

MEANWOOD VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

MINUTES OF CHURCH MEETING held at 8.30 pm on TUESDAY 21st JULY 2009 at MEANWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: 24 members and 1 non-member
APOLOGIES: 10 members

1. WELCOME AND WORSHIP

Rev. Andy Hobbs opened the meeting. Worship was led by Mike Crawford.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Church AGM held on 28th April 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that the accounts to the year end 31st December 2008 had now been ratified and signed off.

4. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Paul Smith presented the accounts to 30 June 2009, showing a surplus.

After a brief discussion it was AGREED:

That money from general Church funds could be used to support the Manna Project when necessary. e.g. in the region of £20-£30 for fresh produce, specific items, etc.

5. NEW MEMBER

Andy reported that Sam Knight, a student who attended MVBC and was now doing a year in Morocco, had requested membership of MVBC. The meeting could not vote on this as Sam had not yet been visited/interviewed regarding membership. Of course, MVBC could continue to provide Sam with prayer support.

ACTION - Andy to email Sam.

6. UPDATE FROM YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK STEERING GROUP

Charles Laxton reported that we were losing some volunteers this summer which was being taken into account when planning activities for September.

A successful training weekend had been held during July at Lineham Farm, focussing on team building and developing Y & C work as a ministry. John Hawksworth was the guest speaker. Charles saw the weekend as a milestone in the development of Y & C work at Meanwood. About 30 people attended.

7. LETTER FROM NORMA HOBBS

Andy read out a letter from Norma Hobbs, written as a Church member. She expressed her dismay that a children's and family worker had not yet been employed. It was acknowledged that Norma had put a lot of thought and care into writing the letter, but unfortunately time had not been programmed into this evenings agenda to have a proper discussion on it. Bill Pitchford explained that there would be a forum in the future for people to put their views forward. Chris Baker said the Y & C W Steering Group were the best people to look at this and respond and to take it forward into the wider discussions.

ACTION - The Y & C W Steering Group would consider Norma's letter and Charles would respond in light of wider discussions.

8. THE WAY FORWARD

Charles reported that the Elders had been discussion how to take the Church forward and he was project managing the process. When the Elders tried to picture the church in 10 years, their thoughts were closely aligned. They all saw it as a bigger church in the future with many people coming through the doors. Charles presented a power point slide show, which is attached to the minutes.

Questions and Answers

Q. Would like to see the short term plans which will achieve the 10 year plan.

A. This could overload people with information. We need to build in flexibility to be led by the Holy Spirit.

A. This is the progress to date. We need to move out in faith to advance the Kingdom. Remember the enemy would like to destroy this work so we need to be on our guard.

A. Unity is really key to this otherwise division will take place. We have to take responsibility for ourselves and how we respond to others.

A. We need a good horizon to focus on. There will be turbulence as we move forward with this.

Away Day

A Church Away Day was suggested for one Saturday in September, probably at Moortown Baptist Church, with as many people as possible attending to participate in taking the proposals forward. A recommendation would then be put to the October Church meeting.

ACTION - Hilary to find a suitable date in September.

9. BUILDING STEERING GROUP

Chris Baker presented a power point slide show which is attached to the minutes.

It was noted that a meeting had taken place earlier in the day with Leeds City Council who viewed our proposals favourably. There would be 2 consultation days in August and September when people could go along and discuss the proposals in more depth with Chris and Charles. A recommendation would then be put to the October Church meeting.

Questions and Answers

Q. What would be the difference between renting the building from LCC and from a Charitable Trust?

A. The Church would have a major representation in the company, and would have a say in what happened.

Q. What would happen if someone wanted to use the building for something which did not fit with our values?

A. This is crucial and is being thought about.

Q. Wouldn't a learning centre be in competition with Leeds City Colleges?

A. Yes, it would, but Leeds City Council has high targets to meet in training people locally in Maths, English and IT, and they support our proposals. Some people prefer the informality of attending classes at a Community Centre rather than a College. This would not exclude other groups from using the Centre, as at present.

Q. What would happen to the building if the company folded?

A. At the minute, within the proposed contract, it would default to MVBC, then if MVBC defaulted it would go to the YBA.

Comment

Richard D requested that it be recorded in the minutes that "he strongly objected to these proposals being 'dropped' on him and the church membership" without clearer explanation. Despite being reassured by Charles and Bill that Charles had explained the proposals to him sometime prior to today's meeting, Richard concluded he could not remember this happening.

Bill stated that the Church was like a family and that disputes were to be expected, and were a good thing sometimes. However, it was important how the disagreements were made and that relationships were not damaged. Openness and honesty were key.

Two sessions would be arranged for further questions and clarification as this was a big project for the Church to take on board; dates and times to be arranged.

The meeting closed in prayer.