



MINUTES OF PRESBYTERY MEETING (unconfirmed) held Saturday 29th April 2023 at Broadview Uniting Church

Meeting Attendance

A total of 75 people participated in the Presbytery meeting either in person or online. Of those who attended in person, 68 were presbytery members, co-opted or associate members and 7 were guests. 5 presbytery members observed, and participated in the business session, online. Apologies were received from 5 presbytery members.

Meeting Summary

Our meeting began with a chance to catch-up with each other and the option of purchasing some barista style hot drinks from the staff of the Experience Café at Broadview. At 10 am, after a brief welcome by the chairperson, Rev Ruthmary Bond led us in a time of worship and spoke about Doubting Thomas. After a quick morning tea, we heard from our guest speakers.

Our new digital media consultant, Rev Geoff Hurst, introduced himself and spoke about what he brings to the role. Geoff has had a lifetime interest in digital media technology, experience and understanding of computer hardware and accessories as well as software for media creation, display and dissemination. His role is to discover and document who is doing what and what is being learnt in the livestreaming and online worship spaces. Many churches now want to move in to this new space and identify pathways not just for livestreaming their worship, or accessing worship resources, but for pastoral care and learning online as well. Geoff aims to develop models for curating the many online resources available and to find out what works best for us and in what context. His role is also about building partnerships with, and between, people who are creating things online and doing good things. It will be a journey of discovery. Moving into the IT space is like a sailing ship, we need to adapt as the wind changes directions. It is not a road trip, where we head straight for a set destination regardless of what we learn or experience on the way. Geoff wants to hear about what we are doing and to share what others are doing with us. Rev Geoff Hurst, Digital Media Consultant can be contacted on 0447 971 878 or geoff@unitingvision.com.

Simon Story spoke about the importance of having an adventurous culture in our churches. Building an adventurous culture in our churches is crucial and is more important as a first step than any idea or program or applying for a grant to hire a person to do something. At Trinity Alberton they used the book called Canoeing the Mountains by Tod Bolsinger which is based on the adventures of Lewis and Clark. Lewis and Clark had to adapt. While they had prepared to find a waterway to the Pacific Ocean, instead they found themselves in the Rocky Mountains with a whole pile of canoes. As churches, we find ourselves in uncharted territory and if we don't adapt and change we die. The canoes are useless and that is scary. Some respond to this by applying for grants, some start a new program, some pray but what if the change that is required is something that we can't even comprehend? At Trinity Alberton, many on their church council had never heard of a baby chino but they have now become the centre point of how they engage with preschool families in their community. They started a community café and are now growing a ministry for young families through offering baby chinos at their café.

As leaders it is important that we set the culture where change might be possible. Having an adventurous culture needs to be ingrained in the DNA of our communities. Our prayer life changes



when we are on an adventure together. We need to remember that courageous adventurers seek God's renewal of His Church. He is in charge! We need to embrace crazy ideas and work through how they might work, we need to be willing to make mistakes and adapt as we go along, staying firm in the mission but being loose about the method. But our plans and ideas will not work unless we are working within an adventurous culture. We have to be ready to go on an adventure together.

Jo Palmer spoke about The Voice to Parliament and encouraged us to make sure that we are well informed in the lead up to the referendum. We all need to do our research and check the sources of what we are reading. We need to educate ourselves about what this is really about. More information can be found at [UCA SA - Voice to Parliament Resources](#) or check out the SA Voice to Parliament webpage.

In our regional groups we spent time reflecting on our highs and lows and what we had learnt from the speakers during the information sessions. Lunch was catered by Ruthmary and her wonderful team at Broadview Uniting Church and they did a wonderful job.

In the afternoon we gathered in table groups to participate in the Act-2 conversation process.

Meeting review by the Chairperson

Theme of the meeting was Exploring Change. Through the Act-2 process, we talked about how we manage or envisage change in the life of the church going forward. Simon's presentation pointed to the fact that we need to be courageous in change and allow ourselves to start the journey. It can be uncomfortable and unnerving because we have worked long and hard to get where we are and have things where we are mostly comfortable. We have to embrace change to enjoy what comes next. The journey will be one that takes courage. It will not be comfortable and will challenge the very things that we hold sacred within our congregations.

In the presbytery we have 6 rules about membership, but try not to overregulate things at presbytery level. We need you to tell us what you need.

The face of the church is changing. We put on a Digital Media Consultant so that we can be ready to see where these changes take us. Where is God going to take us that we can't even imagine yet as a Presbytery? Are we prepared to get out of that canoe? Are we prepared to chop up that canoe, cut off our escape routes and stop continuously looking in our rear vision mirror? Are we excited about where that will take us? Please go back and share this hope and courage within your own congregations. The Presbytery is here to help and members of the standing committee, pastoral relations committee and property teams are elected by you to help make decisions to drive these processes and help you. If you have ideas and questions then ask. If you want to explore things then ask. We don't know what we don't know and you can help us to understand those things.

There is lots that we need to think about regarding exploring change. This year we need to think about Raising new leadership and we would encourage everybody to find those amongst your members and church groups and passion and tap them on the shoulder and see if they can engage in places they can help within your congregation and wider. We need to change to meet the needs of the community around us. Always on a journey to discover who to talk to next and reach out to next.

Christ spend very little time inside – most of his stories are engaging in public places and occ dinner table. Where are you sending us and how we get there.



Business Meeting

The chairperson opened the business meeting in prayer at 3.35 pm.

Proposal 1 (Setting the Scene) as circulated in the reading material. Accepted by consensus

Reports

All reports as circulated in the reading material were taken as read and accepted by consensus.

Some questions re the synod membership lists were asked of the Secretary and answered.

The regional coordinators were congratulated from the floor. They are doing a great job.

The Treasurer Peter Lane spoke to the finance report.

- Note paragraph 3, correction: substitute 2023 for 2022.
- Mission and Service Fund – there are requests that can be made for a variation to mission and service contributions. Peter can help you through it if you need help.
- Travel Reimbursement - funds available to allow people to come to this meeting and if you need to claim a travel reimbursement please do so.
- Presbytery Grants –we have a funding application process for congregations to request funding for mission based projects. It would be nice to have some more applications.

Questions

- Some questions re the budget and financial processes were addressed.

Nomination for Presbytery Secretary

Amy Duke's nomination for Presbytery Secretary was affirmed by consensus.

Thank you to Carol Lang, the retiring secretary

Other Business

Tony Loffler spoke to timing of the business session at these presbytery meetings.

He proposed THAT the business sessions are moved to earlier in the program.

There were mixed reactions to this proposal.

After some discussion and comment, consensus could still not be reached.

Ruthmary Bond proposed THAT we pass consideration of the business session timing on to the standing committee for review.

Tony Loffler agreed to stand down and an agreement for Ruthmary's proposal was recorded.

New secretary to put this matter on the agenda to be considered at the next SC meeting.

Please remember that you have the opportunity to write to standing committee with your thoughts on this matter so that they can be considered as they debate and discern.

Meeting closed 4.30 pm.