

**The Uniting Church in Australia  
Wesley Uniting Church, Forrest  
Annual General Meeting, Sunday 19 February, 2023  
Chair: Jan Sismey**

**1. Opening**

Rev Geoff Dornan opened the meeting with prayer at 11.30 am.

**2. Attendance and apologies**

An attendance sheet was circulated (available on file). 60 people attended and there were 15 apologies.

**3. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM on Sunday 27 February 2022**

These minutes were confirmed by Church Council on 17 March 2022.

**4. Consideration of Parish Life 2022 Annual Reports (distributed 5 February)**

The congregation first received the reports, using UCA Consensus Cards.

Jan explained that the primary purpose of the AGM is to celebrate parish life as described in the reports from a wide range of Wesley ministry, outreach and care groups. She thanked members of the congregation for all they do to enable the life of these groups, and so contribute to the welfare of the whole.

Jan explained that the AGM was not the place for floating new ideas. They should be put in writing to the Chair or appropriate group leader (and not to office staff).

Members are encouraged to share constructive enabling suggestions, accompanied by why, how, who and where thinking, with the person responsible for progressing a course of action.

The Chair moved through the individual reports in order and invited representatives to highlight items, while also inviting comments and questions. She signalled that, after the reports, Simon Cowling would speak about upgrading the audio-visual system.

*Church Council.* It was requested that the words “better communication via a summary report to the Congregation after each Council meeting” at the end of paragraph 3 be deleted. The Chair agreed.

*Supply Ministers.* The heading should be Intentional Interim Ministers. Karyn and Gareth are here for a fixed time with a particular task to set a course for the congregation after times of conflict due to deficiencies in governance.

*Elders.* The report is short because there was no Chair of Elders when reports were prepared.

*Children and Youth Ministry.* It was asked if any consideration had been given to a replacement for Jules Wright. The Chair said there had been no discussion, and no funds are available at present.

*Service and Social Justice.* Where is the “Tap’n Go” terminal? It was put away from roof leaks temporarily but will be brought in the coming week and also available at the Fair.

*Wesley Tennis Club.* Rob Woolston highlighted the club’s enthusiasm for welcoming new members.

*Wesley Property Committee.* This will be replaced shortly by a more formally constituted Property Maintenance Committee. Chris Chenoweth, who was not present, was thanked for the huge amount of work he has done, especially in relation to hail damage repairs.

*Wesley 10.30 Morning Tea:* It was agreed that 10.30 be deleted from the heading.

There was a vote of thanks to everyone for good reports and the pictures, and one request for even more pictures.

***Upgrading the Audio-Visual System*** The project began over two years ago. At the initiative of Rev Sarah Agnew, Christian Huff-Johnston prepared a list of technical equipment. There will be several TV screens, two camera locations (corner of the chapel and front of the gallery) and a new speaker system together with new microphones and a new control panel. Four speakers located at an adjustable height high above the front pews and high enough to avoid obscuring the screens will avoid current dead spots. The system will be simple to operate.

The estimated time for completion is the latter part of 2023.

In line with a Church Council decision, Simon Cowling (AV team leader), launched an appeal for contributions towards the estimated cost of \$60,000. He advised donors to contact either himself or Robert James (Treasurer). It was noted that clear instructions for making confidential EFT donations to the appropriate bank account would be appreciated.

It was asked whether the Music Centre was aware of developments. Simon explained that it was because he is on the WMF Board. The questioner noted that the new AV system would be an incentive for the Music Centre and others to use the church more and in particular for recordings. Similarly, has consideration had been given to changes in conditions of hire and charges for use of the church, and has the Music Centre been invited to contribute financially?

The Chair noted that Church Council will consider the various comments and questions received about reports and the Audio-Visual System.

## **5. Election of Congregational Office Bearers**

Elections were by secret ballot. Even where there is only one candidate there must be approval by at least 50%. Votes were counted after the meeting and candidates and congregation notified later.

- a. Election of a member of Church Council. Keith Hart was the only nomination, and was elected.
- b. Election of Presbytery Representative. There were two nominations for one position for the next two years. Nominees were Robert James and Andrew Wright, but Robert withdrew his nomination just before the vote was taken. Andrew Wright was elected.

Our other representative for Presbytery Meetings is Jan Tarbotton, who is midway through a two year term. Robert was thanked for his past contribution as Presbytery Representative. It was suggested that we return to the past practice of having in addition an alternate Presbytery Representative. Church Council will consider this.

## **6. Close**

Rev Gareth Thomas-Burchell closed the meeting with prayer at 12.41 pm.