoya. Four tenants currently. These properties are owned by the Baptist trust not Georges River Church. Currently, the congregation are supposed to have a church meeting to make decisions on the leases. Annual statement of what is going on with the leases/property. 10% of congregation can call a meeting to come together for any matters of concern in relation to properties.

This model is likely to be adopted by the Baptist association as other churches find themselves in the same situation.

All tenants currently month on month.

Questions:

Will this have an added cost if given over to staff?

No, this is what has already been happening.

Why are 3a and 3b not managed through the agent? They are more amicable to deal with.

The shed has had a lot of people coming and going.

Is there a limit on what expenditure you can authorise without calling a meeting for the congregational members? *There is a hierarchy of approvals through Scott, Finance Committee, and CLT depending on the levels and if above that or proposed change to the usage of the units would be brought before the congregation*

What has been the average decline in rent due to COVID? *Some tenants have loss of income over 70% which has meant 35% rent waiver and 35% deferred.*

How many people in the church are on email?

ACTION POINT: We currently say partners email but how many partners actually have email? What other forms of communication do we offer to ensure all members have access to both information and communication in a timely manner?

Voting Process- Motion 2

The GRLC Partners delegate property management, including the establishment and renewal of leases (of no more than two years), to the Church Operations Manager with CLT oversight.

The congregation is to be advised of any changes in lease arrangements by "partners email" within 14 days of all parties signing said lease. An update on current tenants and leases is to be provided at the ACM.

Braddon Wheeler moved that GRLC delegate property management to Operations Manager.

Iain Gray seconded.

Majority in favour, motion carried.

6. Appointment Church Officers (CLT Nominations)

The Church Leadership Team (CLT) is appointed by the partners to help in the governance of church policy and procedures and acts like a board.

CLT departure: Sarah Gray (just over three years)

CLT Nomination for 2022: Alison Dye

Requires 75% endorsement

The nominations process is:

- Criteria for the roles (biblical, GRLC values)
- Staff members are not allowed to be on CLT with the exemption of the equivalent of a CEO which is Scott
- Proposal of candidates by CLT, SLT and congregation
- Research and consideration of a balanced CLT
- SLT consulted
- Candidate approached
- Prayer
- Final consideration and offer
- Nominee presented to congregation
- Endorsed by congregation

CLT Affirmation

- Winnie Chow
- Peter Fazio
- David Seeto
- Adna Siqueira
- Braddon Wheeler

Voting Process – Ballot

All CLT members reaffirmed by majority votes

Alison affirmed as new CLT member with majority votes

7. Looking Forward

2022 Plan and Resourcing for 2022

Brought by Scott:

- We have spent the last few months listening to our church through 5 feedback sessions and dozens of one on one's and the recent survey
- Specifically for Peakhurst: Next year we will be back to weekly meetings with childrens' services but they will not look the same each Sunday.
- For the last year for a segment of our church there has been a level of frustration and tension about how we have done our Sundays. The feedback has been incredibly helpful to understand the depth and views that have been shared with us.
- Some have felt like they have languished, and some have thrived. We have all experienced GRLC differently over this last year.
- Apologies for the confusion and tension that our direction has caused across the church.
- We want to create consistent opportunities for dialogue going forward.
- Untangling the how from the why. The 'How' always feels confusing if we don't understand the why.
- Understanding the Leadership's Heart:
Mission, Vision, Multi-Site Strategy started in 2018
Central to our being, not about doing but about being. Not about the latest model or program but seeing this ingrained in all we do across all areas in the church. We are learning to walk this out. Moving from aspiration to a deep ache.

Glenn

- Missional Community
- Embrace loving people inside and outside the church
- I want to see connections grow with our community outside of the church.
- Hamper days to Sunday to help facilitate more opportunity for the congregation to be involved.
- Grow a sense of urgency around the importance of reaching our community.
- Recognising "I am a person's next step to knowing Jesus".

Sophie

- I am passionate about kids and teens and young adults, but also the community we are called to.
- I want them to see Jesus calling on their lives.
- Our kids need encounters with God's word but they also need places to serve and mission.
- They need opportunity for rights of passage and this is found in their family.
- They need intergenerational experience and my ache comes from not being able to create a space for this.
- I want to empower you parents who walk alongside your children in their walk with God, not just the youth leaders.

- We are here because of the believe of the previous generation and it is now time for us to do this again. It is time for us to do the sowing and hope that this next generation can stand here like I am ready to step into faith for the next season.

Lara

- I am blessed by people who have built up my faith and helped me achieve wonderful things, but I have to ask ...Is this it Lord?
- Are we doing what you have called us to do? Is there more? What does it mean to be your church? Who is it we are called to be? What is it we are meant to be doing? This is running parallel to seeing people turn away from church, youth, peers, elders. This pains me greatly.
- How does this end? Where are we heading? What will we look like in 10-20 years? What will this faith community look like for those next generations?
- I desire us to become a disciple making community, it may make us feel uncomfortable, it may not be about what we want or like and it may look a little bit messy, but I believe in my heart of hearts that we are up to the challenge. Our God is bigger, and greater and stronger than we could ever imagine.

