



IPSWICH CITY
UNITING CHURCH
Finding New Life Together in Christ

Ipswich City Uniting Church

Annual Congregation Meeting

March 2022



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Annual Congregation Meeting 2021

SECTION 1:

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING Ipswich City Uniting Church, 10.25 am, Sunday 28 February 2021

The meeting was opened by the Chair Anne England with a welcome to all and she then asked Rev Ross McKay to offer a prayer of dedication.

PRESENT: As per attendance Register

APOLOGIES: As noted on Attendance Register. (Incl Ron Elvery, Jean Graham,)

Correspondence In: As listed on Agenda

Correspondence Out: As listed on Agenda

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

In relation to a visit to Aspley UC. Lorraine Gibson reported that transport arrangement was the difficult point. Hiring a bus was too expensive, we could go by train but with a majority of our people having mobility issues, getting to the station and back again, particularly Ipswich, was the main issue (Aspley UC have a bus and could collect us from the station at their end). Lorraine expressed that she was no longer available to co-ordinate any future visit and the meeting voted not to go ahead with the visit. Reply to Aspley UCA to be made.

Rhonnie read the letter to Mr Peter Cranna concerning Synod's proposal to combine MDIFs and outlining ICUC's concerns that not enough time had been allowed to consider the proposal. Letters were sent to Synod from other churches voicing similar concerns. As a result the proposal was not passed at Synod and a Synod Committee has been formed to further discuss and formulate Rules around use of any combined MDIFs. Rhonnie and Chris are our representatives on this Committee and to date there have been no further developments and the above was for the information of the meeting.

Rev Ross explained the current MDFs, in that it was a fund formed from proceeds of sale of a church's assets, eg a Manse, and also said he was not happy with the proposal. He further explained that it had always been the case that Synod could "take" these funds after 10yrs, but that this has never occurred, further MDFs could be accessed for missional reasons only and not for day to day church activities and property maintenance.

BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:

Some discussion arose concerning various Community Social events.

1. ANZAC day at Wivenhoe Dam. It was noted that this would not be an issue this year as ANZAC day falls on a Sunday. However, it was noted that any event organised under the banner of the church is subject to the various Risk assessments and Insurance implications. However, an event can be organised by individuals as a wholly private event, but the event cannot be advertised through church media, either written or verbal.
2. Sacred Music Festival (check with Chris H), Hymnfest, 60/40 Dance, or Bush Dance it was decided to delay these until we have more surety around health and safety.
3. Fashion Parade: It was decided to set a date in October and Gayle Kendall said she was happy to organise and at this stage we would plan for it to be a ticketed event.
4. Christmas events: Ashley Jones suggested we look at what the other 3 churches are planning and what we can contribute, but that a Christmas Lunch – particularly as a thank-you to

volunteers etc. should still be planned. Further an evening Carol Service of Nine Lessons as we held in 2020 should also be planned. Also, we should combine with Glebe Road for Christmas Eve and Carols in the Park (if it can be held in 2021).

5. Garage Sale – “wait and see”, as this relies on having sufficient goods available and does require quite a bit of work and organising.
6. It was suggested that all proposals go to Church Council and that maybe a small committee be formed to look at the organisation of any or all of these events. The main concern from the meeting was the issues around covid-19 and whether vaccination will allow us to safely return to a full Church social calendar.

Rev Robert Walker raised his opposition on the acknowledgement of First Nations at the beginning of each service. He felt we should be acknowledging God first, highlighted that he had worked in indigenous communities in Nth Qld and any services were inclusive of all races and cultures. He commented that Australia was not a nation when Europeans first came, and indigenous peoples were in tribes and often fought each other. Quoted chorus from We are Australian.

Rev Bruce raised issues with the statement on the form required to be signed by church members who work in various church groups and believes that it is holding the individual legally responsible, and the wording could be pre-empting court decisions that could be passed on any issues.

Bruce felt that the rules agreed to could inadvertently be breached thus holding a person unexpectedly liable.

Ross said that the document came out of the Royal Commission into abuse of children where the Government required various institutions who deal with children to have such a document signed and that the document was approved by the Government.

Non-signing means that person can't work with children. He also said that some people with a Blue Card maybe un-linked with the church if it is not being used with the church, their Blue Card would still be valid but they can't work with children in the UCA.

GROUP REPORTS

It was proposed that Reports be taken as read. Accepted

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Mr Peter Hall, made note that there was an error in the printing of the report and that some lines needed to be deleted. He further highlighted several points in his report and the report was accepted as recommended and that R Ramsay & Co be appointed as Auditor.

MINISTER'S REPORT

Rev Ross McKay gave a short verbal report mainly highlighting the issues of the Blue Card and the reasons for unlinking as well as further addressing the issue of the statement on the form required to be signed by Church members who volunteer.

ELECTION OF CC OFFICERS

Anne England was re-elected as Chair and Chris Howden as Secretary.

