



Mountview Church Council News – for Website, May 2020

Virtual Meeting. Church Council met on 20 May for its second meeting via Zoom videoconference. Our thanks to Rob Jackson who not only chaired the meeting but also handled the technical issues of setting up the meeting.

Here today, gone tomorrow! Tim Menger, the Council's newest member, is now re-establishing his restaurant business which will commit him to evening work. Consequently, he is unable to continue as a Church Councillor. We thank him for his short time with us and wish him well as he manages the post-pandemic world of hospitality.

Thanks to Tina. Our Supply Minister, the Rev Lyndon Ng, continues to prepare our weekly worship resources which are very much appreciated by our people. The resources are also being circulated to our friends at Blackburn North-Nunawading Uniting Congregation. Tina is also planning, with the assistance of our Multimedia Team, to produce some video presentations of worship segments for forthcoming Sundays. These videos will be available on the Mountview website, so watch out for these. Tina has been very active with pastoral work via the telephone, offering prayers and conversation with many, especially those who are lonely during the pandemic. It has been estimated that this pastoral ministry has added another day per week to Tina's work load and Church Council has agreed to increase her supply payments by this amount while the pandemic restrictions are in place.

Keeping in touch. Heather Barnes, who coordinates our Pastoral Partners' program, offers her thanks to her team for their dedication by keeping in touch with those in their cluster and for arranging the delivery of the notices and worship resources to those without email.

Vale Margaret Edgington. It was a shock to learn of Margaret Edgington's sudden death on 30 April 2020. Her funeral service (conducted under the strict limitations of coronavirus precautions) was held at Mountview on 8 May. The service was led by the Rev Tina Lyndon Ng and the eulogy was presented by Margaret's son Alistair. Our video of the service was posted on our websites. It is proposed to hold a memorial for Margaret at a later date when social distancing is relaxed.

Giving during the Pandemic. Church council acknowledges the good work of our Stewardship Convener, David Rowe, who contacted those who were using envelopes or open plate for their giving to the ministry of the Church. A pleasingly significant number of these people have now converted to direct giving methods to help maintain an income stream during the time when regular worship services are not being held.

Financial Considerations. Our Treasurer, Peter Cox, and his Finance Subcommittee are keeping a close eye on reserves in our investment account. As part of our preparation to call ministers to our Cluster, it has been necessary to prepare a forward budget for the next five years. This review of our financial situation suggests that we may have to draw on reserves from our investment account from the middle of the five year period. Church Council has authorised the Treasurer to purchase extra units for the investment account when cash is available and budget constraints are favourable. A unit price has been set as a trigger for this action. Church Council has affirmed our ability to fund a full-time minister during the next five years.

Coronavirus Precautions. It is not yet known when restrictions will be lifted to allow normal Sunday worship services to recommence. The Synod has released a check list of requirements which must be met before we can open the Church for worship. These requirements will initially include additional cleaning requirements, maintenance of social distancing, no morning teas, recording the names of those attending, eliminating the touching of shared surfaces (microphones, offering plates, door handles, etc). Church Council and its Executive will review these requirements over the next few weeks.

Geoffrey Willis, Church Council Secretary, 28 May 2020