



All Churches Summit – AGM, May 15, 2010

Draft minutes

AGM Chair: Greg Warmbrunn, Council Chair

Apologies: Merryl Blair, Past President
Ballarat one2one Gillies Street
Church of Christ
Bellarine Peninsula Church of Christ
Castlemaine Church of Christ
Churchill (Co-operating Churches)

End-Time Church of Christ
Hobart City Church of Christ
Mildura Church of Christ
St Arnaud Church of Christ
Stawell Church of Christ

The All Churches Summit commenced at 9.30am with Music and Worship presented by Jess and Daniel Hammond (One Community church). This included a Dwelling in the Word segment, based on 1 Corinthians 12: 12-14, led by the Executive Officer.

At the conclusion of this the Executive Officer delivered a **State of Conference address** (see attached).

The Annual general Meeting commenced at 10.15am

Notices of Motion—Church Affiliations

Notice of Motion 1

Resolved: That the Lifespring Church of Christ be admitted to the Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania.

Moved: Martin Boutros, **Seconded:** Paul Cameron

Notice of Motion 2

Resolved: That Liquid Church be admitted to the Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania.

Moved: Paul Cameron, **Seconded:** Marge and Ted Keating

Notice of Motion 3

Resolved: That Careforce LifeKeys Inc be admitted to the Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania as a mission agency.

Moved: Rick Wright, **Seconded:** Paul Cameron

Notice of Motion 4

Resolved: That Third Place Communities Inc be admitted to the Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania as a mission agency.

Moved: Lynette Leach, **Seconded:** Paul Cameron

Greetings: *Tasmania:* Geoff Morffew, Chair of Tasmania's Council and Treasurer, brought a greeting from our Tasmanian churches noting that the group is currently working towards dissolving the Tasmanian Conference and merging fully with Vic/Tas, including the creation of a committee of Tasmanians to work with Mission and Ministry to foster the health and growth of the Tasmanian churches.

Indonesia: Yohannes Marsono brought a greeting on behalf of Churches of Christ in Central and West Java.

Focus:**Community Care**

The Community Care board chair Terry McCredden made a presentation to AGM Delegates on the financial health of Community Care's Aged Care operations, brought on by significant changes to the aged care industry over the past 5 years. The Board faced a decision to either close or to seek a merger with another aged care operator. Mr McCredden announced that the Board had unanimously decided to seek a merger and was now in detailed conversations with the Churches of Christ Care, Queensland. A Memorandum of Understanding would soon be signed by both parties to allow a due diligence exercise to proceed. Key principles of the proposed merger are:

- While ownership of the assets would transfer to Churches of Christ Care, Queensland, it would hold the assets as trustee for the beneficial ownership of the Vic/Tas conference;
- Any future sale of a Victorian facility would be in consultation with the Vic /Tas conference and the net sale proceeds would be returned to Vic/Tas conference, less any capital funding that Churches of Christ Care, Queensland may have spent on that facility; and
- Future funding of CareWorks would be provided by Churches of Christ Care, Queensland.

The mood of the meeting suggested strong endorsement of the proposed merger. (It can also be noted that later conversations during the day confirmed very strong support).

Questions:

Rob Clark (Knoxfield) Will CareWorks funding now be from Queensland?

A: CareWorks will continue, and be funded from Churches of Christ Care, Queensland, the processes around CareWorks are yet to be decided.

Alan Matheson (Camberwell) commented on past actions and reporting of Community Care, and also on its apparent reliance on government funding and indicated he would like to see a theological paper from the board about the learnings of such a reliance (particularly as CCTC is similarly reliant).

A: in 2004 Community Care made decisions to expand and to try to address some of these issues/challenges; while federal government funding is for the provision of care across the board it isn't for capital works. It is interesting to note that the State government is willing to sell a property in Miller St for half price to facilitate further development.

The meeting then broke for Morning Tea which finished at 11.25am.

Procedural Matters:**Acceptance of 2009 AGM Minutes**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the 2009 Annual General meeting of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania Inc be accepted as true and accurate record.

Moved Bert Stevens (Norlane), **Seconded** Ian Smith (Thornbury)

Alan Matheson (Camberwell) inquired about a report from the Indigenous Review group; and the AGM noted his questioning of the basis of the statistics quoted in the Executive Officer's 2009 State of Conference Address, that included his indication that it should be clearly stated that the statistics were based on an electronic survey.

Operational Review:

The AGM chair invited delegates and attendees to note the relevant section on p5 in the Report book and reinforced outcomes by reading some sections of it. The chair summarized the Review's outcome by indicating Council would retain the current structure with some minor management changes made.