It was agreed by the meeting to have 9 CC members. Therefore, there was only one position vacant as Mrs Del Little's position had ended. There were two nominations for the position, Mrs Del Little and Ms Lorelle Fowler. Voting papers were distributed by the scrutineers and Ms Lorelle Fowler was elected to the Council for a 2-year term.

There were 2 nominations for the position of Presbytery Representative, Dr David Walters and Mrs Liz Raymond. Mrs Liz Raymond was elected with Mr Rob Bennett as Deputy.

There being no further business the meeting closed as 12.30pm.

Special Meeting of the Congregation

Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting Ipswich City Uniting Church, 10.10am, Sunday 13 June 2021

The meeting was opened by the Chair Anne England with a welcome to all and she then asked Rev Ross McKay to offer a prayer.

PRESENT: As per attendance Register

APOLOGIES: As noted on Attendance Register. (Incl Margaret Berlin, Rohit & Vara Padarath)

BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:

This special congregation meeting is being held to discuss and vote on the amalgamation of the Uniting Church congregations in Ipswich. This will be the only business of the meeting.

The motion is, *“that the Ipswich City Uniting Church congregation agrees to the Strategic Plan of the ?? Uniting Church (name to be decided by the joining congregations) and will amalgamate as one congregation with Brassall UC, Glebe Road UC and Trinity UC.”*

Anne asked if there were any questions before beginning the voting procedure.

1. Rod McAuliffe asked a procedural question: *If our church votes yes and some other churches voted no to the amalgamation, would that negate the vote of ICUC*. Rev Ross stated that if this happened, we would seek the wisdom of the Presbytery and also our Church Council would have to consider the way forward.
2. David Walters spoke of previous church shutdowns and then asked: *What advantages the amalgamation would be to the 4 churches*. Rev Ross explained numerous advantages such as when we want to provide Messy Church Services, members of the other parishes could help run this type of venture and we, in turn, could assist other parishes.
3. Liz Raymond asked what percentage of the vote would carry the motion. She suggested 75%. Rev Ross stated that CC had discussed 51%. Anne called for a show of hands. It was decided that 51% would be sufficient.

Voting procedure then began.

- Scrutineers were appointed: Jan Jones and Gordon Duncan
- Voting slips were distributed, filled in and collected by scrutineers
- Results: Announced by Chairperson. 81% carried the motion
- Motion: Destroy the voting papers. Jan Jones shredded these

Rev Ross and the congregation closed the meeting with *The Grace*.

Meeting closed: 10.40am

SECTION 2:

Minister's Report 2021

2021 commenced with the arrival of my wife, Karen, and myself at a new congregation. Ipswich seemed a long way from home but with the warmth of the welcome we soon found our place. We thank the congregation for accepting us and taking us in. It was decided the congregation could afford .8 or 8/10 of a full-time placement. It is hard not to do what is necessary and this became full time or more work with less income than we were accustomed to. But it was what God called us to and we believe God called us to Ipswich.

The first few months were spent listening to what had happened and what was needed. Some pain, some joy, and a lot of hope for the future. We heard of the activities of outreach and activities of the congregation. The church amalgamation also loomed large as did COVID-19. I initially spent a lot of time with the leadership, listening, encouraging and empowering. Pastoral care was never ignored, neither was the spreading of God's word through groups and Sunday worship. Spending more time with groups than home visits, it became obvious there were a couple of requirements. A dishwasher followed by the sound system became priorities to allow the church to function as fully as possible in the infectious environment of COVID.

With reserve funds in MDF, the dishwasher was purchased which allowed crockery to come back into use. Morning teas became environmentally friendly again, putting away the paper cups and the tea and coffee tasted so much better. It was wonderful to see how the ladies, and some men, took to the operation of the dishwasher. It was particularly helpful at UnitingKids and made serving food to the combined Ladies' Fellowship morning tea and volunteers' lunch a pleasure. New skills were learnt in serving food and hygiene.

During the year we celebrate Easter and Christmas as the Christian festivals. At Pentecost and a Carol service we hosted all locations for combined services. 3 baptisms occurred during the year and I had the honour of celebrating the lives of 6 people at funerals with their families.

The sound system brought a new speaker into play followed by a new sound desk. The speaker is unseen; however, the sound desk made a large difference and will be a valuable asset into the future with its capabilities far exceeding our requirements. The learning curve was not excessive for those working it and the results have been significant, especially with the singers now able to hear themselves through the foldback speakers. This has enhanced worship, even if the congregation has not noticed it, and made my task easier when I chose hymns, choruses and songs for worship. A big thankyou to all the people who sit upstairs on the PowerPoint and sound desk each week and in particular to Peter Hall who did a lot during the installation and throughout the year.

For most, Sunday worship is the focus of their Christian week. I have enjoyed leading worship each week. A couple of times from my home office appearing to be behind the pulpit, thanks to modern technology, while the congregation watched from home, possibly in their pjs.

