



## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS DINNER OF THE BAPTIST UNION OF VICTORIA**

Held at Karralyka Centre  
Mines Road, Ringwood VIC 3134  
21 October 2022

### **1. Welcome and Prayer**

Croydon Hills Baptist Church opened with a time of worship. The Union Council Chair, Jo Bradshaw, opened with a word of welcome, acknowledged the flood affected areas and churches. Read the Bible from Eph 3:14-21, acknowledged the country and then prayed.

### **2. Recognition and Welcome**

Daniel Bullock welcomed new member churches and presents certificates:

#### **New Constituent Churches**

- Cloverdale Keren Baptist Church
- Daylesford Community Church
- Matu Immanuel Church
- Nhill K'Naw Baptist Church

A short video montage was shown to the Assembly of all the new constituent churches.

#### **New Micro Churches**

- Coastal Villages Faith Community
- Croydon Hills
- Friends First

#### **New Campus/Congregations**

- Mill Park Baptist Church – Donnybrook Community Church
- Regeneration Church Monash – Regen Night Church
- Sale Baptist Church – Yarram Campus

Daniel prayed for all new constituent, micro and campuses.

### **3. Ordination Candidates 2022**

Daniel Bullock introduced the 2022 Ordination Candidates who will be ordained 22/10/22 and Beth Jackson prayed for all the candidates. With an announcement of a posthumous ordination of Thuan Trinh, Sydal Baptist.

- **David Cinzah**, Gospel Baptist Church Australia
- **Joanne Dealy**, Essendon Baptist Community Church
- **Van Hei Lian**, Victorian Chin Baptist Church
- **Ran Ceu Mang**, Victorian Chin Baptist Church
- **Samy Kaldas**, Mill Park Baptist Church

- **Thuan Trinh**, Syndal Baptist Church (5 June 1965 – 10 July 2022)
- **Joseph Kim**, Oakleigh BC/Bangjoo Church
- **Michael Riddell** – Syndal Baptist Church
- **Mark Gellie** – OneHope Baptist Church

#### **Ordination Transfer**

- **Rev David Harrison**
- **Rev Thang En Hen**

#### **4. Assembly Meeting**

##### **4.1 Appointments**

Jo Bradshaw explained the voting process using True Vote and as the position of DoMM was up for voting, explained the review process for the DoMM appointment.

Jo also addressed the Union Council candidate, Toby Hall, who is married to a current Union Council member and explained that if Toby was elected, Fiona would resign from her position in Council.

Jo announced that with herself no longer in Union Council and the likelihood of Fiona's resignation that Union Council are actively looking for a female member to join. Jo encouraged the Assembly to prayerfully consider how they can serve in the Baptist Union.

There are 6 appointments and 3 proposed constitution amendments. Voting opened from 7:15pm - 8:15pm. Jo then moved the following motions:

"That Daniel Bullock be reappointed as Director of Mission and Ministries for a further 5-year term, commencing 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2022."

"That Toby Hall be appointed as Union Council Member of the BUV for a 2-year term from 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022."

"That David Talathoti be re-appointed as Union Council Member of the BUV for a further 3-year term from 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022."

"That Mick Turnbull be re-appointed as Union Council Member of the BUV for a further 3-year term from 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022."

"That Paul Holdway be re-appointed as BUV Honorary Legal Advisor for a period of 12 months from the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022."

"That Geraldine Lannon be appointed as CEO of Baptcare for a 5-year term, commencing 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022."

"That Assembly approve the proposed amendments to the BUV constitution."

"That Assembly approve the proposed amendments to the Schedule B."

"That Assembly approve the proposed amendments to the Constitution Policy."

##### **4.2 Proposed Constitutional Amendments**

Paul Holdway addressed the Assembly and spoke to the amendments for the following:

- BUV Constitution (Appendix 1)
- Schedule B (Appendix 2)

- The New Constitution Policy (Appendix 3)

Paul facilitated questions and comments from the Assembly. Members of assembly were give opportunity to express their opinions both those in favour and those who oppose the proposed changes.

Paul addressed the Assembly after all comments were shared:

Motion 1 (Constitution – Appendix 1) – No objections

Motion 2 (Schedule B – Appendix 2) – Some objections. But encouraged the Assembly that Union Council will not have the power to eject a church for the keep sake of the property.

Motion 3 (Constitution Policy – Appendix 3) – Addressing the concerns that Union Council having centralised power. The power remains with the Assembly, with the requirement of two-thirds majority votes. Union Council cannot just remove a church. Also, the BUV are not requiring anyone to sign a statement explicitly pledging their doctrinal values to the BUV.

