

Melbourne City Churches in Action (MCCIA)

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 14 November 2018, 6:00pm

Melbourne Welsh Church Centre, 1st Floor, 316 La Trobe Street, Melbourne

Present: Attendance of 16 delegates, representing 9 faith communities:

Kath Kruger (St Francis Catholic); Lindsay Rust (Collins St Baptist); Claudia Barduhn (Quaker); Jim Palmer (Quaker); David Buller (Quaker); Geoffrey S. Wratten (St Peters Eastern Hill); Christoph Dielmann (German Trinity); Christopher Carolane (St Paul's Cathedral); Fr Mark Attalla (St Verena's Coptic Orthodox); Trudi Doblin (German Trinity); Alistair Macrae (Wesley Uniting); Sandy Yule (Wesley Uniting); Stefanie Pearce (Collins St Baptist); Geoff & Sherry Maddock (Collins St Baptist); Jim Barr (Welsh Church)

Apologies: Barrie Sutton (Collins St Baptist); Mary-Elizabeth Calwell (St Francis); Jamie Pearce (St Paul's); Ric Holland (formerly St Michaels); Ken Boland (Blessed Sacrament/St Francis); Lorel Thomas (Quakers)

The meeting opened in prayer and a convivial communal meal, followed by the business of the meeting. Geoff and Sherry Maddock were welcomed as guest speakers. MCCIA Convenor, Rev. Ric Holland, was absent at short notice on pastoral business, so the meeting was conducted by the Treasurer and Secretary.

Minutes of 2017 Meeting

It was moved: *That the Minutes of the 2017 AGM be adopted.* Carried.

Convenor's Annual Report (attached)

The Secretary read the annual report of the activities of the association. Highlights for the year were the Good Friday Way of the Cross incorporating the station and sculpture now installed at St Michael's Uniting Church. The Bible Study series on 'the peaceable kingdom in the city' had been well received with good attendances.

It was moved: *That the Chair's report be received.* Carried.

Treasurer's Report (attached)

The Treasurer reported that 15 of the 18 MCCIA member churches have paid their subscriptions. The bank balance is in a healthy state. He thanked the churches for their support and challenged the committee to think about the expenditure.

It was moved: *That the financial accounts be accepted.* Carried with acclamation of thanks to Sandy for his work as Treasurer.

Election of Officers for 2019

Nominations for Convenor, Secretary/Public Officer, Treasurer and two Committee members had been duly received and notified in advance. After discussion, Christopher

Carolane agreed to fill the role of Deputy Convenor. An approach will be made to St Francis Catholic Church to fill the committee vacancy. The following nominations were moved 'en bloc'. Carried unanimously.

Convenor:	Fr Mark Attalla (St Verena & St Bishoy Orthodox)
Deputy Convenor:	Christopher Carolane (St Pauls Anglican Cathedral)
Secretary/Public Officer:	Stefanie Pearce (Collins Street Baptist Church)
Treasurer:	Sandy Yule (Wesley Uniting Church)
Committee member:	Trudi Doblin (German Lutheran Church)
Committee member:	[vacant]

It was noted that the committee is empowered to co-opt additional members from time to time for specific projects.

Other business

The liturgy booklets for the 'Way of the Cross' have a 'tired feeling' and the words need review. It was agreed that Alistair Macrae (Wesley Uniting) and a church musician (perhaps St Peter's Eastern Hill) be invited to review the booklet.

The Secretary, Stefanie Pearce, was thanked with acclamation for her secretarial work.

Guest speaker: Geoff & Sherry Maddock — Planted Places

Sherry Maddock provided an illustrated overview of a new project called 'Planted Places', being conducted in the basement of Central House at the rear of Collins Street Baptist Church. Sherry is working with asylum seekers and people who are socially isolated to introduce them to the care and nurture of indoor plants. She provided an extensive list of the benefits of plants and green environments for health and welfare, and showed photos of her recent work with refugees and asylum seekers in Preston.

Close

The meeting closed with thanks to the Maddocks for their presentation and the benediction at 8pm.

Melbourne City Churches in Action (MCCIA)—Annual Report for 2018

There are 17 Christian worshipping faith communities that are located within (or close to) the Melbourne central business district, known as the Melbourne City Churches In Action (MCCIA). Membership also includes Melbourne City Mission.

