

ROSTREVOR BAPTIST CHURCH INC
MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
28TH JUNE 2010

PRESENT

64 Voting Members including 11 Proxies

The Meeting opened with worship and prayer.

The Chairman gave an introductory address and stated that budget sessions are about vision.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of 23rd November and 2nd May were approved.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Ian talked about some of the things going on around the church, many of which can't be covered in this meeting. He spoke about the increase in prayer, the increase our connections with our community and the increase our areas of evangelism which is probably the one that needed the most work done on it. We have now been meeting together for prayer for 12 months. Ian stated that he believes that we are seeing the spiritual temperature rise around us. We need to pray, understanding that only God can do the work. He encouraged the members to join in community prayer at one of the times available. The revitalisation of prayer on Sunday morning is needed. We've been seeking to increase our connection with visitors this year. Sandy is responsible for this and with Adam Leiman and the team has been doing a great job. This is going very well; it's an important role and a pastoral role. Broader connections are obviously the Shed, and Rick will talk about that later. Ian spoke about the Shed and the problems we've encountered, and the fact that we needed about \$15,000 to finish it off, he told the meeting about the wonderful gift that was given for exactly that amount. Rick & Simon have been going to Thorndon Park School and running a PE class, there's a possibility for another involvement there. Jonathon's children event was a great success with 71 kids coming out to a movie night, and 2 of those families were connections made through the Shed. Kidsfest is coming up and Alpha has been going well, with 35 people attending the weekend and the Holy Spirit was present to minister. People are honoured and respected in this course, and Ian encouraged us to see who might come along amongst those we know. There are new things starting in the Life Ministry which are beyond which we are doing now, including using the Shed to run cooking classes for disadvantaged people, with whom we may engender stronger connections, e.g. Alpha, etc. He spoke about the Oversight team for the Creative Ministry area. He spoke about the fact that we are a group of people that come from many "cultures" in relation to worship. We have different backgrounds and ideas on how to worship, and this is a challenge on how to find a way through that honours God. The Sunday night group is a whole different community. He asked for prayer for wisdom to lead a group of disparate people in worship and to love and care for each other.

Ian also spoke about the first meeting with the architect of some ideas on how the property could be redeveloped. Elders' Council have not seen the plans yet. How we approach this requires wisdom. At the end of the financial year, we give thanks to God that He has not failed us. Ian will be away from the 1st August for 8 weeks on leave. Geoff will be assuming his responsibilities while he's away. The meeting prayed for Ian.

YOUTH PASTOR'S REPORT

Rick reported on the Shed ministry – there were 3 or 4 kids coming from the local area at the beginning of the year, we now have 30 and 20 of those are regular, as in every week. 5 or 6 of them are coming along to youth. His and Elise's dream was that kids from the community would come

and that way they could be funnelled into youth. He's hoping to build on our connection with Thorndon Park, and also to get into Charles Campbell School because that's a feeder school for East Marden. The buses are full; Praise the Lord the YWAM base is able to provide extra buses and drivers. He asked for prayer for wisdom in regard to "shed" kids because their backgrounds make integration into the youth programme somewhat problematic. How to manage those who are appropriate for the youth program and those who are not yet ready? He said that he had prayed for help on Friday and right away 2 young men from YWAM turned up asking if they could help. God is doing amazing things. The Shed is a really powerful ministry tool, he can envisage 70-80 kids out there, which is really scary, but God will provide the leaders because He's faithful.

Paul encouraged us all to be in prayer for this ministry and for all the leaders in our church, because as these things happen the battle heats up. When non-Christian kids come to faith, that's where the battle is and that's why on a Tuesday night we need to be praying.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer gave his report for the year to date. Everything is looking good for the 11 months to May. We are well on target for our offerings. We have an overall surplus of \$20,000 at this point. Cash perspective – we have \$50,000 in No1 account. We have \$100,000 in offset. We took out a redraw of \$35,000 to help pay for the Shed. The question was asked if we could use some of the surplus to fund Sharon to a greater extent, including providing for the solar panels for her house. Paul stated that this would be something that Elders' Council would need to look at. Sharon is funded by a number of people separately to funds provided by the church. Ian stated that Sharon's funding is now tax deductible and that is probably a better way for her to be funded.

