

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE BAPTIST UNION OF VICTORIA

Held at the Ultima Function Centre, Ely Court, Keilor
on 29 May 2015 at 6:00pm

1. Welcome and prayers

The Union Council Deputy Chair, Mrs Jo-Anne Bradshaw, welcomed all attendees and opened the meeting with prayer and an acknowledgement of country.

As part of national reconciliation week all Assembly members sang 'Great South Land of the Holy Spirit' accompanied by a backing track by Strathcona's Mellor House Choir. This was followed by a song 'Halleluiah!' from the Melbourne Chin Choir and Bible reading (2 Cor 5:11-21) in Chin.

2. New churches and BUV staff

Rev. Daniel Bullock, Director of Ministries recognised the churches that joined the Union, or changed affiliation status, during the previous 6 months:

- Lai Christian Church Melbourne
- Follow Baptist Church
- Katalyst Church
- Mara Christian Church of Victoria
- Melbourne Mizo Church
- Zomi Baptist Church Victoria
- Zotung Baptist Church

A representative from each church joined Daniel on stage while each church was introduced via a video clip. Daniel welcomed and prayed for these new members of our BUV.

Daniel recognised BUV office staff who started and left during the previous six months.

3. Presentation of Ordinands

Fourteen ordinands were introduced to the meeting and presented a summary of their respective ordination journeys, by way of a video clip:

Moo Hei	Angie Mok	Matt Thorp
Mang Hre	Tri Nguyen	Pancia Thuale
Julie Hunt	Noddy Sharma	Petone Toeleiu
Katrina Lambert	Chan Thang	David van der Putten
Ilse McDonald	Mason Taylor	

Daniel Bullock prayed for the ordinands.

4. Annual Reports

Overviews of the 2014 annual report and annual financial statements were presented by Rev Daniel Bullock (Director of Ministries) and Mr Ian Southwood (Director of Finance & Administration).

5. Whitley College appointments

The following Whitley College appointments were made:

Resolution: that Professor Mark Brett be re-appointed as Professor of Old Testament at Whitley College for a further 5 year term, commencing from January 1st, 2015.

Carried: following a vote by ballot.

Resolution: That Merrill Kitchen be re-appointed to the Council of Whitley College for a term of three years.

Carried: following a vote by ballot.

Resolution: That Andrew Sudholz be re-appointed to the Council of Whitley College for a term of three years.

Carried: following a vote by ballot.

Resolution: That Gordon Wild be re-appointed to the Council of Whitley College for a term of three years.

Carried: following a vote by ballot.

6. Baptist marriage rites

Jo-Anne Bradshaw explained that our Union Council has been approached by a group of BUV Member Churches urging the Assembly to publicly affirm the wording of the Australian Baptist Ministries (ABM) Baptist Marriage Rites.

Rev Garry Wynn spoke in favour of the motion and Rev Simon Holt spoke against the motion:

That our BUV affirms the ABM Australian Baptist Marriage Rites resolution of 23 November, 2011 that:

- The Baptist Union of Australia defines marriage as being the union between a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.
- Authorised celebrants within the Baptist Union of Australia are only able to solemnize marriages according to Baptist Rites that conform to this definition.

Carried: following a vote by ballot.

7. BUV Resolutions in Action: Baptcare Partnering with Churches to support Asylum Seekers

Olivia McClean, Leonie Walker and Jason Perdriau from Baptcare presented an update on the Sanctuary and Baptcare initiatives to support asylum seekers, highlighting partnerships with Baptist Churches. This segment was concluded with a video clip of our Hume Baptist Church engagement with asylum seekers in detention centres in Melbourne

8. BUV vision

Daniel Bullock provided an overview of our BUV's vision. He highlighted the BUV's 2015 emphasis on Next Generation Leaders; supporting churches operating in Languages Other than English (LOTE) based on our increasing Cultural and Linguistic Diversity as a Union, and Pioneering.

9. Discussion: family violence

Delegates commenced a Union-wide discussion around the issues of family violence through the perspectives of Youth, Multiculturalism and Pioneering. This matter had been raised as both a social issue and an important matter for our BUV Churches, was discussed at 2015 Consultation Forums and will continue to be a conversation we as a union undertake with a view to better educating and resourcing churches to engage in this area.

10. Closing comments and prayer

The meeting was closed in prayer by Jo-Anne Bradshaw.

BUV May 2015 Delegates Packs with agenda, discussion notes and additional information can be sourced at: <http://www.buv.com.au/resource/gatherings/delegates>

BUV 2014 Annual Report and Financial Statements are available at: <http://www.buv.com.au/about-us/who-we-are/our-organisation>

Next BUV Assembly Meeting (Delegates Dinner) to be held on Friday 16 October, 2015 at Thirteen Thirty, 1330 Ferntree Gully Road, Scoresby. Registration for Delegates will open online at www.buv.com.au in early September 2015.