Bushfire appeal:

The AGM chair invited delegates and attendees to note the relevant section on pps6-7 of the Report book.

Review into our Work among Indigenous People review and Theological Education and Ministry Formation Review

The AGM chair referred delegates and attendees to the relevant updates in the Delegates Pack. Ministers were invited to speak to Reviewer Ted Keating about the TE & MF Review in the foyer at lunch.

Partner Department Updates

Delegates and attendees were reminded that there would be time for one question for each Department, with time for more in the afternoon.

CCTC

John Sharpe (board chair) report included the following: Special thanks to Merrill Kitchen for her leadership as CCTC Principal over the past ten years; how over the last 2-3 yrs the board has been distilling and clarifying CCTC's purpose; that this has been a significant period of time facing significant challenges and creating significant changes, culminating in the appointment of Dr Andrew Menzies as its new Principal; that CCTC exists as a servant to the mission of Jesus through the training and equipping of a diversity of people for a diversity of contexts (with a third of the students going deeper personally, 75% of the students clearly aligned around a ministry call); that it is thrilled to see the network relationship with Indonesia; welcomes the TE & MF Review Ted Keating is completing with its contribution to the health and growth of Churches of Christ; affirmation of the emerging and fresh conversations looking at what it means for complementary institutions to collaborate in the future; that Andrew's appointment reflects that process and journey; that CCTC is serious about discipleship, service, and a variety of training that churches and the kingdom needs; and that CCTC wants to sit at the table with everyone else to see how CCTC can play their part in meeting these Kingdom demands.

Andrew Menzies then briefly reflected on CCTC's rich ecumenical background; that it is a precious jewel; and that to be committed to forming leaders for the Kingdom is a wonderful thing; and that he looks forward to the journey.

Mission & Ministry

Grant Mackenzie (board chair) reported that the Mission and Ministry Constitution has been approved and is available at their table, and then introduced a PowerPoint production that outlined its roles and functions.

In the light of Grant's retirement from his position as M&M board member and chair the AGM Chair Greg Warmbrunn placed on record the appreciation of Churches of Christ in Vic/Tas for the years of contribution Grant has made in a number of areas.

Properties Corporation

Max Carr, (chair of the board of Trustees) introduced Joel Plotnek (CEO) whose comments included: M&M is the business end of what churches do, but PropCorp is a business partner with what churches do, with the ability to provide knowledge and support in all kinds of ways; a new logo and name (PropCorp), new website will be online soon.

The chair's comments included an invitation to make use of the PropCorp staff as they are there for you (ie the churches) to use; he also welcomed Tim Keating (member at One Community church; employed by Westpac in areas of strategy, finance and property) as an incoming trustee, who indicated that while he had held many positions at One Community over the years the PropCorp Trustee role matches his work skills and knowledge and also his personal faith and belief in mission.

Delegates then affirmed Mr Keating's appointment to the Trustees of PropCorp.

Moved Max Carr (PropCorp chair), **Seconded** Neale Meredith (One Community)

The AGM also noted the chair's comments that currently there are no women trustees but that this has not been for lack of trying, and that this search will continue.

Financial Reports

Lindsay Cutler, Conference Treasurer, spoke to the Reports as distributed, noting that the only difference from budget to actual was a donation to the CareWorks Bushfire Appeal.

Resolved: To receive the Financial Reports as published.

Moved Lindsay Cutler, Treasurer, **Seconded** Paul Cameron, Executive Officer

Council noted the question of Ian Smith (Thornbury) regarding the Conference budget process and the suggestion of sighting projected forward estimates.

A: The calendar year Budget is approved by Council as part of its constitutional responsibilities, but the comments will be taken on board by Council.

Notices of Motion (continued)

The AGM chair indicated that the meeting would discuss Motions 5 and 6 together, but vote on them at the appropriate time, separately, motion 5 first, then motion 6..

Notice of Motion 5: Alteration to membership of Council (clause 13)

That clauses 13.1.2, 13.1.3, 13.1.4, 13.1.5 be deleted; and

That clause 13.1.6 become 13.1.2; and

That clause 13.1.7 become 13.1.3 and have the first word changed to *six*; and

That a new clause 13.1.4 as follows be inserted *Any two board chairpersons of the Properties Corporation, Department of Community Care, CCTC and Mission and Ministry, or their nominated persons, on a rotation basis, or when their particular area of responsibility needs further explanation*

Moved Rod Brown (Boronia), **Seconded** Ian Smith (Thornbury)

In supporting Motion 5 the Mover commented that it keeps the same number of members but change the makeup and balance of elected and representative members and that this needed because currently representative members outnumber elected members. The Mover indicated that there is a need to maintain a clear distinction between governance and management, thus the Executive Officer and President should be able to represent department perspectives and thus not require department representatives at every meeting, but they could be invited when appropriate. The Mover indicated that Motion 6 doesn't solve this problem; and also that he is not saying what has been done in the past has been bad but would like to look at a better governance structure, without diminishing Partner Department participation as they could attend when needed.