Paul Holdway also acknowledged and thanked the Assembly in prayerfully looking into the present and the future when considering the changes.

Jo Bradshaw thanked the Assembly and said grace for dinner.



Voting Opened

## 5. Finance

### 5.1 Finance Presentation

Debbie gave an overview on how our finance was tracking and the financial forecast,

### 2021 Financial Results

	<b>Operating Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 1.42 M</b>
	<b>Non-operating income</b>	<b>\$ 6.65 M</b>
	<b>Year-end Surplus 2021</b>	<b>\$ 8.07 M</b>

## 2022 Full Year Forecast

*(as at Aug 2022)*

	<u>2022 BUDGET</u>	<u>2022 FORECAST</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
Income	\$ 6,187,038	\$ 4,024,804	(\$ 2,162,234)
Expense	\$ 6,263,512	\$ 5,926,108	\$ 337,404
Church Devt Fund	(\$ 119,326)	(\$ 98,241)	\$ 21,084
Bushfire Appeal dist.	(\$ 70,000)	(\$ 70,000)	0
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 112,852</b>	<b>(\$ 1,733,063)</b>	<b>(\$ 1,845,915)</b>

## 2022 Full Year Operations Forecast

*(excluding revaluation loss on investment)*



**ACTUAL OPERATING SURPLUS**  
AS OF SEPT - \$ 772K



**FORECAST – END OF THE YEAR**  
\$ 107K

### 5.2 Assembly Voting on Stipends, Superannuation and Members Contributions.

Debbie explained the proposed changes in stipends, superannuation and membership contribution.

<b>WEEKLY STIPEND</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>2023</b>
Cash (inc Tax Exempt Benefits)	\$1,274	4.35%*	\$1,329
Cash or Manse Allocation (Tax exempt Benefit)	\$395		\$410*
	\$1,669	4.19%	\$1739

# Average of CPI: 6.1% and WPI: 2.6%

\* Notional weekly rental amount has increased to \$410 in 2022 from \$395 in 2021

To find out more about Stipend Guidelines head to [www.buv.com.au/resources/stipends](http://www.buv.com.au/resources/stipends)

<b>WEEKLY SUPERANNUATION</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
	\$218.40	\$226.55

This Superannuation is calculated based on the commercial equivalent salary (10.5% on \$2,157.64)

Jo Bradshaw opened the vote. By voting with show of hands, the BUV motion for the Assembly to approve the recommended 2023 Stipend and Superannuation.

The motion for the 2023 Stipend and Superannuation was carried.

## **PROPOSED 2023 MEMBERSHIP FEE**

Church Income Contribution

\$0-\$90,428\* 2.75% of Income (Minimum: \$150)

\$90,429+ 3.75% of Income (Maximum: \$50,900)\*\*

\* 2023 Weekly Stipend: \$1,739 (\$90,428 per annum)

\*\* \$48,853 (2022 Limit) + 2023 Stipend Increase of 4.19%

Jo Bradshaw opened the vote. By voting with show of hands, the BUV motion for the Assembly to approve the recommended 2023 Membership fee structure.

The motion for the 2023 Membership fee was carried.

### **6. BFS promotional Video – Daniel thanked BFS and BIS**

After dinner Daniel announced and thanked BFS and BIS for sponsoring the night and showed a short promotional video.

### **7. 2023 Strategic Direction**

Daniel spoke on the continued vision and strategic direction for 2023.

The Vision and Mission and 4 strategic focus areas remain the same. The four lenses remain the same as innovation, younger demographic, digital lens & cultural lens.

Some priorities for 2023 are:

- 1) Assist with Revitalisation of Pastoral Leaders

- Promote Strategies for Care
  - Encourage Resilience
- 2) Supervision – Introduction of Pastoral Supervision for all pastoral leaders as part of BUV required accreditation requirements. Goal is to have all accredited pastors have supervisors by the end of 2024.
  - 3) Prayer – Develop a Union Wide prayer initiative and encourage participation.
  - 4) Evangelism – define, demystify, and explore what evangelism looks like in the future.
    - 2023 Consultation forum topic - How can we best equipped for effective fruitful Evangelism in 21<sup>st</sup> century Australia
    - Indigenous Voice to Parliament - other consultation forum topic
  - 5) Equip the movement for the future
    - Future church formats – online, digital, missional paces and places
    - Explore the future in leadership – pastors, interims, next generation, women, CALD
    - Dr Christa McKirland – Presenting in February a workshop “Gender Roles and Sexuality in the Church” A short video was shown.

## 8. Close Ballot

True Vote closed the ballot at 8:15 pm. James Bennett and Tanya Patterson were appointed scrutineers.