Having worked with streaming, although not live, in a previous congregation the learning curve for the broadcasting of services was not as steep. Ashley's patience with my request for changes was extreme and the output each week of up to 80 homes is a credit to him in the first instance and to the other people who work each week in this area, John Hall and Karen. Our in-home congregation has grown significantly at the end of 2021 as the new variant made staying isolated a necessity for some.

Streaming live brought a new dimension to worship and staying in camera shot became important. Preparing for worship with prayers, songs - old and new and writing a sermon was not as demanding as being both live and camera available which meant extra concentration and I went home tired most Sundays, but I enjoyed the extra learnings I was getting. The great people who led worship also made it a pleasure. Peter Clem and Liz on organ and piano, Lorelle, Chris, Anne, John Walker and the band – Peter Hall and Peter Clem, Chris, Anne and John Walker again made our style of worship change from traditional to contemporary, with hymns and modern songs, organ, piano and guitar. It was so exciting to see what would come next week.

2021 saw some other changes beside the purchase of equipment. The amalgamation of the 4 locations, 5 communities became a reality. This took much of my time. Organising, writing proposals, and understanding the nature of what was happening. Explaining to people and trying to bring peace in what was an uncertain time. With the amalgamation came a rationalism of office staff and Jan decided it was the season for change for her. I thank her for all the work she did over many years and for the patience and help she gave me. She was replaced by Eleanor Arnett working from both the Ellenborough St and Glebe Rd offices. Meeting after meeting continued and in November the recommendation came to move to Glebe Rd for worship post June 2022. This was not received well by the congregation, and I continue to work in this space.

Joys during the year came from working with the congregation in the outreach areas. Although I confess to doing no work in the NewLife OP Shop, I always looked forward to the visits there, to walk around and say hello and look busy. I was always welcomed and found someone to talk to. The work of the congregation and volunteers in the OP Shop is substantial. Yes, it is a source of income, but more, it is a safe place for people to come, sometimes to receive a food hamper and chat about their troubles, sometimes about God and this is important work. Karen and I catered for the volunteer's lunch, and it was exhilarating to hear the testimonies about God from the non-church volunteers at the lunch as they spoke about how much the OP Shop had meant to their walk with God in 2021. Ruth, Rhonnie, Dell, Helen and Peter Hall as well as all the non-church volunteers need our thanks.

UnitingKids, another outreach was something I looked forward to. I got into the habit of going for a coffee with the men who came to put out the furniture and then sometimes staying to help or talk in the kitchen or roam about the hall and chat with mums who were alone. Seeing the leaders sitting on a lounge speaking to a mum and giving care was so encouraging to me and allowed me to see Christ at work in Ellenborough St. I thank Gayle and the team – Rhonnie, Susan, Liz, Chris, Jean, Glen and the guys Peter Hall, Gordon, Robert and Rod for their work here. You gave me a glimpse of heaven.

Speaking with the UnitingKids leaders it is obvious there was a need for a next step. Some families did go to their own church and that was great but how about the others. How do we get these families involved in church when church is foreign for them. We decided to start Messy Church. Developed, not as an entry to our traditional service, but as a standalone service where non-church families can feel welcome and safe. Including songs, activities like craft and games, and God time followed by a meal, Messy Church commenced in July 2021. Under my leadership Rhonnie and Rod, Gayle, Peter Hall, Karen and Bruce led the activities. Liz led the music which were all video clip kids' songs and Chris and Jean fed us. We worked as a team, with timelines and an understanding that to make it look spontaneous, we needed to be disciplined and the team worked well to the glory of God. The keenness of the kids on arrival and attentiveness during the service showed how successful it was. Thanks to all the people mentioned above and to those who attended from the congregation to support and bring family.

The warm welcome at the Adult Leisure Group always lifted my heart. The conversation was always good and allowing me to suggest letters to add to the board games was very kind of everyone. Realising we have people attending from Brassall UC and the Lutheran church shows the importance of this

group. Helen does a good job as president with Doreen as treasurer and morning tea by Margaret and others make the mornings something to be remembered.

Late in the year it was decided to hold a combined Ladies' Fellowship meeting. This was a great success with our ladies preparing the food and Karen and I serving drinks. It was humorous to see the surprise on some ladies faces as they saw Peter Arnett and myself serving tea and coffee. Thanks to Jean and her team for this work.

Writing this in early 2022, I am not sure what will happen this year but that is in God's hands. I am sure God's hands are secure and will hold us. Karen and I look forward to the birth of our third grandchild and this is a nice distraction at this time. Life does go on and if we trust our creator has something special for us, wherever we are, the divine promise will be fulfilled. I offer you blessings and peace.

Shalom

Rev Ross Mackay

Ipswich Uniting Church – Ellenborough St.

Church Council Report 2021

Like many other church and community organisations, this year has been impacted by the Corona Virus. Having said that, meetings were held regularly, and much business was discussed.

