



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 25 March 2018

### VISION

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God's vision is that through the mission and ministry of our Parish we would see the love of Christ come to life as His spirit changes and transforms people and **builds them into a Christian community.**

### MISSION STATEMENT

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*God's purpose is for our Parish to work together to minister to one another, to recognise opportunities to preach the good news and to empower people to **commit to sharing Jesus.***

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

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1.1 Meeting declared open by the Parish Chairman at: 12.30 p.m.

1.2 Conflict of Interest and declaration:

"Any member participating in this Annual General Meeting is required to let the Chairman know if they have any perceived or known Conflicts of Interest as per the items listed in the Agenda for this meeting. This will be noted in the Minutes."

- Pastor Jaswanth for building and redevelopment due to purchasing residential property from Alatalo Bros.
- Andrew Dewhirst for Motion on Chaplain's contract extension.

1.3 Declaration of Attendance and Acceptance of Apologies:

1.3.1 Members in attendance to sign the Attendance Sheet provided:

47 members were recorded as in attendance meaning a quorum of 16 were present.

1.3.2 Acceptance of Apologies:

5 Apologies were received.

1.4 Opening Prayer – Pastor Jaswanth. Taken from Phillipian's 2 from verse 12 on.

### 2. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

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2.1 Paragraph 7.1.12 Motion: WLP2017-06 Redevelopment of Havelock Street. This item is covered by the Project Manager's Report in Motions and General Business below.

- 2.2 Paragraph 9.1.3 Motion: WLP2017-05 Wodonga Lutheran Parish Constitution and By-Laws. The draft was submitted to the LCA Victorian District, however, because it was based on the 2011 LCA Model Constitution which was superseded by the 2015 Version it has been rejected. Parish Chairman is waiting on the revised model constitution to be authorised.
- 2.3 Paragraph 9.3.3 Motion: WLP2017-07 Survey be conducted on whether to change Sunday Worship times. This has not been actioned. Pastor Jaswanth gave a briefing that given the amount of change happening at the moment he would like to pursue the timings issue after the transition to our new location. He asked that the motion be changed and Chairman advised it would need to be rescinded by a motion and the motion was left open.
- 2.4 Paragraph 9.2.4 Motion: WLP2017-09 Pastor Jaswanth's Call be regularised. Conducted by Bishop Lester on 27 August 2017.
- 2.5 WLP audited financial report dated 10 March 2017 was placed on notice to the Parish.
- 2.6 VLC audited financial report dated 23 March 2017 was placed on notice to the Parish.

**Motion:** The Minutes of the previous AGM be accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Proposed By:** Jenny Simboras    **Seconded By:** Anne Suter

**Carried/Defeated**

### 3. Presentation of Reports

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- 3.1 Parish Chairman – as tabled.
- 3.2 Congregational Pastor – as tabled.
- 3.3 Treasurer's Report – as tabled.
  - 3.3.1 The Treasurer highlight three points – that two amounts of District fees being 2016 and 2017 were paid last financial year to catch up, rates are paid as required and not accumulating and insurance premiums have gone up greatly.
  - 3.3.2 Sheryl Parsons asked "Why don't we have the offering figures in the bulletin anymore." The Chairman replied that it was used as a negative view and not based on the actual budget position. The Chairman suggested we could place a notice in the bulletin based on the budget result. Pastor John Simboras suggested every quarter was sufficient. Parish Council will take this as an action to do.
- 3.4 Parish Redevelopment Report – as tabled:
  - 3.4.1 Tim spoke about his report and developments to date. We should be aware by the middle of the year if Alatalo Bros are proceeding and action may start at Havelock Street by the end of the year.
  - 3.4.2 Tim spoke about the Church facility at VLC and the 'concept plan' and that nothing is fixed (decided on). If we do proceed it should then happen sooner than we had thought as the parcel of land will be sold as one. Tim asked people to comment and give ideas '**in writing**'.

