

Melbourne City Churches In Action (MCCIA)

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 15 November 2017

Waratah Room, Level 1, St Michael's Uniting Church Centre,
120 Collins Street, Melbourne

The Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne City Churches In Action (MCCIA) was opened by the Convenor, Rev. Ric Holland, at 7pm after a shared meal.

Present: Attendance of 14 delegates, representing 8 faith communities:

Stefanie Pearce (Collins Street Baptist Church); Ruth Redpath (St Paul's Anglican Cathedral); Lindsay Rust (St Francis Catholic Church); Fay Yule (Wesley Uniting Church); Trudi Doblin (German Lutheran Trinity Church); Jamie Pearce (St Paul's Anglican Cathedral); Simon Holt (Collins Street Baptist Church); Ric Holland (St Michael's Uniting Church); Sandy Yule (Wesley Uniting Church); Dale Hess (Quakers West Melbourne); Ken Boland (Blessed Sacrament/St Francis); Alistair Macrae (Wesley Uniting Church); Helen Summers (The Interfaith Centre of Melbourne); Barrie Sutton (Collins Street Baptist Church)

Apologies

Trevor Whittaker (St Paul's Anglican Cathedral); Richard O'Brien (Scots Church); Jennifer Sanders (Blessed Sacrament/St Francis); Tom Hoffmann (St Johns Southgate); Ian Smith (Victorian Council of Churches); Hugh Kempster (St Peter's Anglican); Mary-Elizabeth Caldwell (St Francis); Jim Barr (Welsh Church); Anba Suriel (Coptic Orthodox); Lorel Thomas (Quakers West Melbourne); Bevianna Fitch (Quakers West Melbourne)

Minutes of 2016 AGM

Moved Sandy Yule/Barrie Sutton: *That the Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting be adopted.* Carried.

Convenor's Report

The Convenor, Ric Holland, presented an annual report for 2017. Highlights were the Good Friday Way of the Cross, with an attendance of around 4,500 worshippers. He reported that the missing sculpture has been located, thanks to Peter Gador-Whyte, and will be installed in January 2018. The Blessing of the Nativity will be held on 13th December 2017 in Federation Square, a new location due to the Metro tunnelling. Many MCCIA members were involved in commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in October 2017, particularly Christoph Dielmann, Sandy Yule, Trudi Doblin, Brother Lindsay Rust, Ian Smith and St Paul's Cathedral. St Johns Southgate also held commemoration events. The Lord Mayor's morning tea for senior clergy on 1st November 2017 was well attended and received. The three bible studies on 'the future of truth in a post-truth world' held in the winter months were also well attended and well received, with thanks to leaders Brendan Byrne, Sean Winter and Ian Smith, and organisers Sandy and Fay Yule and Jim Barr. Easter and Christmas brochures were published and distributed to all city hotels and tourist offices. The website mccia.org.au continues to be valued.

The Convenor noted that this year the Coptic Orthodox Church in LaTrobe Street was opened by His Holiness Pope Tawadros II.

Moved Sandy Yule/Jamie Pearce: *That the Convenor's Report be received.* Carried.

Treasurer's Report (attached)

Treasurer Sandy Yule distributed the financial report (attached). He noted that we need to retain sufficient savings to reprint the *Way of the Cross* brochure approximately every 4 years; it will need reprinting in 2019. The main income sources are the annual subscriptions and donations during the Way of the Cross. Subscriptions for 2018 are about to be sent out. The organisation is solvent and has sufficient funds to meet projected expenses.

Moved Jamie Pearce/Ken Boland: *That the financial accounts be accepted, with added appreciation for Sandy's work as Treasurer to be noted.* Carried.

Election of Officers

The following nominations had been duly received and notified:

Convenor:	Rev. Ric Holland (St Michael's Uniting Church)
Deputy Convenor	Rev. Ruth Redpath (St Paul's Anglican Cathedral)
Secretary/Public Officer	Stefanie Pearce (Collins Street Baptist Church)
Treasurer	Rev. Sandy Yule (Wesley Uniting Church)
Committee member	Fr Ken Boland (Blessed Sacrament/St Francis Catholic Church)
Committee member	Rev. Jim Barr (Melbourne Welsh Church)

Moved Barrie Sutton/Trudi Doblin: *That the nominated officers as listed be elected 'en bloc'.* Carried.

Jamie Pearce (St Paul's Anglican Cathedral) agreed to be co-opted to the committee from time to time.

Sandy Yule suggested that the committee invite Fr Mark Attala (St Verena & St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox church) to attend a committee meeting.

Membership

Moved Sandy Yule/Jamie Pearce: *That the Coptic Orthodox Church (St Verena and St Bishoy Church, 285 La Trobe Street) and the Religious Society of Friends of Australia (484 William Street, West Melbourne) be accepted into membership.* Carried unanimously.

Other Business

Sandy Yule noted that some areas that MCCA could strengthen or develop relate to talking with each other about what we are doing, coordinating our activities, and connecting better with Melbourne City Council initiatives. He proposed asking Jim Barr to form a working group to draw together something useful for the city churches. The focus might be on what church congregations individually are doing within the CBD, apart from the programs of the mega-not-for-profit agencies like Anglicare, Wesley Mission, Salvos, etc.

Guest Speaker: Dale Hess, The Religious Society of Friends of Australia (Quakers)

Ric Holland introduced Dale Hess as the guest speaker. Dale presented a fascinating illustrated talk. The Quakers emerged around 1650s in England. They believe that the Spirit of God resides in every person, and in the personal and direct experience of Christ by the individual without mediation of priest or minister. Distinguishing characteristics include radical egalitarianism, affording equal rights to women from the beginning, and pacifism. Early Quaker George Fox called men and women into a new unity based on religious experience and social praxis. The Quakers spread from England to America, and experienced persecution in the quest for religious freedom and tolerance. They were active in the anti-slavery movement. The Quakers arrived in Australia in the early 1830s.

Close

The meeting thanked Dale Hess with acclamation and the Convenor closed the formal meeting at 8:03 pm, inviting those who could stay to enjoy further discussion with the guest speaker.

MCCIA

Annual Financial Statement: 1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017

Income		\$
Subscriptions		4,000.00
Collection (WotC)		2,048.00
Collection (bible studies, AGM)		110.00
Interest		0.20
Total	6,158.20	

Expenditure

Web Prophets		247.50
Advent Brochures		508.00
Insurance		1,055.87
Consumer Affairs (Report)		55.80
Easter Brochures		496.00
Colbrow Medics		396.00
Post Box		196.00
Postage		77.00
Van Hire		1,269.98
Total	4,302.15	
Balance positive	1,856.05	

Reconciliation at bank:

		\$
Cash at bank 1.1.2016		4,288.79
Cash at bank 30.6.2017		6,144.84
Balance positive	1,856.05	

Notes:

1. Since 1 July 2017, we have received \$130 from donations and written cheques for \$200 ('Many Voices, One Song'), \$57.75 (Web Site hire) and \$247.50 (Web Prophets).
2. We are in the process of sending out invoices for member subscriptions.
3. We seem appropriately solvent for our activities in 2018.

Sandy Yule
MCCIA Treasurer