The year started with a committee of:

J Waker chairman, C Howden secretary, P Hall Treasurer and the following members: R Bennett, D Coker, T Cole-Clark, A England, R McAuliffe, E Raymond. Rev R Mackay also attended meetings.

During the year Trish Cole-Clark resigned.

The most important business discussed this year resulted in our meeting opposing the decision of the Council of the four churches to close ICUC and move all worship to Glebe Road. This is an ongoing item of business.

We will continue to meet as Covid determines.

John Walker
Chairman

Property & Finance Committee Report 2021

Introduction

This committee has continued to meet throughout 2021 under the organisational and administrative changes, as well as the COVID limitations we have all experienced. These arrangements include the use of flying minutes amongst committee members to overcome the need for physical meetings.

Membership now includes Rev Ross Mackay, and Administration Officer, Eleanor Arnett, replacing Jan Jones who formally finished on 19th November.

Our committees thanks to Jan is best expressed in the following extract from my previous AGM report:

It would be remiss of this writer to omit the outstanding work by our Admin Officer, Mrs Jan Jones. Her alertness in matters needing to be addressed; her attention to detail; her timely communication, and her personal professional presentation, amount to an immense benefit for the Ipswich City Uniting Church (sic) in its responsibilities and missional outreach to the wider community.

Thanks Jan. Today, our committee consists of:

Gayle Kendall,
Gordon Duncan,
Eleanor Arnett,
Peter Hall,
Rev Ross Mackay,
Rev Bruce Raymond, as chairman.

Administrative Changes

With the reduction of hours for our Admin Officer, (Tuesdays and Thursdays), Ray White Real Estate are now providing the property maintenance response on our behalf, particularly in relation to our tenants.

Recent feedback from our tenants indicates the service performance by Ray White is below standard, with telephone calls and emails being ignored. Church enquiries are being made with Ray White at the time of this report.

Signage

Op Shop exterior signage is finally completed, installed by Bremer Signs. Additional directional signage in the church grounds complex, including arrow signage painted on the bitumen surface, has been completed.

Regulation fire safety signage has been installed and updated in the church and Wyvern House.

The church announcements sign in the front yard of Ellenborough Street has been ruled unsafe by Synod, and now condemned from further use. Alternatives are being considered, including an illuminated sign. This would require town planning approval.

Fire Safety

Early July, Rob Edwardson, qualified fire warden at Glebe Road church, made a walk-through examination of our church property complex in company with Ellenborough Street fire warden, Peter Clem. While many of Rob's recommendations have been implemented, such as an additional extinguisher in the Op Shop, some fire safety matters still need to be addressed.

In particular, this includes the required completion of fire safety training for members, as well as evacuation drill for worshippers. Completion of these matters has been hindered not only by COVID limitations, but also health issues, separate from the pandemic, for particular members.

Guardian Fire Control annually test Exit & Emergency Lighting throughout our complex.

The annual testing of Fire Alarm Panel and smoke detectors for the church hall, church office, and day respite centre was completed in September.

Trip Time Testing (Electrical Safety Switches)

This is a dual testing arrangement for electrical safety switches, required by law, to be taken every six months and twelve months, to ensure the safe use of electrical appliances, power boards, tools, etc., used in workplaces.

The former Church Council approved members Peter Hall and Gordon Duncan to conduct the six monthly testing which is simply a “push button” test. The more accurate twelve monthly “trip time” test requires particular equipment used by an approved operator. i.e. an electrician.

Both forms of testing were recently completed by Strybos Electricals for our church complex. Future six monthly “push button” testing will need to be conducted and logged by our church members. Records show this needs to commence on July 1st.

New Cleaner

Julie Robertson resigned and our new cleaner, Jane Gregory, completed her review period on 30th November when she was informally interviewed by myself and Ms Lorelle Fowler. This process secured her employment with us. Synod advised.

Manse

Annual agent’s inspection by Harcourts found all in order with the exception of the en suite ceiling needed painting. Done, after quotes were obtained.

Helen Clark School of Dancing

After concern was expressed by church members about the growing amount of dancing school equipment being stored on the church hall stage and back room, a meeting was held between P&F committee members and dancing school principals.

A large amount of dancing school property has since been removed from church premises. The usage of the hall and stage space now needs to be monitored, as the dancing school responds to increasing student numbers, (currently curtailed by COVID). They are looking for extra dance floor space on our church premises and elsewhere.

So, by mutual agreement amongst the dancing school, our P&F committee, and the current tenants of the upper room Sunday school building, namely Narcotics Anonymous and Gamblers Anonymous, a heavy duty plastic floor covering is being installed there. The purchase and installation of the floor covering is at the dancing school expense. We are currently negotiating with the dancing school about an incremental increase in rent with their increased use of our premises.

