

# DRAFT CCVT Inc AGM Minutes | Wednesday 18 May 2022

## 4:00 pm Welcome

**Welcome** — Liz Hunter (CCVT Inc Chair, and Chair of the AGM) gave an acknowledgement of country and honoured Tony and Francine Riches who led the Melbourne Indigenous Church Fellowship for many years and have recently moved to WA.

**Devotional Reading and Prayer**— Rob Nyhuis (CCVT EO) read from Joshua 6:1-2, noting that, just as victory was given by God before it was seen in practice, we need spiritual perception to believe in faith for what he promises and which we do not yet see, a characteristic for which Abraham was also commended in Romans 4.

## Formal AGM Introduction

Chair formally opened the AGM, including noting:

*A quorum for a general meeting is a minimum of 25% of Affiliates represented at the Meeting; and it was noted that 47% of Affiliates were represented through their return of a Proxy and/or Delegate Form. This Meeting therefore achieved the necessary quorum.*

## Noted: Affiliations

Chair invited leaders from *Life Solutions Church* on stage, EO introduced Kelvin Sim and prayed over the church. Chair observed that the new Affiliate was proposed recently after receiving the endorsement of the CCVT Board, and prompted the Meeting to applaud in welcome.

Chair noted that the affiliation of the following churches had concluded in the past year:

- Avonsleigh Church of Christ
- Vision Church of Christ

## Minutes of 2021 CCVT AGM

Chair stated Motion 1 and called for any questions.

**Motion 1:** *“That the distributed draft Minutes are accepted as Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 CCVT Inc AGM.”*

**Moved:** Philip Kua **Seconded:** Kylie Kendall

Chair then put the motion to the vote:

*Based on the response, and the response of proxy delegates, the motion was passed.*

## ‘State of CCVT’

### ‘State of CCVT’ Update, including review of 2021—Rob Nyhuis, Executive Officer

EO acknowledged the challenge of the past year and expressed appreciation for the load carried by ministers. Acknowledgment was made of recent telephone difficulties, with a rectification plan imminent. It was noted that the Fairfield site is fully leased. An expression of thanks was given for the work of the State Youth Games team. The recent desire for churches to pursue incorporation was affirmed, noting the request for feedback on the templated local church constitution. Guidelines had also been distributed regarding the Change and Suppression Act for church implementation. A review of the CCVT constitution is commencing soon. New video-based ministry competency training is being piloted to enhance endorsement and leadership development. Thanks was expressed to Steve Sutton for his work as interim principal at Stirling, noting that both Stirling and ACOM exist to support churches to raise up leaders. The National Council is working together on a range of initiatives including most states responding to the important matter of redress for those harmed by past Indigenous ministries. CCVT regrets that, at times, churches close due to safety concerns even though CCVT would like churches to be able to continue and is offering coaching and consultancy, as well as supporting new churches and new regional placements. Healthy interdependence means collaboration and external support are needed if churches are

experiencing difficulties. Allowing CCVT staff and CCVT ministers from other churches to help, sooner rather than later, is important in strengthening local congregations.

Liz then acknowledged Rob's presentation and leadership role.

## **'Encore'**

David Ratten, on behalf of the CCVT Communities Team, presented an 'Encore' acknowledgment of ministers who had retired during the past year and to also to acknowledge significant ministry people who were recently deceased.

Ron Brooker 2021 (Past CCVT President); Keith Milne 2022 (Boronia, Red Hill, and past CCVT President) and Max Henderson 2022 (Boort) had all passed away over the past two years and were acknowledged.

The following ministers were thanked following the recent conclusion of ministry roles: Tony and Francine Riches (Melbourne Indigenous Church); Tony O'Malley (Key to Life); Peter Wingtan (Steeple); Amar Raj (Vision); Damien and Annemarie Ball (Ormond); Steve and Reimke Gunsser (Portland); and Neil Davies (Haddon). Also, Jim Catford (Doncaster), Andrew Evans (Balwyn), and Rick and Leonie Wright (Kardinia) were relocating to new ministry opportunities. Other recent conclusions are being followed up for confirmation of specific circumstances and will be acknowledged in due course.

Ian Smith was thanked for more than eight years of service as Executive Officer of the Victorian Council of Churches.

A Communities Team video was then shown of the CCVT Supporting Growing Churches initiative, available to existing churches to assist with revitalisation and new growth.

## **CCVT Annual Report**

*Further reference was made to the 2022 Annual Report, Stories and Statistics from 2021.*

### **CCVT Boards—Liz Hunter**

Liz stated that the board acknowledges the challenges and opportunities that churches have been facing and expressed appreciation. Thanks was also expressed to: Rob Nyhuis, CCVT EO, for his leadership; the CCVT team for their work; David Warren for his extensive and specific voluntary support as CCFS Chair; the members of the movement for their ministry participation; and the CCVT Board members for their support. CCVT was identified as an eclectic movement, where diversity in unity is celebrated.

### **CCFS — Joel Plotnek**

Joel identified four challenges and opportunities – insurance markets with their high levels of risk has made CCI an attractive service to churches, CCFS balances the raising of finances with continuing growth and the associated provision of loans, the investment portfolio seeks a balance of ethical investments with a solid return, and community engagement seeks new missional initiatives such as childcare while growing such services at a responsible rate. Thanks to Dean Phelan for his service to the board after concluding in 2021.

### **Stirling — Steve Sutton**

Thanks was expressed to Lynette Leach the former Board Chair for her service, concluding during 2021, and to the current board for the opportunity to serve as interim principal. It was noted that the Stirling property in Mulgrave had been sold with the College looking for next options. Increased collaboration with ACOM is exciting. It was noted that the best thing to do for Stirling right now is to pray for the challenges of the next few years.