Notice of Motion 6: Alteration to Membership of Council (clause 13)

That 13.1 be amended as follows:

The Conference Council shall consist of a maximum of twelve members made up as follows:

That 13.1.7 be amended as follows:

13.1.7 A maximum of six members elected by the Conference AGM, following nomination by a member in good standing and fellowship with an Affiliated Church, or the Conference Council.

Moved Anthony Risson (elected Council member), **Seconded** Robyn Millership (President)

In supporting Motion 6 the Mover indicated that it has been very valuable to have all the different perspectives present in Council meetings.

Discussion then included the following:

Alan Matheson (Camberwell) expressed concern about procedure asking why not vote on 5 first; and that Camberwell supports Motion 5 as it allows for more movement with the changes happening with Community Care.

Grant Mackenzie (M&M board chair) indicated that he is not a member of staff, but is a representative Council member as a member of the M&M board.

Max Carr (PropCorp Chair) affirmed that there has been greater coordination in recent years to some extent because of the Partner Department representation at Council.

Terry McCredden (Community Care board chair): I am at Council as a Council member not just Community Care's representative; I have never in 31 years involvement in a range of roles seen more collaboration and unity as there is currently.

The Motions were then put to the Delegates for decision, by show of hands.

Motion 5: Given that there were 12 votes in favour of, and the remaining against, the Motion, it was defeated.

Motion 6: As an overwhelming number voted in favour of the Motion it was accepted.

Notice of Motion 7: Affiliation Fees/Ministry Contribution (clause 7)

That the Constitution clause 7 heading be amended from Affiliation Fees to *Ministry Contribution*

That Constitution 7.1 be replaced with the following:

Every Affiliated Church shall contribute each year to the annual operating Budget of Conference and the Council of Churches of Christ in Australia, on a percentage basis of the Affiliated Church's income (excluding giving designated for mission or building funds), as indicated on the statistical return of the previous year.

That after conversations with each Affiliated Church, the percentage basis for the calculation of fees is implemented at AGM 2011, at which time an appropriate percentage will be resolved in accordance with the Constitution.

That Constitution 7.3 be replaced with the following:

If an Affiliated Church's annual Ministry Contribution provided for in clause 7.1 remains unpaid for a period of two consecutive years, such Affiliated Church shall not be entitled to official representation at the Conference AGM until all outstanding contributions are paid; and the procedure outlined in clause 17 shall be applied.

Moved Lindsay Cutler (Conference Treasurer), **Seconded** Robyn Millership (President)

In supporting the motion, the Mover indicated that it had arisen because of the inequities in the current system, largely due to the variable, actual makeup of church memberships, and also because of a desire to not have to increase fees each year; that there were two primary exemptions so far (giving designated for missions and for building funds) and that it would be preferable to have less than more exemptions as it becomes more complicated; that the goal is to spread the difference onto other churches anyway.

It was noted that at the AGM in May 2011 an actual percentage would be adopted, with the implementation of the new method from July 2011.

In supporting the motion, the Seconder commented that this change gives an opportunity and challenge to look at financial operations differently; that while money is important, it isn't the main game; that in Acts 2 they pooled their resources so that 'everyone has their needs met'; that this shift takes us from a business-community to a mission-community.

Discussion then included the following:

Rob Keller (CrossCulture) commented that CrossCulture intends to vote against the motion as it currently stands, for three reasons:

CrossCulture does support the proposal to move from calculating affiliation fees on a per capita basis to a percentage of the church offering, capped at a pre-determined and agreed level. We support this move even though (on current estimates) it will increase the cost of affiliation fees by 50% to more than \$29 000. We see ourselves as part of the Churches of Christ, we have benefited from past Conference support and we support the principle that churches enjoying a season of financial prosperity support those disadvantaged.

CrossCulture also supports the proposal to exempt from the affiliation fee calculation financial contributions earmarked for missions and building fund.