BUDGET 2010-11

The funding for the budget is split into 2 halves. The funding for the first 6 months includes the position of Manager, Ministry Support. The funding for the second half includes a position for Creative Ministries, which may or may not be filled, this depends on how God leads us. Paul briefly explained the position of Manager, Ministry Support; this will be discussed in greater detail as a separate recommendation. The Council has been looking at all areas of the church and this is one of the significant areas that need change. The position is designed to allow ministry areas to move forward, which is why the position is Ministry Support, not just an administrative one.

Proposal – that the budget for 2010-11 be accepted.

Seconded/Agreed

Discussion

Questions were asked about the amounts received and comparison with last year. The Treasurer clarified this information. There were no more questions.

The meeting agreed to vote.

RESULTS OF BALLOT

62 Ballot papers received

YES – 62

NO - NIL

ABSTAIN – NIL

Clarification

The budget was increased halfway through last year to \$9700, meaning the average was \$9350 for the previous 12 months. An offer a second vote was made, but the meeting chose not to do this.

MANAGER, MINISTRY SUPPORT RECOMMENDATION

Paul gave some background on how Council arrived at this recommendation. Paul assured the meeting is that the new position is no reflection on anyone who has previously occupied the administrative role. The ministry is growing and needs to be supported. This is a big role, and the person will need to be gifted and talented to do this. Where are we going to aim? Are we going to settle for a compromise? We don't want ministry roles to be bogged down in administration, or for the ministry leader to have to organise their own support, which still takes time away from their primary role.

Proposal: That the ASG facilitate the appointment of the Manager, Ministry Support.

Seconded/Agreed

Discussion

Allan Priest spoke in favour of the proposal. His experience across Australia is that churches that are growing have someone functioning in this type of role. That administration is a gift of the Spirit. We are in a new era and it's much different now than the early days where a young volunteer could be put in this position. He also proposed that at the AGM that the budget for the next 6 months be re-affirmed and that we don't set ourselves up for failure.

Ian said that he spoke to churches interstate and ones that are larger than us don't get by without such a person. He also agreed that Allan's motion had merit. Paul stated that we would handle this as a separate motion.

Paul spoke about the percentage targets contained in the budget, we're moving from 55% for wages up to 57% in this budget, but Elders' Council believe this is the right way to go for this budget.

Jim Blackwood stated that having unpaid people answering the phone and at the counter might not work, wrong information may be given. Paul stated that the answer is in training to ensure that each person knows what he or she is doing. We are moving to a model that utilises unpaid staff to a much greater degree.

A question was asked about how the position would be advertised. The position will be advertised within the church and also in the Leaders Update that goes out to all Baptist Churches.

Graham spoke in favour of the motion. He said that we have been blessed to have both Ian and Geoff who have administrative gifts. He was pleased to hear of this position, because administration is a gifting but this is a pastoral role as well as an administrative one, and we should pray for God to provide the right person.

A question was asked about the job and person specifications. These details of the job and person specs are on the website. There is a significant IT component to the role, because the systems we have aren't adequate to move forward in ministry and this will be of prime importance to the appointment.

Geoff Warner acknowledged Phillip Beck's role in this process and the amount of time and effort given by him. In addition, Phillip will provide ongoing support during the initial process. The meeting thanked Phillip.

Tania Leiman spoke in favour of the motion. She said that God has been over the last 18 months preparing us to get to this point. We've sat in other meetings and made decisions and wondered if this would happen. Now we see God at work. She also acknowledged Phillip's contribution. She wondered about this position and who this person might be. Times have changed, and this is one of the key foundations that we need to set in place as we move to the future.

No further questions.

Recommendation

The ASG facilitate the appointment of the Manager, Ministry Support.

Vote

Passed unanimously.

Proposal

That the budget for the second half of the year be reviewed and affirmed at the AGM.

Seconded/Agreed

Vote

YES – 63

NO – NIL

ABSTAIN – 1

The Meeting closed with prayer.