Approval has also been granted to the dancing school to repaint the walls and trimmings. The school provided sound specifications of paint colour and quality, recommended by a student’s dad, a professional housepainter. (off white, grey)

As landlords, the church will bear the cost (estimated \$500 - \$700), considering we are part future benefactors of these improvements. This cost is also being factored into the increased rental negotiations.

Solar Panelling

With the given history of poor workmanship with the installation of our roof solar panelling, difficulties still exist in having the system upgraded to the required standards. The delay is due to the availability of suitably qualified tradespeople.

COVID 19

Has struck FOCAL staff in Wyvern House. Two weeks ago, they were reduced to only three staff members reporting negative. Op Shop staff were advised on Tuesday 18th January of the outbreak.

Due to the nature of FOCAL work, interacting with vulnerable folk, staff who reported positive were prohibited from attending their office. Their admin officer, Chris Ketley, had made several attempts to have their offices COVID cleaned. This was to occur on Saturday 5th February.

Conclusion

The structures and fittings within the Ellenborough Street complex are not new. They require regular maintenance and repairs. So we can expect as users and occupants that things sometimes need attention. Should you see something that requires fixing or adjusting, then I encourage you to let us know.

Once more I express my gratitude to my fellow committee members whom I know have put themselves out in their personal lives on some occasions, to address property and finance requirements.

And I know I speak for all committee members when I say I am looking forward to working with Eleanor who has already shown a willingness and vitality in her newly appointed role.

I respectfully request this report be adopted by members of the Ellenborough Street church, Annual General Meeting, 2022.

Grace and Peace to each one of you.

[signed original held by author]

Rev Bruce G Raymond
Minister of the Word (ret)
Chairperson
Property and Finance Committee
4th February 2022.

Live Streaming of Services Report 2021

The live streaming service has continued to provide a relevant connection to a number of the congregation who are not able to attend church in person. With the growing awareness that Coronavirus (COVID19) was not about to disappear from our midst, the church considered how we might build sustainability into the service. This is realised in terms of operating the equipment, the type of equipment and broadening the number of operators.

The church invested into streamlining the operation of the streaming service, led by Rev Ross Mackay and supported by church council. This included integrating the screen powerpoint, establishing pre-determined set of shots, and therefore making it very easy to use.

We continue to look to grow the number of operators with Karen Mackay and John Hall joining the ranks to share the workload. The value of the investment of dollars and time is well identified with the regular number of members joining in live each Sunday. This level of connection is vitally important. The catch-up opportunity, to watch at your leisure continues to be popular. It is during peak times such as lockdowns and of more recent times with the highly contagious variant, that we see live numbers grow significantly.

The equipment is now at a very satisfactory level, and we need to see more people take on the role of operator.

Dr. Ashley Jones
Livestream

New Life Report 2021

2021 NewLife, like for almost every organisation within the church 2021 has been difficult to navigate. However, with the commitment of all our volunteers we managed to continue with the outcomes set out by our Mission Statement: *'Growing together and reaching out as disciples of Christ.'*

- Reach out to people
- Build relationships
- Give generously of ourselves
- Show Jesus by the things we do.

This is what we endeavour to achieve. The Gospel in ACTION.

The shop had a few changes during the year. A move around of stock and racks, a new men's room, an odd bit of small furniture and books for sale, and a new pastoral care room where folk come and have a chat and coffee.

The ladies have decorated the shop at different times of the year to mark community celebrations.

ANZAC Day, St Valentine's Day, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, November 11, Easter, Christmas, Daniel Morcombe Day, Spring, Winter.

Donations continue to arrive, so much stock that we have taken over the old Choir Room for extra storage.

Our earnings were not as much as last year because of the Covid shutdowns. However, we still managed to help people with food and clothing in their time of need. Two Christmas Parcels were given from the shop from donations received from generous people. Food parcels were also a valuable assistance to many who live rough. Thank you to those who gave financial support to this throughout the year.

We are now officially a retail shop. This means we can open extra days. We cannot do this without others offering to come in to help. If this sounds like something you would like to be part of, please see either Ruth, Del, Peter, Helen or Rhonnie.

We would love to hear from you.

I thank all the people who have given their time and talents: Those who have donated goods. Those who have told others about the shop. Those who come and give us encouragement. Those who pray for us.

NewLife belongs to The Ipswich Uniting Church, and we look forward to another year working in this part of God's Kingdom.

With His help.

Rhonnie McAuliffe
Coordinator

UnitingKids Report 2021

A few challenges thrown our way in dealing with Covid restrictions, but with great teamwork each Friday, another successful year for UnitingKids.

We had to put our thinking caps on in how children could do craft work so each was given a named folder containing paper, pencils, glue, scissors and pictures to work with when required. They proved very successful as the older ones took great delight in finding their own.

The familiar routine of playdough, puzzles, train set, sand play and bikes were maintained before the much-loved music session. Lots of cleaning up after each activity but by the end of the year, we had it down to a fine art. Thanks once again to Liz and Peter for providing the music and to Ross for the added visual effects. It was wonderful to have both Mums and kids assist in picking up floor mats and soft play pieces ready for cleaning before they sat for music. I feel this little gesture bought our group much closer. Sometimes it was a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth though!

