



Mountview Church Council News (April 2020)

Virtual Meeting. Church Council held its first “virtual” meeting on 15 April using the Zoom video conferencing system. Each of us were at home in front of our computers/devices with our screens showing a small picture of each person. The audio favoured the person who was currently speaking but our Chairperson could, if required, mute individual speakers if too many tried to speak at once. In order to gauge consensus on proposals, we were invited to use an object from home of the appropriate colour. The meeting proceeded well with no technical hitches.

New Member. Church Council has appointed Tim Menger to fill a vacancy until a future Congregational Meeting at which elections are held. Welcome Tim, we look forward to your contribution to the Council’s work.

Ministry. We are very grateful to our Supply Minister, the Rev Lyndon Ng, for her preparation of weekly worship resources and her pastoral ministry which is now mainly by telephone. Church Council, with Tina’s agreement, has recommended to the Presbytery that Tina’s supply ministry be extended by three months to 31 July. Our Multimedia Team is exploring the possibility of making a video of a Communion service for 3 May which can be posted on the Mountview website or linked to the weekly worship resources.

Financial Audit. Church Council has provided a declaration to our Auditors that the 2019 financial statement is a true and fair statement of our financial position and that we believe that we can pay our debts when they are due.

Joint Nominating Committee. The JNC for the proposed Team Ministry which will be shared by Blackburn North-Nunawading, Forest Hill and Mountview Congregations has commenced its work. Our representatives on the JNC are Lynne Rosenthal and Rob Jackson. The Chairperson of the JNC is the Rev John Cranmer (a retired minister who provided occasional supply at Mountview during Rev Chris Meneilly’s time) and the other Presbytery representative is the Rev Sylvia Akauola-Tongotongo (the current minister of Burwood Heights Uniting Church).

Mountview House Project. Building work on the accommodation units is progressing well. Church Council agreed to the installation of security cameras on the site noting that the security advantages outweigh any privacy concerns.

Whitehorse Winter Shelter Project. The COVID-19 pandemic means that the 2020 Winter Shelter program is halted. The Shelter Steering Committee is examining alternative ways of helping the homeless who will find this winter to be very difficult.

Church Council Executive. The Executive meets six days before each Council meeting to plan the Council’s agenda. The Council has added Lynne Rosenthal and Tim Menger to the Executive to facilitate good communication between the Council and the Congregation during the pandemic.

Tim’s Period of Discernment. Church Council has commended Tim Menger’s application to undertake a Period of Discernment to consider whether he should undertake Lay Preacher training. Please pray for Tim as he regularly meets with a mentor who will help him discern God’s will for his future direction in discipleship.

Future Church Magazine? Church Council acknowledges the huge contribution which Margaret and John Williams have made to the publication of Mountview’s magazine “Contact”. We have deferred any review of communications until after the COVID-19 crisis, plus this makes an allowance for the future formation of a Team Ministry Cluster that might influence the needs and or possibilities.

Property Issues. Our thanks to the members of the Property & Finance Committee and the members of the Mowing Roster who continue to attend to the upkeep of the Mountview property. Unfortunately, the Garden Shed suffered another robbery recently and the Committee is devising more secure arrangements for the storage of some of the equipment.

Geoffrey Willis, Church Council Secretary, 23 April 2020