



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, May 10, 2008

Chair: Greg Warmbrunn, Chair—Conference Council
Present: Delegates as registered

Reflection

The 2008 Annual General Meeting commenced with a DVD Focus entitled 'Fast Forward: The History of the Church'. This was followed by an address by the Conference Executive Officer: *A Conference 'Health Check'*.

Conversation One—Health and Growth

Delegates and others present were then invited to break into small groups to discuss a Conversation Paper entitled Health and Growth.

Council Report:

The Chair then presented a report on behalf of Conference Council, including a profile of Council members and a description of the Council meeting process. The Chair also took the opportunity to announce to the AGM that the Executive Officer Paul Cameron had been reappointed for a further 5-year term.

The Chair also reported to the AGM on the matter of CareWorks that council had been asked to act on at the 2007 AGM by reading the following statement (as previously communicated in the July 2007 Conference Newsletter):

As requested by the Conference AGM resolution of May 4 2007, Conference Council reviewed the reasons and processes associated with the CareWorks restructure conducted by Community Care. In conducting its review Council affirmed that its role was not to take on the issue, but to ensure proper process has been followed and that the people involved receive appropriate care, in other words, that its constitutional values are upheld.

Council subsequently resolved that:

- While acknowledging the complexity of this matter, it believes that the review has been handled with appropriate care and process.
- It acknowledged there were communication deficiencies in a number of areas between two Partner Departments and with churches.
- It regrets the hurt caused to the incumbent CareWorks Director, and will ensure that person's ongoing pastoral care.

These resolutions were communicated to the CareWorks Director (Cheryl Johnson), and that conversation, along with several other conversations that emerged out of council's review, ensured that the matter moved into a healthier space. Council also noted that Community Care and Mission & Ministry was clearly 'on the same page' with regards to the restructure of CareWorks.

The Executive Officer was then invited to make a report on Future Directions. In doing so he introduced the FAQs summary distributed at the meeting, indicated its main points and referred the AGM to the full document, copies of which were available, and which is also on the web.

The Chair referred all questions to General Business, and at the same indicated to the AGM the constitutional requirements re voting on resolutions.

Partner Departments

Verbal updates were received from the four Partner departments: CCTC, Properties Corporation, Mission & Ministry and Community Care

The following new Board members of Partner Departments were affirmed by the AGM:
CCTC—Scott Combridge, John Sharpe and Janette Phelan;
Mission and Ministry—Grant Mackenzie and Kay Reid

Procedural Matters

Resolved: To accept the Conference Financial Reports as published in the 2008 Report book. **Moved** Paul Cameron, **Seconded** Max Carr

Resolved: To accept the 2007 AGM Minutes as distributed. **Moved** Paul Cameron, **Seconded** Lynette Leach (Williamstown)

Resolved: To adopt all reports as published in the 2008 Report book. **Moved** Paul Cameron, **Seconded** Ian Smith (Thornbury)

Presentation

Joel Plotnek, CEO, Properties Corporation then delivered a presentation entitled: *The Changing Face of the Stewardship of Church Properties*

During lunch AGM participants were invited to participate in a Church as Employer Focus Group facilitated by Alan Niven.

Presentation

John Gilmore presented a brief focus to the AGM on Global Mission Partners (formerly OMB)

Conversation Two—Leadership

Delegates and others present were then invited to break into small groups to discuss a Conversation Paper entitled Leadership

Motions

Resolved: That the affiliation fee for Victorian churches for 2008-2009 be set at a total of \$18.25 per Member and Christian in Fellowship, including an amount of \$2 that Conference pays to the National Council of Churches of Christ;

That the affiliation fee for Tasmanian churches for 2008-2009 be set at \$12.

It is noted: that the Tasmanian Council pays its own affiliation fee to National Council, and also charges a fee per member as an affiliation to the Tasmanian Conference, hence the lower amount.

Moved Paul Cameron, **Seconded** Carmen Blaze

Resolved: That we, as members of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania, affirm the apology given by the Federal parliament and add our own apology. We recognise and affirm the people within our movement who, with respect and goodwill, have worked within the Indigenous communities over the past 150 years. We also accept that the majority of our churches belonged to the dominant white culture that did not treat Indigenous communities with such respect and compassion and which was complicit in the removal of Indigenous children from their families by failing to speak up for the voiceless, and by voting for the politicians who enacted these laws. We recognise that such actions in many cases this action led to untold grief, sorrow and hardship. We, along with

other faith communities of Australia, make the following promise: We will do all we can to secure a fair go for indigenous Australians. We will act to put right continuing injustices. We will work together to heal our nation's hurts. Inspired by our spiritual heritage, we pledge ourselves to work for the vision of a united Australia that respects this land of ours, and values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, and provides justice and equity for all.

Moved Kristen Hobby, **Seconded** Scott Combridge

Resolved: That we as the Victorian and Tasmanian Conference of Churches of Christ, affirm the integrity of creation as a sign of God's creativity and compassion and therefore, as followers of God, commit ourselves to being good stewards of this world by evaluating our impact on it, and actively working for it's wellbeing.

As a sign of this stewardship, we encourage each of our Churches to undertake an environmental audit with a view to each church being carbon neutral by 2010.

Moved Ian Smith, **Seconded** Craig Brown

Questions and comments included:

This is a good motion but are we going to back it up with our actions?

(Rod Brown, Knoxfield).

An environmental audit is available, but note it is not about only about stopping things but offsetting; and grants are available through either the local council or VicHealth.

Church roofs are huge, could they be used as a water catchment? Or used for solar panelling? (Gerald Rose, Mulgrave)

General Business, other matters by way of question or comment

1. The AGM noted the passing of David Allison who as a part of conference for many years acted as a prophet for the ecumenical movement, and about our care and inclusion of other denominations. (Rod Brown, Boronia)
2. The question of the widening of parameters for loans by the Properties Corporation was raised, with a possible need to examine them in order to allow more churches to provide commercial ventures to fund their missions. (Rod Brown, Boronia)
3. Council was encouraged to look at the AGM process of allowing no discussion or comment or questions before reports etc are adopted. (Rod Brown, Boronia)
4. When the Churches of Christ campsites were sold, a trust was created (the Waterman Acacia Trust), why not include Banksia? Who manages the Trust? How is it reported? At the time a camp animator was talked about, has further discussion occurred about this? Are funds from this trust available for churches and other camps? (Barb Richards, Hartwell)
The chair of Mission and Ministry board responded: Acknowledging that Banksia isn't in name, and that raises a good point; with regards to the animator, on receipt of the strategic plan from youth vision it was agreed to use income of the Trust for youth and children's ministry appointments. The Mission and Ministry Board will look at the possibilities of also supporting adult camping.
5. With the commitment to a diversity in healthy and growing churches, if we had two delegates from each church here today the numbers would be much different. It is important for us all to hear and discuss and decide and yet... (Judy Rogers, Balwyn)
6. Boroondara Council has a living link with Moira council in the country, is it time to encourage similar links between a country church and a city church? (Judy Rogers, Balwyn)

The Chair then concluded the AGM.