Numbers did drop off dramatically in the middle part of the year, but as the weather warmed, began to increase. 15 children were present for our final morning of the year. Special thanks go to the Easterbrook family for once again donating a stuffed toy for each child. A truly generous gesture which bought much delight.

At the end of each year, it is time to say Good-bye to those heading off to school. This is always a sad time as we have watched them develop from shy toddlers to confident young kids ready to tackle the big world. Lucian and Lachlan were presented with a certificate to mark the occasion. Thanks to Bruce and Ross.

Our morning could not go ahead without a willing band of helpers who contribute each week in so many ways. Rod, Gordon, Peter, and Ross for setting up then putting equipment away and our ladies, Rhonnie, Sue, Jean, Chris, Liz and Glen. A huge Thank You to you all.

From me, a very special Thank You to Rhonnie for her continued guidance and support.

I pray that God will continue to bless UnitingKids in these uncertain times.

Gayle Kendall
Coordinator

Special Events 2021

FRONTIER SERVICES REPORT

While keeping in mind the restrictions of Covid 19 we decided to continue the theme from 2020 and hold a Virtual BBQ. Frontier Services advertise their Great Outback BBQ every year and all locations of the Ipswich Uniting Church decided to join in this fundraising venture.

Families or Bible Study Groups could hold their own outback BBQ and collect a donation.

I am happy to report that Ellenborough Street raised \$601.80.

With donations of \$626 from the other locations we were able to send a total of \$1227.80 to assist Frontier Services with their endeavours.

CAROL SERVICE SAUSAGE SIZZLE

On Wednesday 22 December we held an outdoor sausage sizzle followed by 'Carols in the Church'. This was a lovely evening supported by members of all locations of Ipswich Uniting Church and some of the families from UnitingKids and Messy Church. It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves.

A big thankyou to our team of volunteers who cooked, served and cleaned up with a smile on their faces at all times.

Christine Howden
Events Organiser

FASHION PARADE

The Fashion Parade was postponed to early next year as Jo Jos and Soul Sista were revamping their premises.

Gayle Kendall
Event Organiser

Adult Leisure Group Report 2021

Our first meeting was 1st February, seventeen members attended, a great start.

8th March was our AGM. 10.30am – Welcome and opening prayer by Rev Ross/Chairperson for the morning. Attendances as per sign-in book, apologies Basil Coker, Rhona Briggenshaw, Ailsa Lee and Vi Jorgensen. Reports by President and Treasurer, read, seconded, and accepted. No business arising. Correspondence – in bank statements and out - thankyou note to Mr Gordon Duncan. Election of officers, no change from 2020 – President/Secretary Helen Crook, Vice President Basil Coker, Treasurer Doreen Coker, and Liaison to Church Council Doreen Coker. General Business – Vote of thanks to Val Westphal. A donation of \$200.00 to be given to the Church. Rev Bob Walker offered a vote of thanks to President. Meeting closed 10.45am.

Leisure Group members enjoyed a full year of fellowship, and had visitors and guests during the year, notably on 28th June Lorraine and Paul Coker joined us. This was a special morning, as both shared with us the importance of communication with people who cannot hear. Lorraine, a specialist teacher for the hard of hearing, had us using the sign language by the end of her talk. Not only that, but also singing the Colours of the Rainbow!! A most memorable presentation by two committed people who give to their community.

Unfortunately, we had members who, due to ill-health or mobility issues, could not attend meetings in the later part of the year; however, contact has been kept with them by phone calls or visits from other group members. Thanks to those who shared their time, to keep in touch, and informed.

On 6th December we enjoyed a special lunch together at Queens Park Café, everyone ate their fill!! Our last meeting was an informal Christmas break up on 13th December with a themed quiz, morning tea and singing. My thanks to everyone who attended, gave devotions, or helped in any way during the year to make our Monday mornings fun.

Hopefully we will meet again on 7th March 2022. Thank you all.

Helen Crook – President.

Community Service Activities 2021

With Covid restrictions this year there was nothing to report from AA and Narcotics Anonymous as their meetings ceased.

Also, with Covid restrictions still in place the Ellenborough St Leadership Group decided to purchase a small gift for our homebound members instead of the usual home cooked goodies. Rhonnie and I were able to purchase some boxes of Christmas shortbreads. We were pleasantly surprised to receive a voucher of \$50 from Woolworths at Brassall to help with this purchase. A thankyou card with Christmas wishes was hand delivered to the Manager of the store. After an afternoon of wrapping and writing Christmas cards, members of the church lovingly distributed these gifts for us. A heartfelt thankyou to all who assisted.