- 3.4.3 Sheryl Parson's asked about how much we will get for the Church after everything is sold. Tim said the site was \$1.25 million plus a share of the profits as time goes by. Land price is what we will have to spend on a Church. We may not receive enough to build but during the build time we may receive more profits.
- 3.4.4 Elke Haslam asked if we were keeping a unit for income. Tim said this is still on the cards but not yet decided.
- 3.4.5 Pastor Ernie Kiss inquired about the seating capacity of the new building and Tim said it depends on the costs and need and not yet determined.
- 3.4.6 Carolyn Kiss asked if units will be sold off the plan. Tim said yes and then maybe as they are built.
- 3.4.7 The Chairman commented "we need to be prudent with money given by God, to apply proper metrics so we don't make it outside of what we need. The Chairman also mentioned that the land will be excised from the school title.
- 3.4.8 Adrian Gutsche said it was best to excise the land so as access to grants for education is maintained and to delineate between educational and religious use.
- 3.4.9 Tim mentioned that Saver's Corner is on the concept plan but not determined yet.
- 3.4.10 Adrian Gutsche gave a vote of thanks to Tim and his team for their work in this area.
- 3.5 Savers Corner – as tabled.
- 3.6 Ladies Fellowship – as tabled.
  - 3.6.1 Marie Hill commented that two new people have been attending the group.
- 3.7 Statistician – as tabled.
- 3.8 VLC Chairperson and Principal – as tabled.
  - 3.8.1 Adrian Gutsche said the school is doing very well and in a good position. People are welcome at any time to visit the school.
  - 3.8.2 Marie Hill asked about the situation with the College Chaplain. John Thompson answered that the Chaplain will be at the College until the end of the year and the Parish Call Committee is still current for April.
- 3.9 Questions to Parish Chairman/Pastor.
  - 3.9.1 Tim McInnes commended the Chairman for a great book of reports.

## 4. Motions and General Business

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### Motion: - 1

**WLP-2018-02** "That the moneys generated from the sale of land currently occupied by St John's Lutheran Church be assigned to the construction of a new Church and Administrative facilities. The money is to be held as a reserve in the WLP Lutheran Layperson's League (LLL) account and managed by the Treasurer."

**Background:** The Parish has approved undertaking the redevelopment of the Havelock Street site that would generate funds to build a new church facility at the VLC precinct. It is important that each phase of the redevelopment is presented to the members for approval and continued direction to the Parish Council. This proposal is for the handling of the money generated from any sale of land and for that money to be held in a reserve fund until allocated to the building of a new church.

**Proposed By:** Phillip Edwards

**Seconded By:** Tim McInnes

Pastor Jaswanth advised that no financial provisions for a manse are included in the project so far. The Chairman replied that a manse will be considered in the future either purchased, built or rented as determined.

**Carried/Defeated**

#### **Motion: - 2**

**WLP-2081-03.** “That the VLC Fee Schedule as presented by VLC Council for 2018 be adopted.”

**Proposed By:** Adrian Gutsche

**Seconded By:** John Thompson

**Background:** In accordance with the VLC Constitution and By-Laws the fees schedule for the College must be approved by the Parish members. To allow for certainty of the fees schedule the College Council has developed a fee schedule for the next five years to cover the operating costs for the College.

Adrian Gutsche advised the meeting that these fees were set last October by College Council to enable the College to go out to parents for the new school year.

**Carried/Defeated** – with some abstentions.

#### **Motion: - 3**

**WLP-2018-04.** “That the salary of the Parish Office Assistant be increased by the value of \$5.00 per week effective from 1 January 2018.”

**Proposed By:** Paul Vogelsang

**Seconded By:** Phillip Edwards

**Background:** The Office Secretary is a permanent part time position and the salary increase is in recognition of the work being done by Heather in both a paid and volunteer capacity.

**Carried/Defeated**

#### **Motion: - 4**

**WLP-2018-05.** “That the Financial Report for Calendar Year 2017 be accepted as audited and that the Budget forecast for Calendar Year 2018 as presented by the Treasurer be adopted.”

**Proposed By:** Paul Vogelsang

**Seconded By:** Phillip Edwards

**Background:** It is a requirement of the LCA and good governance that members receive an audited financial report of the Parish and approve the budget projections for the new financial year.

**Carried/Defeated**

## Motion: - 5

**WLP-2018-06.** “That Asquith, Trotman and Spence (ATS) Accountants of 19 Stanley Street, Wodonga be appointed as the auditor for Wodonga Lutheran Parish (VLC), incorporating Victory Lutheran College (VLC) for the Church Year 2018.”

**Proposed By:** Paul Vogelsang

**Seconded By:** Phillip Edwards

**Background:** In accordance with the [LCA Victoria District Inc \(including Tasmania\) audit procedures 2013](#) required that all entities are audited in an appropriate manner by auditors with appropriate qualifications. The auditor is to be appointed at each AGM.

**Carried/Defeated**

## Motion : - 6

**WLP-2018-07.** “That we would like to move that Andrew Dewhirst’s contract be extended for as long as he wishes to remain at the College.”

