

BCLC Business Meeting 26th January 2020

Meeting began at 12:30pm

Agenda

1. Welcome and prayer
2. Minutes of the last Business Meeting
3. Trustees report
4. Vote for a new Trustee
5. Finance report
6. Life group leaders report and Families Team report and future plans

1. Merlyn Ipinson Fleming welcomed everybody to the business meeting and talked about the purpose of the meeting to speak to members regarding where we are and to give leaders a chance to bring members up to date and for the Trustees to report on where we are at with the transition at BCLC and outlined the agenda for the meeting.

Recognising that God doesn't stop speaking to us he continues the conversation dependant on your relationship with God. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God. With partners support of the roles of Trustees and Leaders we can work together as a church and charity.

Prayer Stephen Greening

2. Minutes of the last Business Meeting 3rd February 2013

Debbie Merridew commented on the date and that the church was going through transition then. That Mike Holmes senior Pastor was leaving and that a new Pastor was being recommended to the Church.

3. Trustees Report Debbie Merridew

Debbie had been tasked with tracing the most up to date documents that we refer to as a Church and Charity. She thanked the retired secretary and John Gladdish for taking time to help her in her searches. We also acknowledge the concern from life group leaders and family team leaders about sourcing information and understanding the fact that the plans already in place will be followed through to completion.

In 2016 trustees did a lot of work clarifying our documents. This process is recorded in the Trustees minutes.

Statement of Beliefs and Guiding Principles, as the previous copy was dated 2004 and didn't take into account, we were now a charity. It was agreed by all the trustees at our meeting in June 2016, that this update would be presented to our partners before the next AGM.

Pam Gladdish retired previous secretary, having written the minutes in July 2016, read item five on the 2016 agenda stating that, after being previously circulated to all partners, the document was then voted on and accepted 45 for 0 against 1 abstain.

4. Vote for Jane Williams by Special Resolution to become a trustee.

Following the above procedures under a Special Resolution Jane was proposed at the AGM on October 2019, the trustees proposed a vote by show of hands.

Votes For: 20 - Against: 0 - Abstain: 4

Jane Williams was duly elected as a trustee for BCLC.

Merlyn asked to minute that, this is done in the light of the trustees not being -quorate, as the trustees board we take this vote. If anyone has concerns please say now.

Anna Sydor was welcomed into partnership by Merlyn and thanked her for her support and hoped she would fulfil her purpose at BCLC

Merlyn also announced that Dan and Emily Shaw had resigned from the partnership.

Nigel sent his thanks for all the cards and best wishes he had received.

5. Financial report Treasurer Gail Thomas

Balance in Bank: £15,500

Savings: £1,400

Cribfest: £1500

Finances have gone down; we will need finances for a new Pastor, we are getting finances from hiring again, Mark Partridge and the centre team are doing a good work on this.

Request from treasurer for people paying tax, who are giving to fill in a gift aid form please

The accountant is in process of producing accounts for the Trustees Report to the Charity Commission. Julia update Mark Partridge is updating her weekly on the building and flagging up issues, he is doing very well with conferencing and Jodi and Sarah are doing a great job. Decorating the Crib was mentioned.

6. Life Group Leaders: Debbie Udrafski thanked her life group for their love and support during this time of transition.

Gail Thomas gave up date on her seniors group and thanked John Gladdish for his support.

She enjoyed being with them they are a blessing and totally committed.

Lorraine: building relationships is what God wants. Barbara Jones organises breakfasts for some of the women.

Rachel Steed gave update on Families team. The idea of a central hub is gradually coming to fruition. Brunch club making progress, uniforms going well. Christmas service went well gave some food hampers out and food locker doing well. Ray keeps the locker full of food. Giving him money for food for the locker is better as he knows exactly what food is needed.

Questions and Answers: these were taken after the item 4. Voting

A number of questions were asked and answers were given by different people according to what the question was about.

This is a summary of those Questions and Answers

Why Guiding Principles and not the Trust Deed?

The Guiding Principles were developed to allow a more accessible explanation of the aims and purpose of BCLC when it registered as a Charity and following feedback on the Trust Deed that;

- a) Although the aims and purposes remained the same the document was written in 1943 and was not a useful tool in terms of bidding for funding and outlining the current Governance of the Church
- b) the Trust Deed related specifically to the use of the Property and its relationship and criteria for use rather than the running of the church
- c) the decision was made to develop a document that related to the running of the Church and Charity in support of registration to the Charity Commission in 2010
- d) there have been 2 versions of the document which were developed and brought to the Partners of the Church on 2 separate occasions in 2004 & 2016 On both occasions the document was shared and voted on and it's use as the Guiding Principles have been used for 15 years to manage the church through repeated transition and changes in its senior leadership.

What if the Church wanted to change the Guiding Principles?

The proposed changes would need to be brought to the Trustees who would need to look at what is being requested for amendment and then make a decision regarding proposal to the Partners of the Church.