Christine Howden

SECTION 3:

Financial Report 2021

For Period: 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

The following report discusses the financial position of the church for the 2021 year. The movement of account balances over the period is presented in the following table:

ACCOUNT NAME	Opening Balance, 1/1/2021	Closing Balance, 31/12/2021
ANZ Business Extra Acct.	\$87,526.59	\$90,366.24
UCIS Fixed Term Investment	\$55,854.35	\$56,216.68
Mission Development Fund-East St	\$581,772.58	\$557,966.94
Mission Development Fund-Burnett St	\$12,085.32	\$12,140.22
MDF Project – Air Conditioning (\$42,625)	\$3,721.70	\$3,733.55
MDF Project – OP Shop Setup (\$30,000)	\$21,600.59	\$ 7,495.72
MSS Benefit Account	\$1,577.74	\$1,579.29
MDF Project – Solar Power (\$40,000)	\$20,744.12	\$20,810.3

Highlights on the performance of the Cash Manager/ANZ Business Extra Accounts are presented on the following pages.

The budget for 2021, predicted a large deficit of \$17,661, mainly driven by the expectation of spending \$10,000 on the possible Specific Projects, and extending the provision for ministry to 80% of a placement.

The 2021 financial performance for the year is summarised in the following table:

INCOME	Category	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	% of Budget
	Offerings	\$51,250	\$50,089	97.7
	Fundraising	\$2,000	\$250	12.5
	Property	\$158,896	\$168892	106.3
	Other Income, Contra	\$14,750	\$58,804	398
	Interest	\$0	\$0	-
	Interest from MDF Accounts	\$0	\$0	-
	Income Generating Activity	\$16,500	\$17,173	104
Total Income		\$248,396	\$309,958	124.8
EXPENDITURE				
	Ministry	\$83,212	\$86,527	103.9
	Combined Presbytery Mission Pool/ Redress Scheme	\$19,785	\$19,290	97.4
	Operating Expenses	\$48,010	\$52,163	108.6
	Worship Expenses	\$5,800	\$14,889	257
	Property	\$88,750	\$76,833	86.6
	Transfer to Other Accounts	\$0	\$0	-
	Income Generating Activity	\$12,500	\$16,645	133
	Specific Projects	\$10,000	\$40,771	133
Total Expenditure		\$266,057	\$307,118	115.4
Nett Total		-\$17,661	+\$2,839	

The year was completed with a surplus of \$2,839. This is an excellent outcome financially considering the potential that the COVID 19 could have inflicted on the finances. The outcome was the result of many factors. The following table lists the items where a significant variance occurred compared to the budget.

INCOME

Line Item Description	Variance to budget
Income from Major Tenants	+\$4,668
Income from Halls	+\$2,395
Sundry Income	+\$31,189
Jobkeeper Rebate	+\$5,100
Organ Restoration Fund	+\$20,020
Cleaning Expenses Recovery	-\$1,426
Respite Outgoings Recovery	+\$4,633

EXPENDITURE

Line Item Description	Variance to budget
Stipends	+\$3,315
Administration	+\$9,124
ATO BAS Returns	-\$4,352
Insurance	-\$21,200
Op Shop Establishment Costs	+\$4,510
Other Property Expenses	+\$4,865
Maintenance of Wyvern House	+\$1,815
Maintenance of Sunday School Building	-\$1,469
Specific Projects	+\$30,771
Maintenance of Grounds	-\$1,723
Maintenance of Church	+2,137
Maintenance of Church Hall	+\$1,002
Cleaning	+\$1,673

The main points in the performance for the year are:

- Total Offerings were below budget expectations. The budget assumed a 3% increase on 2020 actual results. The actual outcome was a 1% increase.
- Property income was above budget, with many of the line items doing better than budgeted.
- A review by Synod of the 2020 Jobkeeper scheme provided unexpected income of \$5,100.
- Reimbursement from the MDF for major projects boosted the Other Income item.
- Due to a change to a national insurance scheme, the timing of premium payments has again caused budgeting issues. The new premium notice was received in December, but the notice sent to Ellenborough St was for the entire Ipswich Uniting Church properties. By the time the matter was resolved the year was over and so the premium was not paid. The good news is that the amended premium was \$14,793.53 compared to a budget provision of \$21,200

SPECIFIC PROJECT BUDGETTING

Around the church premises, there are a number of matters which will eventually require attention. With our current approach of applying for grant funds to assist in the financing of the work, it becomes very difficult to accurately budget for the work, as there is no guarantee applications will be successful. As we have experienced in 2019, a grant was received for the conversion of the Sunday School building toilets. This was totally unexpected and had not been included in the 2019 budget.

Feedback from past failed applications suggest that requesting 100% funding will not get a successful outcome, so future applications will include some level of self-funding.

