



DRAFT MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING

Held Online
Wednesday, 15th September, 2021 at 7.30 pm

Chair: Ros Faichney

Rev James Douglas opened the meeting with a Prayer.

Ros Faichney welcomed all present.

Present: **GWICC** Joe Persico, St Justin's RC; Francisco Disilvestro, St Leonard's RC; Tony Hodges, Good Shepherd RC, Pat Hodges, St Barnabus AC Jan Clear, John Hurst, Glen Waverley UC,

MWCICC, Rev James Douglas, Gavin Faichney, Ros Faichney, Heather Spurling, St Luke's UC; Rev Julie Ross, Karolee Jones, Fran Brooke, Margery Kennett, Hazel Roberts, High St Rd/St John's UC, Doug Hastings, St Stephen and St Mary AC; Rev David Moffatt, Marika Sivak, The New Church, Bernadette Allan, Christ our Holy Redeemer RC, Gabrielle Castle, St Philip's AC;

Apologies:

Discussion:

- a) October 2021 joint prayerful 24 hrs from members churches of the MT Waverley-Chadstone & Glen Waverley ICC Churches. Each Church community of church members pray constantly for an allocated time (i.e. 30 minutes) online so that anyone can join in. We could setup a Zoom or YouTube link up where each church on praying duty via a mobile or desktop prays to our God for a CoronaVirus lockdown-free Christmas this year.**

Joe Persico introduced this item. He thought that each Church community could pray for a set time. Each church would be open for the allocated 30 minutes. If 20 churches were involved, this would be for up to 10 hours.

Comments included:- The logistics would be very difficult. It is very likely that Melbourne may still be in Lockdown in late October so churches would remain closed. Not all people are comfortable praying in public. Many churches have their plans for the next months already in place. Perhaps all churches could include a prayer to our God for a Coronavirus lockdown-free Christmas on the last Sunday in November. Prayers could include "thank you for our response to COVID-19, vaccines, kindness, medical, nursing staff, concern for mental health issues, focus on the last 2 years and the future". There are many other Pandemic issues we should be praying about:- poor vaccination rates in indigenous people, no hospital visiting, limited attendance at funerals ++

James Douglas suggested a short video could be included in the service.eg www.theworkofthepeople.com/praise-for-the-people. This needs a licence.

However Christmas is a special time for Christians but other days are special for people of other faiths.

b) Joint event ideas for Christmas 2022

Ros Faichney gave a short history of the last 10 years of Community Carols in Mt Waverley Village. MWCICC's aim was to bring a Real Christmas to the local community. The first two years were in Hamilton Walk. The Traders have been involved by permitting posters and flyers in the shops. Then, for many years the Carols were in the Ritchies IGA carpark. Ritchies IGA provided power. Monash Chorale and Oakleigh Brass accompanied the Carol singing. Items were provided by local church choirs, schools and the local Music School. Ros Faichney was very successful in obtaining grants from the City of Monash. The weather was always the unknown variable. In 2020,

with COVID-19 restrictions in place, Rev James Douglas edited the highlights of the 2019 Carols which were available on Youtube via the Website but not watched by many people. In later years, the audience has mainly been of members of local churches rather than the people of Mt Waverley.

The Monash Council were very disappointed and asked what they could do to help the Carols happen; also the Monash Chorale. John Hurst, a member of Monash Chorale, has been performing at the Carols for several years and is sad they are cancelled this year too. Monash Chorale is to have a performance "A Tapestry of Christmas" at St Simon the Apostle, Parish Church, 2 Taylors Lane Rowville at 2.30pm on Sunday December 12th, 2021.

Rev Julie Ross said the HSR/St John's UC is filming a Christmas Play, written by Shirley White with a cast of local church members. This will be shown as a Virtual service on Sunday December 12th. It will be available on the website
<highstreetunitingchurchmountwaverley.org>

Doug Hastings said that SSSM are planning a Thanksgiving Sunday in ? February.. Included will be thanks for the freedom to go to church on Sundays, concerns about people without jobs, those suffering from mental illnesses, the health of medical staff, those on temporary visas ++

Ros asked if it may be possible to have a pop-up Carols in the Glen Waverley UC in **December 2022**. John Hurst said that the carpark was behind the church. It may be better to use a more public area perhaps in the front of the church.

c) Ecumenical Visiting ideas for 2022

Joe Persico said that there was a split round in 2021. It was planned that visiting churches would prepare prayers to be read, candles lit but there would be no actual visits. Some churches chose Pentecost (no lockdown) and others Trinity Sunday (lockdown). Doug Hastings said that at the SSSM Zoom service, Rev Greg read the prayers on behalf of the other 3 churches. St Justin's had an online service on Trinity Sunday but other churches missed out. It was agreed that 2 dates were too confusing and there would be only one date in 2022. Many churches will continue with Zoom services even after restrictions are eased. Jan Clear suggested that local people could read prayers on behalf of the other churches. Some people may not wish to visit in future. However, many feel it is important to visit in person, get to know others and learn about how other people worship.

Recommendations:

- Rev James Douglas suggested that each church could prepare a 2 minute video about 2 aspects of their church.
- As many churches as possible should be included (Joe said only 11 churches participated in 2021 while 20 did in earlier years).
- Shorter prayers. It was agreed that the prayers were often too long. Options should be reduced i.e. just one prayer.
- February Planning meeting - A prayer that **all** visitors would use could be drafted. Each church could add one extra stanza. Coordinators could be appointed and "who is doing what" decided,
- April – meeting of coordinators and Joe would send out a "who visits whom". Or alternatively which churches will be praying with/for each other. This would reduce the amount of work for Joe.
- Visitations if possible/desirable; or zoom?

Rev David Moffatt arrived to take up his post at The New Church in January 2020. It has been disappointing that he has still not been able to get around to meet others.

d) Other business

John Hurst found this meeting very interesting. Could combined meetings be held more often? Zoom meetings are very convenient. Others agreed. – 3rd Wednesday in March, May and September.

It was decided the next combined meeting [Zoom] would be on the third Wednesday in March i.e.16th ? hosted by GWICC. That would be before Ecumenical Visiting but after the February planning meeting.

Rev James Douglas finished the meeting at 8.35pm. with a Prayer.