Ben

- We are one of the most amazing churches that I have ever known.
- A heart for Jesus and a willingness to say yes for Him but I want to go beyond Georges River across the world.
- We see the numbers of people attending church decreasing and the average age of attendees increasing.
- My desire is to see God's people grow and his churches. Many would fall away without those around them to disciple and support them in their walk to follow Jesus. I want this for the church, not just for youth. For your sons and daughters, your mums, for your neighbours.
- Not to just come to church but to come to know Jesus and go on to maturity in a nurturing community walking alongside each other in our walk in Christ. We have a gift in one another. Such a people for such a time not accepting the status quo.

Scott

This is our heart for the community. To disciple those around us. To come alongside and walk with people in their walk for Jesus. We don't need more crowds and programs. Church on Sunday is one way but does not define us. It is about being the church not doing church.

Two commitments in tension

- i) Commitment to healing and rebuilding GRLC Post Covid, and
- ii) Commitment to our Mission and Vision

Consistency on Sundays

- Chipping Norton continues to explore new approaches in growing a disciple making community.
- Weekly gathering available at Peakhurst
- Weekly River Kids program AM at Peakhurst
- Consistent 10am and 5.00pm gathering time
- Worship, Prayer & Biblical Teaching/Application/Equipping

Variability on Sundays

- Length of the gathering (a longer one and a shorter one)

- Focus of the gathering, focussed internally or missionally. Some Sundays incorporate mobilising us in mission via Life Care or other disciple making pathways & Initiatives
- Format of gathering especially in evening
- Prayer and worship style and emphasis in the gathering
- Teaching approach preaching long/short testimonials conversations workshop courses.
- Discipleship Heart for Sundays, encourage participation, everyone has a part to play, mobilise people for Monday, alignment to God, His Word and one another
- Teaching theory alone is insufficient
- Predictability = lower impact
- Intergenerational is transformational
- We only do what we can resource
- Sunday's is one part of a much bigger picture, key spiritual relationships, small groups, community – discipleship across all areas of our life.
- We are called to more.
- We need unity and vision for our community. We recognise we need to take smaller steps to ensure we bring all people along on the journey.
- Tonight is an opportunity to think about your calling and our mission for 2022 and the part you play in this discipleship journey.

Questions for Scott's 2022:

Wording of the resolution

As part of being a disciple making community, I also need to be growing individually – needs to be included in the motion.

What is the integration and pastoral care on the resourcing 2022?

Integration is steps we take to integrate people into the church

Pastoral Care looking to form a more formal team

What is the "other" in finance report and why so varied?

Job Keeper.

What approach will we have in the light of the continued COVID threat?

Let's enjoy the roller coaster ride – dynamic, flexible in our approach.

We will continue to follow the guidance from governing bodies on what we can or cannot do.

Voting Process – Motion 3

As Georges River Life Church, we affirm our mission, vision and the ongoing challenges that come with the journey of learning how to be a disciple, in a disciple making community.

Braddon Wheeler moved to accept reaffirming GRLC mission and vision statements.

Mitchell Hope seconded.

Approved by majority. Motion carried.

a. Katharine Montoya Operations Manager presented the 2021 Budget:

- *Please see the actuals from the annual report for **income and expenditure***

Considerations when setting the budget

- Strong Cash position

- Society is getting back into a normality
- we believe it is a realistic giving budget
- anticipating rent will go back to normal in January
- current staffing levels have been maintained
- most expense lines have stayed that same
- projected deficit \$120k
- this is not sustainable and just for 2022. This is a year of rebuilding. We will do a budget check mid year and investigate some grant funding but not confirmed as a possibility as yet so not included
- we do have the funds in our account in retained earnings to cover this deficit

b. Lara resourcing across the church:

Specifically Peakhurst:

- Slide showing shortages across the teams
- We really need people on the ground
- it is a blessing to serve but it is also our responsibility, our whole church should be part of a team.
- Those who serve find ownership in what they are doing.
- 2022 is about rebuilding and we can only do this together with all of us.

c. Braddon CLT

- We are a really generous church, including Life Care, one off and regular giving
- For those who regularly participate in teams and give of their time generously
- Financially, if we want to be sustainable as a church we need to increase our giving by 15%.
- Get involved with a ministry. What is my position in the body of Christ. On the other hand, some jobs just have to be done eg, cleaning the toilets. That is just part of being in a family.
- Where do I sit financially?
- Where do I sit serving in the church?
- Nearly all teams have an induction process, so we ask that you look at it now and get the ball rolling.

d. Ben

- Transparency around our needs both financially and resourcing.
- Not just about filling gaps but about walking together in Christ, serving how he served, loving how he loved. The more we serve and the more we love, the more effective we become.

Voting Process – Motion 4

GRLC accepts 2022 budget?

Braddon Wheeler moved to accept the 2022 budget.

Peter Fazio seconded.

Approved by majority, motion carried.

9. Other Business

Nothing to Note

10. Close in Prayer

Officially closed 9:50pm