Why is the Trust Deed stated as our Governing Document on our web site?

It is not unusual for Charities to link their founding documents i.e. Trust Deeds to their Governance and we will submit the latest version that was voted on for reference but this is not a requirement of the commission.

We are required to submit assurance around our governance and this is confirmed through an annual report (usually composed by the Chair of Trustees) which outlines our focus and confirms that our aims and purpose remain consistent, our annual audited accounts. It is also not a requirement from the commission to submit additional documentation unless requested.

Why can the current Trustees propose Trustees?

The proposal for vote of an additional Trustee was agreed by the previous full Trust Board when it was quorate, the Chair of Trustees met with the proposed Trustee to assess their benefit to the Board, the Senior Pastor's advice was sought and the nomination of the new Trustee was shared with the Partners on the 18th October 2019.

The Trustees remaining after the resignation of 2 of the Trustees did advise that they would be taking forward the agreed proposed Trustee who had been by then co-opted on to the Board, but felt that it was propriety to delay the vote until the next Business Meeting due to the complexity and emotion that was experienced at the Annual General meeting.

The current Trustees have therefore taken forward a decision made by a quorate Board and are fulfilling the outcome of that process, rather than initiating a new proposal.

If a Senior Pastor is not appointed, will the current Trustees propose additional Trustees?

The Trustees commitment to have additional Trustees has been stated repeatedly and outlined as a course of action to be taken at the AGM on the 18th October 2019. Names have been suggested to the Trustees and we will consider those individuals in line with the needs of BCLC and the Centre as well as for the benefit of the community. We have outlined the need

for new Trustees to understand the legal responsibilities of the role, the need for those undertaking the role to commit to continuing personal development on the role of the Trustee and also that they bring skills to organisation that assist in the governance and development of BCLC as a Church and Charity.

Can partners propose Trustees?

There is no provision for partners to propose Trustees, although suggestions will always be considered. The trustees however will review the skills of anyone joining the Board and determine the benefit of those skills to BCLC as a whole organisation

Are we member of a Church or Charity?

Both, as BCLC is a registered Charity which has a Church, that due to its significance in the community has had up to this point, a focus for service provision to the community, outreach and a strong presence in the use of the building as a community space e.g. Conferencing, Sport, Celebration and Education. This puts us in a hybrid situation as the building is not primarily used as a church.

It has been confirmed by Pam (Gladdish) as the serving administrator and subsequent Charity Secretary that the term 'Partner' rather than 'Member' was chosen to reflect that the Church is also a part of a registered charity.

What role do the current Leaders have?

The current Leaders were appointed by the previous Senior Pastor and will continue to provide spiritual leadership via their Groups and departments until such time that a new Senior Pastor is appointed and decides on the Leadership team that they wish to support them going forward.

In line with the Guiding Principles the selection of those roles are at the discretion of the Senior Pastor and not subject to voting from the Partners.

The current Trustees have facilitated meetings with the Leaders to ensure they have an overview of the whole running of the Charity and to facilitate a framework for the continued day to day running of Church Services and activities.

What role do the Trustees have?

The Trustees have the legal responsibility for the Charity as a whole. They are the guardians in assuring that the Charity stays true to the aims and purposes outlined and are the officially appointed officers (by vote of the Partners) of the Charity in addition the Treasurer and Charity Secretary. They also act as the employer of those working for the Charity.

The Trustees are also responsible for supporting the Centre Team who receive and host and maintain the building during the working week.

This role includes all aspects of running the building and ensuring that a safe and welcoming environment is provided, for all users who pay to use the building and by doing, so support the ongoing ministry of BCLC.

Any issues to do with the running of the building are being brought to the attention of Trustees until such time that there is the appointment of a Senior Pastor/Centre Director who will then take on the strategic and operational management of both the Church and Centre.

Why are we voting for an additional Trustee when enough notice was not given?

Debbie M advised that the 2 weeks had technically been missed by hours (2 weeks to the day rather than to the hour) as the notice was given on the Sunday evening after a meeting had

been agreed and that the opportunity to vote had been deferred from September and so effectively almost 4 months' notice had been given rather than 2 weeks.

Merlyn I-F (MIF) recalled the process that had been undertaken with regards to the review and discussion with the candidate for Trustee role, The quorate decision by the full Trustee board, to co-opt, the decision shared with the Partners at the AGM 18th October 2019 and decision to defer until the next Business Meeting.

Merlyn acknowledged the timing issue raised and gave the opportunity to the Partners to consider and voice, if due to the process already undertaken, there was any additional concerns regarding proceeding with the vote as raised by the individual concern raised? No additional concern was stated and therefore it was agreed that the voted would proceed.

MIF confirmed her desire for the Board to be in a position to continue to conduct the business and support of BCLC at this time of transition and that she believed it was important to appoint to ensure a quorate Trust Board.

Meeting finished 2:38pm

Number Present 26

Number voting 24