

MEANWOOD VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD at 8 p.m. on TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2009 at MEANWOOD INSTITUTE

PRESENT: 31 members + 1 who left before voting took place
4 non-members

APOLOGIES: 5 members + 1 non-member

1. WELCOME, WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Rev. Andy Hobbs opened the meeting by reading from Philippians Chapter 2. Mike Crawford led worship, followed by a prayer from Andy.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the AGM held on 29 April 2008 were agreed as a correct record.
- b) The minutes of the quarterly church meeting held on 28 January 2009 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following addition.

Minute 8 – Youth and Children’s Work Steering Group – add:

“A show of hands was given to affirm the church’s support of the Steering Group and what they were doing.”

3. GROUP REPORTS

- a) Prayer
- b) Manna for Meanwood
- c) Worship
- d) Youth and Children’s Work including
- Overview, KidsZone, Creche, PALS, SWAT, Thirst and Safeguarding
Children
- e) Café

Copies of the above reports were made available on Sunday morning, so they were not read out.

- f) Child Protection Statement – read out by Sue Woolmore
- g) J Zone – Andy reported verbally that J Zone continued to be a successful mid-week group for children of Key Stage 2 age.
- h) Pastor’s Report

Andy reported that he had been on staff for 8 years. He asked the church to consider allowing him and Norma to take a 7 week sabbatical in Sept/Oct 09, which the Leadership Team supported. It was suggested they used the sabbatical as a “thank you” gift from the church for all they had done in Meanwood.

Andy also informed the church that he was considering standing down from his post in August 2010. He and Norma had made this decision following a Mainstream Conference and much prayer. He assured the meeting there were many good ministers available to take up posts. Andy and Norma were thanked for all they had done for the church. Any questions should be directed to Andy and Norma or members of the Leadership Team.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Paul Smith presented the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2008. They had not yet been audited, but this would be completed very soon by an external auditor. *It was agreed that, once audited, the accounts be brought to another church meeting - PS.*

It was noted that Dan Bright was writing to the Barleycorn Trust with a view to a further grant. It was confirmed that the money on deposit under “assets” was readily available for church projects.

Paul presented the accounts for the year to 31 March 2009. It was noted that the Pastor’s salary had been raised to 100% of stipend. Someone commented that even though the country was in the worst financial crisis since the 1930’s he was glad to see God was looking after us.

The meeting was reminded that in accordance with the Constitution, non-members were not allowed to speak during church meetings, whilst welcome to attend.

5. STRATEGIC REPORT

a) Building update

Chris Baker reported that the Buildings Steering Group had previously been given authority to “express interest” and this had now been done. He hoped that by the July church meeting he would be able to report more clearly.

b) “The Way Forward” update

Rosemary Laxton presented a Vision and Mission statement which she had been working on, which was open for discussion. When these statements were finally agreed by the church, she would like to see all group leaders returning to these statements frequently to ensure they were keeping in line with them. *It was agreed that copies of the vision and mission statements would be made available in church – HW.* Timescales for comments was suggested.

c) Areas of further development during 2009 -2010

Chris Baker reported that the Elders had been looking at the areas of Community, Pastoral, Leadership and Resources. This was an on-going work and people were encouraged to think about this strategic paper and put their comments to the Leadership Team. The following suggestions were made from the floor.

- Agree timescales
- Make available the research behind the recommendations
- Undertake more rounded and formal consultation
- Arrange a Church Away Day

It was agreed that people in church could submit written comments to the Leadership Team, if they wished.

6. LEADERSHIP

It was noted that Rosemary Laxton, Elder, Jenny Trout and Hilary Wilson, Deacons, were standing down after a total of 23 years service on the Leadership Team. Andy asked that the thanks of the Church be recorded for their input into the life of the Church. They were all at the end of their term of office and had to stand down for a year.

It was also noted that since Shirley Pounder had stood down as Church Secretary, Hilary Wilson had picked up on this role. As from tonight we would not have a Church Secretary. In the Constitution we say the Church Secretary should be a Deacon, but maybe we should widen this out to include the whole of the Leadership Team, i.e. Deacon or Elder.

7. ELECTIONS

It was noted that:

BILL PITCHFORD had been nominated by Richard Shonibare and seconded by Tina Shonibare and Mike Berry to stand for re-election as Elder for a 2nd term of 3 years. Following a vote, Bill was re-elected as Elder by a majority of 77%.

CHARLES LAXTON had been nominated by Hilary Wilson and seconded by Jenny Trout and Chris Baker to stand for election as an Elder for a period of 3 years. Following a vote, Charles was elected as Elder by a majority of 84%.

Congratulations were extended to Bill and Charles.

The meeting closed in prayer.