At 8:30pm Debbie Uy (BUV), Louise Richmond (BUV) and the two scrutineers viewed the voting results emailed by True Vote.

Debbie Uy and the two scrutineers met again for the second time to confirm results of the votes.

### Table Discussion:

Jo Bradshaw introduced the topic for table discussion.

“Looking back to look forward – hopes and aspirations for the future”

Short video was shown on celebrating the little wins.

Table Discussion around the following:

- 1) Please share with the table group some of the good things your church has experienced recently - from the little wins to larger experiences / events / or things that can be celebrated
- 2) What new opportunities or potential has your church identified?
- 3) As we look towards a post or covid normal world, what are your aspirations for the future of your church?

### 9.1 Feedback from discussion

Jo Bradshaw encouraged the Assembly to share their good news stories.

- Kilsyth South received a grant for a coffee cart, currently training baristas in the hope that they can outreach to schools or train stations.
- Zomi Mission are starting an English service to cater for the next generation and also open up an invitation to their friends to come to church. Also, at the youth camp last month 14 youths were baptised.
- Online services remaining. Has been the ability to reach internationally.
- Mitcham have run event to reach out to youth via gaming.

- Burmese church through COVID was able to connect with 3 churches in Australia, 2 New Zealand and in Burma as well.
- Ability for people to 'try before you buy' when looking for a church home.
- Created innovative ways to care for people.
- Melbourne Chinese Baptist have got a large group of youths gathering and who are continuing to get together and recently had 10 youths commit to Christ.
- Upwey Baptist just celebrated their 118<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During COVID served 40,000 meals via their community meal program.

#### **9. Celebrate and Farewell Jo Bradshaw**

Daniel acknowledged and farewelled Jo Bradshaw who was voted onto Union Council 12<sup>th</sup> October 2012 with a minute of appreciation. A gift was presented to Jo.

#### **10. Declaration of Results**

Jo Bradshaw declared that the following results were passed with support meeting the two-thirds majority requirement:

"That Assembly reappoints Daniel Bullock as Director of Mission and Ministries for a further 5 year term, commencing 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2022." - PASSED

"That Assembly appoint Geraldine Lannon as CEO of Baptcare for a 5-year term, commencing 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022." -PASSED

"That Assembly approve the proposed amendments to the BUV constitution." -PASSED

"That Assembly approve the proposed amendments to the Constitution Policy." -PASSED

Jo declared that the following results were passed with support meeting the simple majority requirement:

"That Assembly appoint Toby Hall as Union Council Member of the BUV for a 2-year term from 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022." - PASSED

"That Assembly reappoint David Talathoti as Union Council Member of the BUV for a further 3-year term from 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022." -PASSED

"That Assembly reappoint Mick Turnbull as Union Council Member of the BUV for a further 3-year term from 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022." -PASSED

"That Assembly reappoint Paul Holdway as BUV Honorary Legal Advisor for a period of 12 months from the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022." -PASSED

"That Assembly approve the proposed amendments to the Schedule B." -PASSED

Jo Bradshaw thanked all in attendance and closed the meeting in prayer.

Reference documents:

Appendix 1:

<https://bapvic.sharepoint.com/Communications/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2FCommunications%2FInformation%20and%20Instructions%20to%20Churches%2F2022%20Constitution%20Changes%2FAppendix%201%20Constitution%20of%20the%20Baptist%20Union%20of%20Victoria%20containing%20amendments%20proposed%20October%202022%2Epdf&parent=%2FCommunications%2FInformation%20and%20Instructions%20to%20Churches%2F2022%20Constitution%20Changes&p=true&ga=1>

Appendix 2:

<https://bapvic.sharepoint.com/Communications/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2FCommunications%2FInformation%20and%20Instructions%20to%20Churches%2F2022%20Constitution%20Changes%2FAppendix%202%20proposed%20amendments%20to%20Schedule%20B%20for%20consideration%20at%20Assembly%20October%202022%2Epdf&parent=%2FCommunications%2FInformation%20and%20Instructions%20to%20Churches%2F2022%20Constitution%20Changes&p=true&ga=1> .

Appendix 3:

<https://bapvic.sharepoint.com/Communications/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2FCommunications%2FInformation%20and%20Instructions%20to%20Churches%2F2022%20Constitution%20Changes%2FAppendix%203%20Constitution%20Policy%20proposed%20for%20adoption%20at%20Assembly%20October%202022%2Epdf&parent=%2FCommunications%2FInformation%20and%20Instructions%20to%20Churches%2F2022%20Constitution%20Changes&p=true&ga=1>