But CrossCulture does not and will not support the intention to include income from external sources, like income generated through renting facilities, running playgroups, etc. Our funding principle is that general offering is to cover the operational cost of ministry; that is, it is the financial gifts released by God's people that fund ministry – not the income generated from external sources. In the same way, the BoE

believes that any Conference ministries be funded out of the ministry contribution received from supporting churches. No church likes to cut ministries because of lack of funds, but there are occasions when we need to cut the cloth to size; Conference Council & Partner Departments should also. CrossCulture does generate a net profit from renting its facilities to external sources. But you should understand:

- That just over 60% of our bookings are from not-for-profit organisations whose fees are set at 30% of the commercial rates;
- That 10% of the net profit is allocated to a scholarship fund which finances theological education of our high potential young people seeking to move into pastoral or missionary work;
- That the balance of the net profit is used to fund facilities development & maintenance that increase CrossCulture's footprint in the local community – counselling centre, Wyndham church plant, etc
- Net profit does not just benefit CrossCulture. Because we need to borrow money to develop new initiatives from Prop Corp, our 8% interest charges flow back into Conference through Prop Corp.

Second, before supporting the motion, CrossCulture requests written confirmation as to what will be the percentage and capped levels, for how long these levels will be held, and the mechanism by which these levels will be reviewed.

Third, CrossCulture requests written confirmation as to the nature of the considerations that might exist for those churches actively engaged in missions, evangelism, church planting and those other activities that embrace CoC ethos. At the 2009 Conference, it was intimated that considerations might exist; CrossCulture is not aware of any such considerations, and encourages transparency in the development and communication of any possible considerations.

Until these three concerns are resolved satisfactorily CrossCulture will vote against the motion.

Dave Ratten (One Community) commented that it is illogical to vote on motion without percentage and definitions and exclusions clearly defined, although One Community is certainly not against the percentage-based calculation concept.

Storytelling

At 12.45pm the Notices of Motion session was adjourned to move into a time of Storytelling. The first was given by Tony and Francine Riches as they described the Indigenous Partnership expressed through a church at the Footscray church. At the conclusion delegates and attendees gathered around Tony and Francine and the Executive Officer led those gathered in a prayer of confession, commitment and commissioning.

Time of Remembrance

After lunch the Storytelling continued with Andrew Adams telling the story of Church Planting and Community Mission at Wallan (a joint Churches of Christ/Baptist Union of Victoria project), after which Martin Boutros (Executive Director—Mission and Ministry) led those gathered in prayer.

At 2pm Delegates and attendees were invited to participate in a number of elective Conversations: Wallan—Community Mission/Church Planting, Footscray—Indigenous Partnership/Church Plant, Indonesia—Making Friends, Global Mission Partners—Update; and the four Partner Departments.

Following this, Delegates and attendees were invited to ask any further questions of the four Partner Departments, before discussion continued around the Notices of Motion.

Notices of Motion (continued)

Motion 7, continued

The AGM chair indicated to the meeting that after assessing feedback, and after several conversations, Council is happy to let Motion 7 lapse as currently presented.

The chair then invited a response to his suggestion that using a percentage as the basis for determining Ministry Contributions be supported in principle, allowing Council to then determine and present more details (both exemptions and a specific percentage) at the 2011 AGM.

The show of hands of those present clearly demonstrated that the spirit of the meeting was to support the principle of using a percentage and to request Council to bring a motion with specific detail to the 2011 AGM.

AGM noted the reminder of Alan Matheson (Camberwell) that it is important to locate this process in the 'belonging'/covenant discussion.

Notice of Motion 8: Eligibility for Office (clause 11)

That 11.3 be added as follows:

11.3 No person shall be eligible for simultaneous election or appointment to more than one department or office of Conference, except where otherwise provided in this constitution.

Moved Robyn Millership (President), **Seconded** Paul Cameron (Executive Officer)

The meeting noted that the motion currently had impact on one significant person, and that the Executive Officer and President are the exceptions "provided for in the constitution"

The motion was carried unanimously.

Notice of Motion 9: Disputes and Mediation (clause 17)

That the following be inserted:

17.1.6 A minister or church member and Conference Council and/or a Partner Department

Moved Robyn Millership (President), **Seconded** Paul Cameron (Executive Officer)

There being no discussion, the motion was put and carried unanimously.

Notice of Motion 10: Concern about Violence against Ethnic Minorities

That we as the Conference of Churches of Christ in Vic/Tas abhor the violence against ethnic minorities that has been occurring over the past twelve months. We as churches take seriously our role as peacemakers and reconcilers in our communities and seek to make our concerns known to the State governments through signing a joint letter expressing concern over the increase in violence in our communities.