**Proposed By:** John Donker

**Seconded By:**

**Discussion:**

The Chairman stated this was not a valid motion due to Wodonga Lutheran Parish (WLP) proposing to the College of Bishops that a position be established at Victory Lutheran College (VLC) for an ordained pastor. This was agreed to and established by the College of Bishops. Bishop Lester has requested that WLP establish a Call Committee in April 2018 to call a pastor for 2019. This motion does not seek to have this guidance withdrawn.

It is not appropriate for the Parish to direct the College on an employment matter in engaging a person on an open ended contract so the motion either needs to be amended or withdrawn.

John Donker spoke to the motion. People are very happy with Andrew Dewhirst’s performance and would like him to continue in the school as the students and parents and staff are happy with him. John Donker gave statistics on vacancies - 30 around Australia and the availability of new pastors graduating being approximately 6 this year. John feels it is greedy for WLP to ask for a pastor when so many need a pastor. If the motion needs to be altered he is happy to do this.

The Chairman acknowledged there is a shortage of Pastors.

Marie Hill agreed that retaining Andrew is a good idea.

Pastor Jaswanth spoke at length re: the model for WLP and VLC and the change by having a chaplain who is not employed by the Parish. Expectations of Parish members are now different as a result.

Pastor John Simboras said that the College is part of the Parish so the pastor is also responsible in the school. He suggested amending the proposal to read instead of “as long as he desires”, to “to be reviewed at next general meeting.”

Angela Uhrhane enquired about size of school/ratio for safe working, etc. The Chairman advised there is a policy document from the LCA that states schools with more than 500 students must have an ordained pastor. This policy may or may not still be current.

John Thompson stated that within the school there are support roles for example well-being, team leaders in a pastoral role. Workload is fairly distributed, there is also Mission and Ministry staff appointed in this shared space and it the Principal’s responsibility as the spiritual head of the school.

Sue Housego asked about what happens when the Chaplain finishes if we are going through a call and it fails. What provision is there to extend Andrew's position during the following year?

General discussion followed.

John Thompson is really happy with Andrew Dewhirst who is looking at maybe further training at ALC. The challenge is the Bishop's direction that we call a pastor and the people's sense of happiness with Andrew. There needs to be some direction from the Bishop's.

Pastor John Simboras said can we change it then as circumstances change.

Sheryl Parsons commented that it is only the second month into school and why are we already talking about this.

Jenny Simboras asked as the congregation can we change our position?

Adrian Gutsche addressed the meeting "We are a two pastor parish. Both Councils are very keen to remain in that space, this has worked to date. We should call another pastor looking at the numbers. College Council could look at the ability to employ a pastor and chaplain but would have to have a pastor. We would work on the figures but ultimately it is up to the Principal. It would take long term action to retract the current arrangement. Reevaluate at the end of the year."

John Donker retracted the motion after hearing Adrian's response.

The Chairman invited views from anyone to be given to Parish Council, etc. and for people think about the situation.

Pastor Ernie Kiss suggested we revisit the issue in 6 months' time if we have more information at a formal meeting. Parish Council will manage this.

**Carried/Defeated**

**Motion : - 7**

"That Book of Reports as tabled and distributed be adopted."

**Proposed By:** Phillip Edwards

**Seconded By:** Jenny Simboras

**Carried/Defeated**

**Motion : - 8**

**WLP-201808** "That the VLC Financial Report (unaudited) be accepted and that the budget for 2018 for approved. At a later date the audited report will be made available to the Parish"

Discussion:

Glenn Wright spoke to the report and the budget – the college has now just dropped below \$8,000.00 debt per student and is looking at \$9,000.00 debt per student in the future.

**Proposed By:** John Thompson

**Seconded By:** Sue Jacob

**Carried/Defeated**

The Parish Chairman acknowledged and thanked Glenn in his position as business Manager for VLC.