The following list outlines known issues and the current status (items with struck out text have been completed.):

- Hall Sound System Improvements – Original estimate \$1,000. Completed to the point of being functional, but a cabinet is still required to house the amplifier.
- ~~Interconnection of smoke alarms, Manse; required due to changed regulations; completed.~~
- Church roof ventilators: an application was submitted to a round of Heritage Grants. Grant application unsuccessful. Submission is to be made to future grant rounds. Estimate \$50,000.
- Fence Post Repairs – Estimate \$11,500; exemption certificate obtained. A new grant application has been submitted but no outcome has yet been notified. On hold pending securing of funding.
- ~~Solar Power – Estimate \$40,000. Completed, funded from MDF.~~
- Church Roof Beams- a new issue has been noticed near one of the roof beams in the church. An area of paintwork is showing possible signs of deterioration. Two contractors have looked at the situation to give a quote, but neither has followed up with further information.
- ~~Op Shop Air Conditioning – Project completed; funding from MDF.~~
- Failed Northern Retaining Wall – A section of retaining wall on the church northern boundary has failed. No progress has been made on this issue.
- Internal painting of Sunday School Building – Estimate \$8,500. Grant application unsuccessful. On hold.
- Sunday School Building Cabinets. The current cabinets are in very poor condition and should be replaced, including some reconfiguration. Estimate \$10,000. Grant application unsuccessful. On hold.
- Sunday School Building Floor Coverings. The floor coverings, both upstairs and downstairs are badly deteriorated and should be replaced. Estimate \$10,000. Grant application unsuccessful. On Hold.
- Carpark Pothole Repairs. A section of carpark was repaired using a spray seal process. Methodology was not totally successful. Cost was lower than asphalt patching.
- ~~Reclassification of Wyvern House. The reclassification has been completed. Minimal physical work required. Cost of application process well above budget. All costs covered by MDF project.~~

Works completed in 2021 under the Specific Projects cost centre were:

- Fine tuning of Live Streaming (paid through MDF)
- Replace 1 air conditioner in the Respite Centre
- New fans in the Church
- Replace hot water system in Wyvern House

- Replace section of failed stormwater pipe behind Sunday School Building
- Sound System Improvements (paid through MDF)
- Dishwasher Installation (paid through MDF)
- Laptop Computer for use by Church Council Secretary
- Tablet computer for use with UCare System
- Replace Church Data Projector (paid through MDF)

WYVERN HOUSE OCCUPANCY

Full occupancy of Wyvern House has been maintained during 2021.

At one time in 2020 FOCAL signalled a desire to relocate because they had outgrown the tenancy. However, they found that they were unable to find a large enough tenancy elsewhere at an affordable price. Their lease has been renewed with an increase in their floor space by including a meeting room that was previously meant to be a shared space.

Operation of the New Life Op Shop was impacted by Covid-19 shutdowns but not as much as occurred in 2020. Despite the shutdowns that occurred, the shop achieved its budget for the year. As the shop only opens two days per week, it has potential for greater income, but is limited by the availability of volunteers.

Wesley Mission Queensland (WMQ) occupies most of the upstairs level and has a five-year lease.

Muzique continues to occupy the remainder of upstairs, not being used by WMQ.

MANSE RENTAL

The manse remained fully occupied during 2021. Despite the tenant indicating a desire to leave, the expected vacancy has not yet occurred.

SPECIFIC PURPOSE FUNDS

In a number of areas in the accounts, funds are provided for specific purposes. The following table sets out these areas, lists the funds received and the expenditure against those funds.

SPECIFIC PURPOSE	Opening Balance@ 1/1/2021	Income (YTD)	Expenditure (YTD)	Closing Balance 31/3/2021
Unitingkids	\$1,384.68	\$0	\$231.71	\$1,152.97
Organ Repair Fund	\$2,315.98	\$20,020	\$5,775	\$16,560.98
Community Gifts	\$42.89	\$0	\$0	\$42.89
Food Pantry	\$383.89	\$595	\$250.25	\$728.64
Mid Year Social Event	\$126.50	\$0	\$0	\$126.50
Op Shop EFTPOS Setup	\$203	\$0	\$0	\$203
Missional Activity Projects	\$374.50	\$0	\$0	\$0
Can Recycling	\$12.30	\$390	\$402.30	\$0
Frontier Services Fundraising	\$0	\$1,227.80	\$1147.80	\$80.00
Garage Sale	\$1,525	\$0	\$1,525	\$0
Christmas Lights Project	\$0	\$211.05	\$0	\$211.05
Angel Tree Project	\$0	\$1,075.00	\$825.00	\$250.00
Christmas Bowl Appeal	\$0	\$515.00	\$0	\$515.00

The balances for Frontier Services Fundraising, Angel Tree Project and Christmas Bowl Appeal were transferred to the respective organisations in January 2022.

2022 BUDGET

As the community is now part of the wider Ipswich Uniting Church, there is no separate budget for 2022. During 2022, Ipswich Uniting Church will be transferring to Fiscal Year budgeting, i.e. July to June financial year.

Peter Hall
Treasurer

Questions to ask: