

PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST VICTORIA
MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY SATURDAY 22nd AUGUST, 2020
On ZOOM

Minutes

1. OPENING AND RECONCILIATION ACKNOWLEDGMENT Rev Kel Hodge

We, the Presbytery, acknowledge that we are meeting on the land of which the local indigenous people are the traditional owners and custodians. We remember their Elders and ancestors with respect and commit ourselves to working for reconciliation and justice.

2. ATTENDANCE A record of participants will be recorded on the ZOOM session.

Present 59

Apologies 8

Visitors Jenny Byrnes, Sam Nicholas, Peter Thomas, Mat Harry, Mel Perkins from Synod.
Helen Young, Bev Hutchins visitors with members.

Welcome Rev Kel welcomed everyone to the meeting

Brian gave some information on technicalities and etiquette of zoom.

Pastoral joys and concerns

James Malcolm Howie from Echuca has passed away.

Ken Whan from Benalla passed away a couple of months ago.

Kel led us in prayers for these concerns and others at this time.

3. WORSHIP Rev Beth Bear

Beth set up a chapel style setup on zoom. She then led us in prayer and then shared a video of Jesus walking on water that was put together by students at Scots College with a personal reflection after.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA *Confirmed*

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Rev Jenny Byrnes, eLM – Launch of Money For Mission Program

Kel welcomed Jenny to our meeting.

Jenny Byrnes shared the Money for Mission Program slide show.

Already sent out electronic pamphlets regarding the details of the program.

Time for a change – in resourcing our church and ministry. – needing to free ourselves of property assets that are surplus to our needs.

This is our opportunity, this generation, to place our church in a position to be sustainable for the future. To ensure we are being good stewards of our resources for the time to come.

Sam Nicholas – underlying principles. Intention is to set up a fund that is capially preserved and generating sufficient income to deliver ministry and mission across the church. Not using capital funds for this purpose.

- Some property is becoming an administrative burden and it is perhaps these that are not necessary anymore. Shift focus from maintaining the physical space to having an income stream.
- Important to be transparent about how the process works. Where the money goes.
- When a sale occurs, a decision is made between congregation and presbytery about investing that money. The income from this investment will allow for some flexible use of the income return.
- Long term investment that will have capital growth and further distribution of funds.

Peter Thomas – how do we get higher returns? – managed by U Ethical. Benefit of a dividend back to the church.

- Exactly same returns as currently get, plus a top-up, with a cap on this to ensure that more money than we have is not spent.

Mat Harry – video link shared through Presbytery email.

- This is a shared approach
- This is an option for congregations who have property that is excess to their needs.
- Flexibility with use of the funds – no restrictions.
- Will be some additional funds generated that can be distributed to the wider church – as on slide
- Shared a story of St Thomas – amalgamation of properties. Manse next door to the church which no longer was being used by ministers.

Jenny – summary – this is an opt in program.

- Opportunity for property committee and church council to consider how to be effective in stewardship of property.
- Participate through pamphlet booklet details. Richard Franklin can be contacted.
- Synod contacts – Money for Mission Committee, Jenny Byrnes – Property Services, Peter Thomas
- Will arrange a Presbytery gathering of some sort to discuss this further.

5.2 Mel Perkins, Lay Ministry Educator, eLM

Kel welcomed Mel to the meeting.

Mel shared some information on Online learning. The Lay Leadership Resources page of the Victas website was shared with the variety of information available. <https://victas.uca.org.au/community-learning/leadership/lay-resources/>

Online learning that is offered – useful for lay preachers, but also for faith formation worship leadership.

- Many subjects available
- Online space shared.
- Theology study – can be a group study as part of the Presbytery. Some of this is about thinking

about God in a variety of situations, particularly since fires, floods, pandemics.

- What is theology and thinking theologically
 - o About how we think about theology. This influences how we think about God. Tying this into tradition and history also.
 - o Eg – during pandemic – could be more influenced by scientists or by how we see God through all of this. The triangle of Tradition, Reason, Experience. This can help us understand how others are thinking and how we are thinking in a particular situation.
- In doing some of this learning, it has to be not just about in our heads, but also need to do it in a way that develops our relationship with God too. Therefore, lots of questions and assessments as part of this work.
- Couple of courses on worship, preaching – great for worship leaders. Helpful to learn what the basis of worship is. As it is the work of the people.
- There are also DIY modules on different topics.

Kel thanked Mel for her contribution and time to share on Lay Education.

6. TELLING THE STORY

6.1 Seymour – Michael Easton

Michael shares some snapshots of what is happening in his outreach work at Seymour.

Snapshot 1 – story telling online on Thursday mornings – to keep in contact with families – it is challenging during this time. Still doing it because sharing general information on Facebook community pages is helpful to make links. Storytime can be another interaction from this. Also to include his son Ben in this.

The online story telling is viewed by about 20 people. The information about this event is publicised on a community Facebook page, which reaches about 1200 people in Seymour. This gives potential for more people to get online and view the online story telling on Thursday mornings.

Snapshot 2 – Migrant worker outreach – providing food vouchers. Helping because God loves you and would want you to know that.

Snapshot 3 – messy church – meeting monthly with a small group. This is a creative way to explore the Bible with families. Feedback has been positive.

6.2 Wangaratta – Rev Veronica Bradley

Worship pack – candle, service, morning tea all in a pack to be delivered to people who were not online. About 20 people initially.

153 houses now – stories that are significant, community at Beechworth thought they would be helpful and that has helped them stay connected. North Albury also found the booklets helpful.

Cards and letters have come in saying they have appreciated them and it has helped them stay connected.

Get the booklets to them before Sunday with a team of people

One lady who hasn't been to church for a while and now her whole family gets involved.

Kel thanked Veronica and Michael on their contributions.

Andrew Delbridge joined in to share some information on Corryong and where they are sitting at the moment since the fires, recovery and Covid.

PRESBYTERY BUSINESS

7. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PRESBYTERY February 15th 2020** *Consensus*

8. **REPORTS**

20.8.1 **That all the reports be accepted.** *Consensus*

8.1 **Presbytery Minister Pastoral Care and Mission**

8.2 **Presbytery Minister Administration and Strategy**

8.3 **Presbytery eLM Minister gatherings**

8.4 **Education, Resourcing and Innovation Support Minister**

8.5 **Standing Committee**

8.6 **Mission and Education Committee**

8.7 **Property, Finance and Administration Committee**

8.8 **Pastoral Relations Committee**

8.9 **Chairpersons Report**

8.10 **Ecumenical Committees**

Kel gave a brief update on any particular changes in the Presbytery over the last 6 months. Particularly the outgoing and incoming ministers in the Presbytery.

Richard shared that there are multiple people tuning into online avenues of worship and other faith experiences. Need to do some deep thinking of how to continue these connections after the pandemic. Brian and Richard are experimenting with how the zoom platform works. Any further ideas on how to use zoom then let them know.

9. Presentation of Candidate for Minister of the Word.

Rev Tony Davies introduced the process of presenting Tanya Walker as a Candidate for Minister of the Word. He shared on Tanya's process of the POD with Mentor Rev Lindell Gibson.

Tanya presented to the Candidates Committee and together they decided to affirm her application for Candidate for Minister of Word.

The recommendation has gone to PRC and they recognised Tanya's call and decided to recommend her application to Presbytery.

Tanya then shared her story about her POD and call to ministry.

Tanya then got placed into a waiting room while the Presbytery voted through the online polling system.

20.8.2 Resolution – The Presbytery of North East Victoria resolves that the name of Tanya Nicole Walker be forwarded to the Synod Selection Conference for consideration to become a Candidate for the Minister of the Word and that the Application by the Presbytery be completed by the Secretary of the PRC.

48 out of 51 attendees on ZOOM voted. Of these 48, all responded Yes.

Resolution was approved.

10. **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev Lindell Gibson

Lindell led us in the prayers of the people.

11. 12 PM CLOSING

Kel thanked everyone for attending and for participating in the Presbyteries first trial of a ZOOM meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS

Standing Committee	Thursday, August 27
Pastoral Relations Committee	Tuesday, September 1
Standing Committee	Thursday, September 24
Pastoral Relations Committee	Tuesday, October 6
Standing Committee	Thursday, October 22
Pastoral Relations Committee	Tuesday, November 3
Presbytery	Friday/Saturday, November 20/21, Shepparton (TBA)