## 5. Election of Office Bearers

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- 5.1 Retiring members thanks for their faithful service:
  - 5.1.1 Parish Secretary – Mr Peter Lade.
  - 5.1.2 Parish Council Members – Mrs Karen Starr, Mr Andy Enever and Mr Paul Schirmer.
  - 5.1.3 Parish Lay Assistant – Mr Jason Zweck.
  - 5.1.4 VLC Parent Representative Mr Trevor Ierino.
- 5.2 Chairman and meeting thanked these members for their service during the year.
- 5.3 Election of office bearers:
  - 5.3.1 Chairman vacates and hands over to Pastor Jaswanth to called for nominations for Parish Chairperson.
  - 5.3.2 Pastor Jaswanth expressed his thanks for the work of the outgoing Chairman and read from 1 Thessalonians 5: 12 – 13.
- 5.4 Parish Chairperson – Phillip Edwards:  
**Proposed By:** John Donker, **Seconded By:** Kerrie Donker.  
**Carried/Defeated.**
- 5.5 Chairman resumes chair position and conducts remainder of the meeting.
- 5.6 Parish Secretary: Chairman appealed to the meeting for nominations and none received.
- 5.7 Parish Treasurer – Paul Vogelsang.  
**Proposed By:** Tim McInnes, **Seconded By:** Phillip Edwards.  
**Carried/Defeated.**
- 5.8 Parish Council members – 2 vacancies. Chairman appealed for nominations – none received.
- 5.9 Pastor Jaswanth thanked Alex Sweatman and Jason Zweck for their assistance over the past year:
  - 5.9.1 Lay Assistant: Mr. Alex Sweatman.  
Lay Assistant: Mrs. Sheryl Parsons.  
Lay Assistant: Mr. Andrew Dewhirst  
Lay Assistant: Mrs. Sue Housego.  
**Proposed By:** Jaswanth Kukatlapalli, **Seconded By:** Ida Scholz.  
**Carried/Defeated.**
- 5.10 Victory Lutheran College Chairperson – Mr Adrian Gutsche.  
**Proposed By:** Phillip Edwards, **Seconded By:** Tim McInnes.  
**Carried/Defeated.**
- 5.11 VLC Parish Member: Mrs Claire Roenfeldt.  
**Proposed By:** Phillip Edwards, **Seconded By:** Tim McInnes.  
**Carried/Defeated.**
- 5.12 VLC Parish Member: Mrs Tamara Gutsche.  
**Proposed By:** Jenny Simboras, **Seconded By:** Lisa Enever.  
**Carried/Defeated.**

5.13 VLC Parish Member: Mr Ron Asquith.

Conflict of interest exists and to be managed by the College Council. Chairman recognised the need for such talent to advise the College and Parish Councils as you cannot delegate financial responsibilities to the business manager for example.

**Proposed By:** Adrian Gutsche, **Seconded By:** Tim McInnes.

**Carried/Defeated.**

5.14 VLC Parent Representative – College Council Nomination – Mr Edward Pitargue. Meeting advised by Adrian Gutche that the Council had endorsed his nomination.

5.15 Recognition of Lay Readers:

5.15.1 Mr Phillip Edwards.

5.15.2 Mr Andrew Klein.

5.15.3 Mr Phil Suter.

5.15.4 Mrs Angela Uhrhane.

5.15.5 Mr Alex Sweatman.

5.15.6 Mr John Donker.

5.16 Meeting was informed of the Lay Readers for this year and those present confirmed they were agreeable to continuing on this year. One further name in the book of reports was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

5.17 Person of Responsibilities:

5.17.1 Music Coordinator – Mrs Susan Edwards.

5.17.2 Saver's Corner Coordinator – Mrs Maria Davison.

5.17.3 Saver's Corner Treasurer – Mrs Wilma Trabant.

5.17.4 Saver's Corner Secretary – Mrs Marie Hill.

5.17.5 Parish Statistician – Mrs Heather Grealy.

5.17.6 Lutheran Women's Fellowship President – Mrs Noreen Kelly

5.17.7 Lutheran Women's Fellowship Treasurer – Mrs. Wilma Trabant.

5.17.8 Lutheran Women's Fellowship Secretary – Mrs Marie Hill.

5.17.9 International Mission Representative – Mrs Jan Farrell.

5.17.10 International Mission Stamp Collector – Mrs Ingrid Harder.

## 6. General Business

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6.1 Anne Suter asked "Have we acknowledged as a Parish the tremendous results of the VCE at Victory Lutheran College." Discussion Parish Council action.

6.2 Chairman reminded members to complete the Annual Church Health Survey.

6.3 Chairman asked Andrew Dewhirst to speak about the Bibles for Victory service. Andrew spoke about timings and how it fits with the students training, etc.



## 7. Meeting Closed

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- 7.1.1 There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at: 2.21 p.m.
- 7.1.2 Closing prayer and blessing by Pastor Jaswanth.



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Susan Edwards  
**Minutes Secretary**

Dated: *08/04/2018*

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Mr Phillip Edwards  
**Chairman**

Dated: 8 April 2018

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