



Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania Inc.

Saturday May 5, 2012

One Community Church of Christ, Surrey Rd, Blackburn

Delegates were welcomed by Amy Stephenson and Digger Randle, comperes of the AND Festival.

The meeting was chaired by the Council Chair, Greg Warmbrunn.

The meeting formally commenced with the reading of the following statement by the Chair:

Council appreciates the understanding of Delegates and Affiliated churches regarding the conduct of an abbreviated Annual General Meeting this year. Details of the content and shape of this AGM were communicated to all churches in accordance with the Constitution.

We would also like to affirm the churches who have participated in a range of ongoing conversations since we met in Geelong the last year. This has included a significant participation in the Special General Meeting held at Doncaster in March. There have been several regional conversations, including those related to the formation of an appropriate response to the First Peoples of this land, generated by a deferred motion last year. With regards to that, I can report that Council will be considering this matter in the coming meetings, and it will form an important element of a Special General Meeting to be held in November, with an appropriate time allocation for dialogue and discussion. Any recommendation will be communicated to churches in the usual manner. Since last May there have also been a number of meetings with the leaders of individual churches about matters they have wished to raise.

Council, the Partner Departments and staff are willing and available to meet with local leaders to discuss issues of concern or new mission opportunities, or groups of leaders from different churches. Can I therefore remind you that any follow up questions, issues and/or concerns that might emerge out of today's conversation can also be addressed with them at any time. You don't need to sit on something until the next AGM, or feel that the only place a question should be asked, or an issue raised, is in this forum.

To repeat, Council, the Partner Departments and staff are available to meet with leaders of churches around any issue or question. We will continue to seek to report on matters raised in such conversations to other Affiliated churches, with permission, and as appropriate.

Can I also formally remind you of the date of the proposed Special General Meeting: Saturday November 10, 2012, at a venue to be announced. This meeting will be conducted in accordance with Constitution clause 8.4. There are at least two opportunities this weekend to suggest possible issues or themes to be added to the Agenda of this meeting: In writing at the Registration Desk, and in an Elective I will be chairing at the conclusion of this AGM. Council will consider these suggestions as it forms the SGM Agenda.

Voting will again today be by written ballot. Only officially appointed Delegates can vote, and each Delegate has received a green check wristband on arrival today. At an appropriate time in today's conversation Delegates will be invited to move to one of a number of 'stations' in the auditorium to receive a ballot form on which you can vote on the Motions as well as participate in the Council Election. Of course, as always everybody present can participate in the conversation, but only official Delegates can vote.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Resolved: That the Minutes of 2011 Annual General Meeting be approved.

Moved: Terry McCredden, **Seconded:** Paul Cameron

Resolved: That the Minutes of the March 3, 2012 Special General Meeting be approved.

Moved: Terry McCredden, **Seconded:** Anne Oliver

Reports

Council

Geoff Morffew (Howrah, Tas) affirmed the formal merger of Churches of Christ in Tasmania and Victoria, noting that it had been a long process, that was resolved by the Tasmanian churches in 2010, but with a number of necessary legalities that took until now to be addressed (including property trusteeship). An appropriate MOU has been constructed and necessary constitutional changes made to the legally required Churches of Christ Tasmania constitution. It was noted that Tasmanian churches are looking forward to the future, with exciting things are planned.

Delegates noted (after a question by Alan Matheson—Vision, Camberwell) that while there was no formal agenda, all Motions and Reports to be considered had been communicated to churches and their delegates; and that the possible indigenous constitution addition previously proposed would be considered at the November SGM to ensure appropriate time for conversation, and in order to reflect on the various regional conversations.

Financial

The Conference Treasurer, Lindsay Cutler, indicated to delegates that 2011 had been a very good year in that the income and expenses ran close and on budget. It was also noted that the transition of affiliation fees to ministry contribution is underway, and that the churches that haven't yet provided financial statements were encouraged to do so to facilitate fairness and equity for all.

Partner Departments

Having had an hour to consider the four Partner Department reports, delegates were given an opportunity for any reflections or further questions.

Delegates noted (after a question from Keith Ludgater—Ballarat Central) that currently there are no plans to repeat the meeting pattern of 2012 (2 SGMs and 1 AGM) in the future, acknowledging the difficulty this provides for country members.

