

Christ Church, Warwick
Minutes of 2023 Stated Annual General Meeting
11th June 2023

1. The meeting was constituted at 11:10 A.M. with a prayer in the church sanctuary. There were 42 people in attendance after the service held at 10 A.M. Alistair Bennett was the Chairman.
2. Apologies were received from Mrs. Valerie Protheroe.
3. The minutes for the 2022 AGM had been circulated and were approved.
4. Ratification of Board Actions. The Chairman advised the members that many actions of a legal nature are taken over the course of a year by the Congregational Board. These include signing contracts with employees and service providers, responding to Bank and Auditor requests, etc. The Chairman asked the membership to ratify and confirm all such actions taken by the Congregational Board, and this was approved.
5. Financial Report. The report from the Treasurer David Cartmill was circulated in advance. The following key points regarding the Christ Church Warwick and The Friends of Christ Church Warwick Trust were mentioned.
 - 5.1. The core activity of the church experienced a deficit of \$47k, of which \$33k related to an unrealized decline in the value of Butterfield Bank investments.
 - 5.2. The Trust also had reduced values due to unrealized losses at the end of year, however, by May 2023 the investments had improved and were in a positive position!
 - 5.3. The congregation was reminded that the Endowment fund was set up for long term growth.
 - 5.4. The Balance Sheet position is financially healthy; however, the church is subject to the negative factors affecting churches around the world.
 - 5.5. The congregation was encouraged to include a legacy for the church in their estate planning.
 - 5.6. David thanked Judy Thompson and Mike Barany and the Finance committee for their support and help throughout the year.
 - 5.7. On a motion by David Thompson and seconded by Guy Kelly, the congregation accepted the Treasurer's report and the Financial Statements.
6. Ministry Reports.
 - 6.1. The Outreach report had been circulated in advance. David Thompson highlighted that about 1,000 meals are being prepared per week and that food cost inflation is affecting the entire community. The Loads of Love team is handling between 20-25 loads per week while renovations are underway to allow for more machines in the building. The program to provide uniforms for Bermuda school children donated vouchers worth over \$2,500.
 - 6.2. The Nurture report had been circulated in advance. Martha Kirkland provided some key information, specifically the much-reduced numbers of students, which included several high school students graduating and moving away to university, or going abroad to boarding schools. The Messy Church program has been supported by families from 3 other churches and generally offers an event the 2nd Saturday of each month. For the children attending on Sunday mornings, an expanded roster of leaders will be available in the Fall. Martha then offered a huge "thankyou" to the dedicated individuals who have been stalwarts throughout the year.

7. Chairman's Remarks.

7.1. The Minister, Alistair Bennett, began by thanking the Worship team which included the organist Oliver Grant, choir director Winton Brangman, the chancel choir, Roger Oldfield, the bell choir and its leader Val Protheroe. Alistair thanked the Sexton Ross Anderson and Sandra Christenson in the office. Alistair reminded the congregation of the huge amount of work performed or organized by John Ferris and his team, in maintaining the church buildings. Alistair also thanked all the office-bearers and the congregation that contribute to the life of the church.

7.2. Alistair reported that after reading the latest Presbytery and General Assembly reports, and having experienced over 40 years of service in Ministry, he was feeling despondent and concerned for the future. Many churches are being closed due to lack of members and funding. The central church has cut the number of charges to 660, assuming 60 are vacant at any one time, but currently there are currently 360 vacancies. The age range of ministers is worrying with none under 30 years of age, 20% between 30 and 50, and 80% over 50 with the majority nearing 65 years of age!

7.3. However, Alistair sees there are vibrant churches, viable and sustainable. Here at Christ Church Warwick, our Outreach programs are key to being a Christian community partner. And for this Alister has great optimism for our congregation.

8. Doug Frith, clerk to the Kirk Session then addressed the meeting. Doug thanked Judi and Alistair Bennett for providing strong encouragement to the leadership team.

The meeting closed with the Benediction at 12:15 P.M. and included a grace for the lunch about to be served.

Chairman

Clerk