### **GMP — Symon Pratt**

Apologies were received from John Gilmore due to a flight delay and his report was presented by Symon as a GMP board member. Symon thanked partners in Vic/Tas and across Australia for making so much of GMP's work possible throughout the world. Some stories were shared of the personal impact of the work GMP is blessed to be able to do. GMP is now fully accredited with DFAT at the highest level. Support from people in disasters through recent appeals has seen an amazing response. GMP has accepted responsibility on behalf of Churches of Christ in Australia for the harm caused to those in our past Indigenous ministry, and seek the support of

Affiliates in moving forward with Churches of Christ responding nationally. Val Zerna and John Gilmore are concluding this year. An Executive replacement committee and the GMP Board have the situation in hand.

Liz thanked all presenters. Thanks was also expressed to John Gilmore in his absence with further public acknowledgment soon.

Liz invited questions concerning the annual report.

David Goodwin (The Avenue, Surrey Hills) –

*Asked about the status of Brighton COC, named as disaffiliated in last year AGM minutes. It was noted that this was correct at the time of the Annual General Meeting and that a matter of process has resulted in this being reversed.*

*Asked about a note in the audited financials – does Prop Corp work under ‘the control of CCVT,’ giving Prop Corp the power to reallocate resources? This question was accepted on notice with a view to clarifying Prop Corp’s trusteeship role soon.*

Chair stated Motion 2 and called for any questions.

**Motion 2: “That the CCVT Inc Annual Reports of 2021 are accepted.”**

**Moved:** David Oon **Seconded:** Greg Illingworth

Chair then put the motion to the vote:

*Based on that response, and the response of proxy delegates, the motion was passed.*

Chair thanked the presenters and reminded all registered delegates to make their way to the voting station in order to lodge their Board election vote, if this had not yet been done.

## CCVT Annual Finance Reports

Chair introduced Kevin Pang (CCVT Accountant) to speak to the finance reports, and to give an update on the land tax matter by which certain affiliates were obligated to make contributions to a State Revenue Office claim on the use of assets.

### Finance Reports—Kevin Pang

The 2021 financial year ended with a reasonable surplus, which has placed the movement in a healthy position, CCVT can work towards achieving our strategic goals and funding the 2021-2025 strategic plan. The 2022 budget will therefore focus on what we’re working towards and may result in a deficit this coming year.

An online land tax webinar is being scheduled in June for interested Affiliates and it reflects the CCVT Board’s commitment to have strong and healthy churches.

Chair stated Motion 3 and called for any questions.

**Motion 3: “That the CCVT Inc Annual Financial Reports of 2021 are accepted.”**

**Moved:** Liz Hunter **Seconded:** Tim Keating

Chair then put the motion to the vote:

*Based on that response, and the response of proxy delegates, the motion was passed.*

Chair invited questions:

Danny Wilson (The Avenue, Surrey Hills) –

*Expressed thanks for the words about Ron Brooker.*

*Asked if we can get the full copy of the audited finances earlier, rather than the abridged version in the published annual report.*

*Asked about land tax obligations. It was noted that all churches that Prop Corp are trustees for properties for have been contacted already regarding their land tax contributions and that reported numbers reflect both CCVT/Prop Corp assets and local churches.*

## Any Other Questions/Comments

Chair invited further questions:

Doug Booth (Brimbank) –

*With a number of churches closing and buildings being sold over the years, Prop Corp have handled the process. Accountability from CCVT for funds involved would be appreciated, so would it be possible to see a report on the*

*use of assets? It was noted that given the history involved, and the different personnel and policies, it is difficult to assess these equally. Prop Corp will consider how best to give an overview. One thing to note is the Board has committed to the short-term release of such funds in support of the current strategic plan, inclusive of grants to churches.*

Danny Wilson (The Avenue, Surrey Hills) –

*Expressed support for Liz and David's renomination but queried what could be done about filling the existing vacancy. It was noted that COVID had impacted on people's availability with many being consulted and a call for nominations being made each year. Increased compliance, workload, and stage of life was also a factor. Liz encouraged all to consider nominating people for boards or committees, including giving local board members/leaders a leave of absence to serve, noting that the CCVT Board will consider the constitutional provision for co-opting for the coming year. Jody Destry, as chair of the nominations committee, also encouraged churches to nominate younger leaders, perhaps through committee membership, etc., initially.*

Claire Bentley (One Community Church) –

*As a young leader, it seems there are younger people who would be good for board roles but who need some support to do this well, so how could we mentor them into it? It was noted that there has been openness to considering a board mentor system and the CCVT board is keen to examine this further. Liz expressed appreciation for the idea.*

### **Prayer Time:**

Chair invited those present to pray for the Movement or their local church or other needs in small groups.

### **Board Election:**

Chair declared the election closed, with results to be provided to Affiliates as soon as possible.

Thanks was expressed for the services of Esther Kirkpatrick and Milton Oliver (noting that acknowledgment at the 2021 AGM was specifically for his prior role as chair), with both concluding their service during 2021.

### **Other Announcements (5min)**

Liz advised those present that a dinner was to be served immediately, followed by an evening session, with the remainder of the 2022 Summit to take place from 9:30am the next morning

### **Close of AGM & Prayer**

Thanks was expressed to Matt and Jody Destry and the Discovery team for hosting the 2022 Summit and AGM. The AGM was closed at 5.43pm.