

MEANWOOD VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
MINUTES OF CHURCH MEETING
HELD at 8 p.m. on TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2009
at MEANWOOD INSTITUTE

PRESENT: 29 members and 4 non-members
APOLOGIES: 6 members

1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev Andy Hobbs opened the meeting in scripture and prayer.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the church meeting held on 21 July 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Item 5 - Andy confirmed he had contacted Sam Knight in Morocco.

4. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Paul Smith presented the accounts to 30 October 2009.

5. MANNA MINISTRY

Andy reported that the Leadership had considered a report and proposals about the Manna Ministry and he read out the recommendations. Sue Woolmore and Rosemary Laxton provided some background information.

The Manna for Meanwood Ministry would continue to be developed through Health Visitors etc. (*Action: Amy Crawford*)

The proposals for other areas of Leeds needed to be researched further before an informed decision could be made. (*Action: Amy Crawford*)

However, it was agreed that

- *a sum of £200 be allocated to Rosemary with immediate effect, for use within her organisation to purchase groceries for families who did not have immediate access to State Benefits. (Action: Treasurer)*
- *someone from Manna Ministry would attend a Leadership meeting to talk through the proposals for other areas of Leeds.*

6. FEEDBACK FROM ANDY AND NORMA

Andy and Norma had recently returned from a sabbatical in Afghanistan. They were both very grateful to the church for allowing them to do this and gave a brief overview of their time there.

7. THE WAY FORWARD

Bill Pitchford presented feedback from the Church Away Day on Saturday 26 September 2009. Discussion took place on the following points:

Community Strand - targeting men

An explanation was given to the thinking behind this point.

It was agreed that care should be taken to be an inclusive church and not exclude any groups.

Worship Strand

It was acknowledged that worship, in its many forms, was woven into every area of Christian/church life, resulting in considerable overlap.

Youth and Children's Work

This was acknowledged as another area which crossed over boundaries.

The Church Leaders were looking for general agreement on "The Way Forward" to progress matters further. The meeting was, therefore, asked to vote on the proposed "Way Forward". There was some confusion and uncertainty amongst the membership about taking a vote.

Vision Statement

Reference was made to the Vision Statement as it was included in "The Way Forward". Some concern was expressed about the use of the word "large" when describing MVBC in the future. A full discussion followed. Several people felt they needed to read and digest the proposals and that further tweaking was needed.

It was agreed that the power point presentation be made available to all church members and considered in Housegroups and individually, with any comments being submitted to the Leadership Team by the end of November.

It was acknowledged that further discussions would slow down the progress of taking the proposals forward. It was also acknowledged that the discussions about "The Way Forward" would impact on the appointment of a new Pastor but would not necessarily delay it.

It was agreed that a profile for recruiting a new Pastor would be prepared and presented one Sunday morning in December. (Action: Leaders)

8. BUILDING UPDATE

Discussions/negotiations continued about purchasing a church building. This process was running in parallel with "The Way Forward" as a church.

9. PAID CHURCH WORKERS

Andy reported that more and more churches were employing paid workers as church members had such busy lives. There was a strong possibility that MVBC could obtain a grant from LCCT for a church worker, provided it was an ecumenical appointment working with other churches. Andy had spoken to the Vicar at Holy Trinity who had a heart for children and young people, and would be willing to work with MVBC.

10. CHURCH HOLIDAY - dates now 14 - 21 August 2010.