Delegates also noted (after a question from Vivienne Burns—Wellspring of Living Water, Wangaratta) that Affinity was not to be voted on at the AGM or in November, as it had been approved at the March 3 SGM, and that this had been communicated to all churches; and that Council is appreciative of everyone who has travelled long distances to be here for all of the different parts of AND Festival, including the AGM.

Resolved: That all Reports be adopted as published in the 2012 Report book and as distributed.

Moved: Paul Burnham, **Seconded:** Paul Cameron

Greg: very much appreciate the time and effort it takes to put these reports together! Applause.

Notices of Motion 1-5, Church and Agency Affiliations

The Affiliations were approved by acclamation of delegates and all present.

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

Motion 6: Constitutional Amendment—CCTC to Stirling

Resolved: That all Constitutional mentions of "CCTC" or its full name, be replaced with the words "Stirling Theological College" or "Stirling", as appropriate, and as follows, (Clause 2) Definitions. Stirling means Stirling Theological College, (13.1.4) Stirling for CCTC, (13.6) Stirling for CCTC, (15.3) Stirling. Stirling Theological College ABN..., (15.6) Stirling for CCTC.

Moved: David Brooker, **Seconded:** Paul Cameron

Motion 7: Constitutional Amendment—Community Care description

Resolved: That the description of Community Care in Constitution clause 15.2 be amended to reflect its new Purpose as follows: "Community Care—Churches of Christ Community Care ACN 004 222 020 shall be a Partner Department of Conference responsible for the development and conduct of caring and benevolent programs of Conference and to fulfil the regulatory and statutory requirements of its benevolent ministry."

Moved: Terry McCredden, **Seconded:** Robyn Millership

Delegates noted the comments of the Mover Terry McCredden that while Community Care's transition from aged care predominantly to a wider focus on care programs has taken place, Churches of Christ aged care continues in

partnership with Churches of Christ Queensland. It was also noted that the sale of Fred Combridge House will enable Community Care to continue to widen its scope of ministry and mission.

Delegates also noted the appointment of three new board members—Tim Brewster (Careforce), Cheryl Johnson (Northern Community) and Robyn Millership (Doncaster), the latter having been appointed board chair.

Delegates also noted the comments of the seconder Robyn Millership who paid tribute to the three retiring Community Care board members: Terry McCredden, Peter Loftus and Graeme Condron.

Motion 8: Constitutional Amendment—Ex officio clause

Resolved: That, given changes to Community Care’s Constitution, and to best facilitate the meeting of statutory requirements, the words currently in Constitution clause 12.5 be replaced with “The Conference Executive Officer shall be an ex officio member of all Boards of Partner Departments and shall be issued with notice of meetings and copies of minutes as and when supplied. The President shall also receive notice of such meetings and copies of minutes, and may attend meetings in accordance with the Constitution of each Partner Department”.

Moved: Greg Warmbrunn, **Seconded:** Robyn Millership

Motion 8: Constitutional Amendment— Simultaneous Election/Appointment

Resolved: That the words “or after obtaining the consent of Conference Council” be added to Constitution clause 11.3.

Moved: Paul Cameron, **Seconded:** Robyn Millership

Other Business

Leadership of Greg Warmbrunn

Resolved: That this Annual General Meeting acknowledges the leadership of Council Chair Greg Warmbrunn and expresses, by way of a vote of thanks, its appreciation for his capacity to chair meetings with great grace.

Moved: Ian Smith, **Seconded:** Paul Cameron

Continuation of Community Care

Resolved: That this Annual General Meeting expresses, by way of a vote of thanks, its appreciation for all the work that’s been done by board members and former and present staff to keep Community Care going.

Moved: Ken Leake, **Seconded:** Paul Cameron

Affinity

Delegates noted (after a question by Ray Baker—New Life, Wodonga) that while a formal Agenda was not distributed all Notices of Motions and Reports were communicated in the usual fashion; that there was no Notice of Motion about Affinity as it was constitutionally approved at the March SGM, and subsequently communicated.

The meeting was closed in a time of reflection and prayer.