

PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST

Minutes of Presbytery Meeting
held In person at Korean Church of Melbourne,
and online using Zoom
20 March, 2021
9.30 am – 1. 00 pm



There were 77 attendees with 19 apologies.

1. Welcome and acknowledgment of country

The Chairperson, Tom Spurling, welcomed everyone including Wesley College Chaplains and the Frankston UCA Youth Coordinator to the meeting. The Secretary, Ian Firth acknowledged that members meet on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri and Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation, respecting the custodianship of those first peoples, their unceded sovereignty, and honouring their elders, past, present and emerging.

2. Worship & Port Phillip East Presbytery Commissioning Service

Worship

The Korean Church of Melbourne (KCM) Cornerstone English Ministry Praise team leader, Brian Kim led the Presbytery in worship with songs. Presbytery minister Anneke Oppewal led the Presbytery prayer followed by Bible readings of Isaiah 43:16-21 and 2 Corinthians 5:11- 21 by Anne Kim and Ira Budiono.

Preaching

Tom welcomed Rev Dr. Sean Winter, the Head of College for Pilgrim Theological College, Centre for Theology and Ministry, Sean reflected on our call ambassadors of Christ to be agents of reconciliation, in the middle of life as it happens. We learned that the love of Christ drives us to define factor of Paul's life, the power, consuming value or goal for the life of Jesus Christ.

Commissioning

The chairperson led the service to recognise Sam Joo as a Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church in Australia, to affirm God's call to Bradon French and Kaylea Fearn in their roles as chaplains at Wesley College, and to commission Hannah Dungan for the role of Youth Coordinator at High St Uniting Church, Frankston.

Duncan Macleod introduced Rev Sam Joo and Jay Robinson introduced Bradon French, Kaylea Fearn and Hannah Dungan to the Presbytery members.

The Presbytery declared that Sam Joo is a Minister of the Word within the UCA and Kaylea Fearn, Bradon French and Hannah Dungan are commissioned in the Ministry of Pastor in the UCA.

The Commissioning Service ended with the final song, 'The Church's one Foundation'.

3. Approval of Agenda and Consent agenda

It was resolved to approve the Consent Agenda which included 1) the apologies 2) the minutes of the meeting held 11 November, 2020, 3) reports from the Presbytery Minister team and the Standing Committee, 4) co-option of members for 2021: Helen Beeby, Newsbeat Editor, Ineke Gyles and Ian Menzies, Pastoral Relations Committee, Ira Budiono, Standing Committee. *Consensus*

4. Election of Presbytery Secretary & Appreciation for Ian Firth

The Chairperson introduced Anne Kim as the Standing Committee Nomination for the role of Presbytery Secretary. Anne was appointed by the Standing Committee as the Presbytery Administrator in 2020 and began her role on February 1. A private ballot was undertaken.

Presbytery Minister Team leader, Duncan Macleod expressed our appreciation to Ian Firth for his dedication, humour, bridge-building, and loyalty to the Presbytery and the Pastoral Relations Committee as Presbytery Secretary over five years. The Presbytery expressed their appreciation with applause. Ian would continue as Secretary for the Pastoral Relations Committee.

5. eLM news

Sean Winter spoke to the Presbytery about Synod's eLM unit about its news and updates:

- eLM (equipping Leadership for Mission) is there to support presbyteries, congregations, schools and agencies across the life of the Synod by providing resources directly, intentionally and relationally.
- The three main areas of eLM's works are 1) education, formation and ministry and Christian discipleship, 2) for Synod's strategic priorities by providing support in Synod's advocacy, 3) for supporting good relationships across the life of the wider church of ministry and mission.
- eLM is recovering from last year's COVID restrictions, with the college returning to face to face classes, strengthening formation for candidates for ordained ministry, building up partnership and rolling out strategic prioritized events in 2021 and 2022.
- Sean referred the Presbytery to the liaison and resourcing work of Presbytery minister Craig Mitchell.
- Sean spoke about the Synod's growing vision and strategy in relation to formation for ministry.