Moved Craig Brown (SJN Executive), **Seconded** Paul Cameron (Executive Officer)

The meeting noted that Council participated in Vindaloo against Violence; and after prompting by Rod Brown (Boronia) noted that the motion was about two governmentS, as it is about Victoria and Tasmania; that churches and Conference could write; and that the motion is limited to a specific group because it is in regards to a specific problem.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Notice of Motion 11: Reaffirming our Carbon Neutral Commitment

Further to the resolution of the 2008 Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania Annual General Meeting that encouraged affiliated churches to become carbon neutral by 2010; that affiliated churches re-affirm our commitment to being good stewards of creation; to acknowledge that stewardship involves reducing the environmental impact of our churches; and to undertake energy audits and consequently a reduction in our carbon footprint.

Moved Ian Smith, SJN Convenor, **Seconded** Craig Brown, SJN Executive

In supporting the Motion, the Mover commented that SJN is working with PropCorp in encouraging churches becoming carbon neutral through its RedBook program; that there are lots of resources available (with links on the CofC Vic/Tas website); and that what it is doing is asking people to recommit to the motion of 2008 and to ensure its implementation this year.

Discussion included the following:

Mike Grechko (Berwick) indicated he is in favour of being good stewards and reducing carbon emissions, but can't support this motion in this state, as undertaking audits and making changes etc is costly and can't be agreed to until those costs are known.

A: The suggested processes are low cost, but with real impact.

Alan Matheson (Camberwell) commented that as this was first moved in 2008, it would be interesting to know how many churches have carried it out. Does council know how seriously churches are considering resolutions of AGM?

A: Mover and Seconder agreed to seek Council via SJN to report back to the 2011 AGM about how many churches have done it?

The motion was carried.

Notice of Motion 12: Nominations Committee

That a Nominations Committee be formed to process and assist in filling positions for the Conference Council and Partner Department Boards.

Moved Rod Brown (Boronia), **Seconded** Paul Cameron (Executive Officer)

Discussion included the following:

The meeting noted that in response to a question from Rod Brown (Boronia) that it will not only be larger churches that will be asked, but they were named to ensure that they would be asked; and in response to a question from Phil McCredden (Northern Community) about why Council is not just doing this motion and the next, that Council wants it to be discussed, to be raised more broadly and to encourage increased awareness and participation.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Notice of Motion 13: Interview of Prospective Presidents

That the Conference Council interview all nominations for the role of Conference President.

Moved Rod Brown (Boronia), **Seconded** Alan Matheson (Camberwell)

In supporting the motion, the Mover commented that currently there are no interviews of nominees for President conducted, nor are their referees checked.

The motion was carried.

Notice of Motion 14: Affiliation Fees 2010-2011

That the Affiliation Fee for churches in Victoria for 2010-2011 be set at a total of \$22.75 per Member and Christian in Fellowship (pm);

That the Affiliation Fee for churches in Tasmania for 2010-2011 be set at a total of \$20.75 pm

Moved Lindsay Cutler (Treasurer), **Seconded** Paul Cameron (Executive Officer)

In supporting the motion the Mover commented that Tasmania is aware of and okay with this increase; and that the only increase for Victoria this year is the increase to the CCCA contribution.

Discussion included the following:

Alan Matheson (Camberwell) asked whether CCCA financials should be seen if we are contributing to them.

A: The Federal Coordinator will discern how this Company Limited by Guarantee will consider doing so.

Bert Stevens (Norlane) alerted the meeting to a small inconsistency in the amount for Tasmania in the motion background paperwork.

The motion was carried.

OTHER MATTERS, COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

The meeting noted the suggestion of Ron Buckland (Montrose) that after emergencies like the February 2009 Bushfires debriefing for those providing chaplaincy and support is essential; and the comment of Alan Matheson (Camberwell), around the degree to which we (and conference departments) passionately seek to promote unity ecumenically (as per the constitution's purpose statement).

Adoption of all Annual Reports as published

Moved Robyn Millership (President), **Seconded** Paul Cameron (Executive Officer)

This motion was carried unanimously.

3.25pm

Sending

The chair then invited delegates and attendees to share in prayer corporately, themes which included: SYG, Indonesian partnership, Community Care and Qld conversation, the

weaving together of challenges and goodness, thanks for the opportunity to come together from near and far, the different churches that surround each of us and breaking down barriers between us, people in Churches of Christ ministry, the church is family, for those churches of our conference who feel isolated from us who aren't here.

The AGM concluded at 3.34pm