Our most publicly prominent event this year was once again the annual **Way of the Cross pilgrimage walk held on Good Friday**. Nearly 5,000 people participated in the Walk this year, which for the first time included the long-lost and recently found bas-relief for the station at St Michael's Uniting Church. Thanks to **Rev. Ric Holland** for his mighty efforts in locating the statue, and negotiating to have it installed just in time for the Walk. We estimate that we have 1,000 copies of the liturgical booklet left, so we will need to do a reprint with revisions before next Easter. The Treasurer advises that our funds will cover this reprint.

MCCIA also organised:

- the **Blessing of the Nativity** in the city at Christmas: an event to reclaim the meaning of Christmas in the heart of the commercial and retail precinct, this past year held in Federation Square for the first time, as City Square has been taken over for the Metro development. The 2018 Nativity Blessing will be held on
- An increasingly well-attended three-part Wednesday night **Bible Study** series on 'The Peaceable Kingdom in the City', delivered by notable theologians **Dr Janina Hiebel**, Rev. Dr Sandy Yule, and **Rev Carolyn Francis**.
- MCCIA Convenor, Rev Ric Holland, began developing a **social justice initiative** in June; however, this has been curtailed with the end of Ric's time at St Michael's Uniting Church.
- **3,000 brochures** listing all the city church services over Easter and Christmas periods, distributed to all hotels and tourist offices in the city, Docklands and Southbank. I'm deeply grateful to St Francis for offering **Kath Kruger's** help in producing this year's Christmas services brochure.

The website, mccia.org.au, continues to assist visitors and newcomers to Melbourne to locate churches and services, and is due for a minor facelift.

- We supported the **Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees**.
- We distributed an offer from the Pastoral Care Coordinator at St Francis to brief members on St Francis's **upgrades to security**.
- The **newsletter** continues to be a useful if occasional means of communication with members but we need to improve our communication capabilities.
- We met with **HomeGround Real Estate** about their initiative to address homelessness.
- We offered non-financial support for a proposal to develop an app, '**Pilgrims Way**', that identifies peaceful or spiritual places in the city suitable for meditation, reflection, or prayer.

Several significant losses from the committee this year.

- In March we farewelled **Rev Canon Dr Ruth Redpath** of St Paul's whose wise and grace-filled presence has been an asset on the committee for several years; we subsequently welcomed Rev Christopher Carolane.
- In May we were very sorry to lose **Rev Jim Barr**, Welsh Church, who has been a driving force, the engine of the MCCIA, for decades. We hope to be able to continue to co-opt Jim from time to time for particular projects, as his knowledge and experience are irreplaceable.
- At mid-year, **Rev Ric Holland** advised he was ending his term at St Michael's and would need to step down as Convenor at the end of the year. Pastoral business keeps him absent tonight;
- And at year's end, **Fr Ken Boland** from St Francis advised that he is being moved on and has to step down from the committee;
- I'm delighted that **Trudi Doblin** from the German-speaking Trinity Lutheran Church has agreed to join the committee.
- Best news is that **Fr Mark Attalla** of the Coptic Orthodox Church has agreed to be our Convenor.

So despite the changes, your committee has been working hard and is in good heart for the year ahead.

Stefanie Pearce, Secretary, MCCIA

MCCIA

Financial Statement: 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

Income	\$
Subscriptions 2017/18	4,500.00
Collection (W.o.t.C.)	3,420.00
Collection (bible studies)	130.00
Total	8,050.00

Expenditure	
PO Box rent	201.00
Colbrow Medics	396.00
Ansvar Insurance	1,135.03
Mini-van hire	183.55
McLean's Sound Van	1,092.62
Printing Christmas brochures	496.00
Printing Easter brochures	496.00
Web Prophets (Help)	41.25
Web Domain annual rent	247.50
Web site hire	57.75
500th Anniversary Reformation	200.00
AGM Catering	48.82
Consumer Affairs Vic.	56.90
Total	4,652.42

Balance Positive **3,397.58**

Reconciliation at bank:	\$
Cash at bank 1.7.2017	6,144.84
Cash at bank 30.6.2018	9,542.42
Balance positive	3,397.58

Notes

1. We can cover our expected costs for 2019 and should be ready for a reprint of the 'Way of the Cross' liturgy booklet when needed.

Sandy Yule
MCCIA Treasurer