6. Vision & Strategy for Port Phillip East Presbytery 2021

The main agenda of the meeting, focused on vision and strategy, was launched with a vox pop video of Presbytery members talking about their hopes for their congregations in 2021. Members were invited to talk with one another about their hopes for the year.

Presentation of Vision and Mission for 2021

Tom explained that the vision and mission priorities were developed by carefully reviewing the Synod's major strategic documents, the Presbytery's cultivating new future documents and views of the Presbytery council meeting discussions in November. The Standing Committee was committed to approaching vision and strategy in a flexible and accountable manner.

Duncan presented the contents of the Presbytery Strategic and Operational Plan document by explaining how the Standing Committee adopted and developed our vision and mission principles.

A proposed vision for the Uniting Church in Port Phillip East was introduced, largely based on the Synod's vision statement:

- Following Christ
- Walking together as first and second peoples
- Seeking community, compassion, and justice for all creation
- Building up healthy communities of faith

The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania's seven mission principles were presented as a way of affirming the Presbytery's participation in the mission of God, including congregations, agencies and schools.

Duncan introduced the Presbytery Mission Priorities for 2021 and explained the background of the development processes for each sector.

Growing a culture of local mission and ministry marked by

- Healthy relationships
- Lifelong disciples
- Collaborative leaders
- Active engagement with agencies, schools and each other

Duncan noted that the Presbytery committees and the ministry team would continue to work on core work areas, implementation of current strategies and tactics, and designing strategy for the future.

Small Groups Discussion – What would this mean for your setting?

Kelly Skilton introduced the group discussion, focusing on testing the mission priorities. Members were allocated to an breakout room to explore the following questions:

1. How would you put these in your own words?
2. What feedback would you give about these mission priorities?
3. How might these priorities be put into practice in your context?

Presbytery members moved to a discussion time in breakout rooms, on Zoom and other parts of the KCM building complex.

Q&A Session with Rev Han Song (KCM)

While Kelly and Jay were making notes on initial analysis of the group responses, Tom and Duncan engaged Han Song in a Q&A session to explore more about vision for KCM. Han shared his thoughts and challenges with 2nd generations of KCM members, connection with local communities as a multicultural congregation and the languages used with theological reflections and the way of delivering God's words to the congregation.

Responses to the proposed Vision and Mission Priorities

Kelly Skilton and Jay Robinson shared their initial reflection on feedback from the breakout room discussion on the proposed mission priorities. Healthy Relationships was emerging as the most important conversation point. Responses from people all come back to ability, training and relationships. The priority of healthy relationships could refer to all areas of church, community and with agencies as lifelong disciples as (and with) collaborative leadership. What are our unhealthy spaces that need healing? How do we cultivate trust with one another to form healthy relationships?

Tom explained that the Standing Committee would take the feedback from the discussions into consideration as they develop vision and mission for the rest of 2021 and 2022.

The Presbytery through consensus indicated a broad endorsement of the Presbytery's plan for 2021. Previous chairperson Andrew Boyle congratulated the Standing Committee on its work and encouraged further work on resourcing and funding ability, considering that the Presbytery's region held half the population of Melbourne.

7. Closing Reflection & Benediction

Han Song provided a reflection on the Presbytery meeting. He introduced and explained about KCM's mission statement as "As a missional church as people of God to mature to be like Jesus Christ." He noted that the Presbytery's mission priorities were already reflected in this statement. His vision for KCM is to move forward and step beyond the boundary as "Korean Church". He emphasised that he wanted members of KCM to meet God and grow continuously in Christ. He sees KCM growing as a part of Presbytery and the wider Uniting Church, growing together as people of God.

Tom thanked Han and KCM members for a warm experience of hospitality, with leadership of worship, audio-visual support, a marvellous morning tea and the great support for the meeting.

Tom announced that Anne Kim had been elected as Presbytery Secretary and this was received as acclamation. He thanked members for their participation in the meeting.

The meeting was concluded with the benediction spoken together.