

SUTTON COLDFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Members Meeting

MINUTES

25th June 2020

Attendance: 221 Quorum: 83

1. Donald explained zoom and opened in prayer.
2. Opening devotion. Donald shared reflection on Philippians 1, encouraging us to relay grace and peace with others around us at this time.
3. Donald then thanked the church for all their support.
4. COVID 19 update in relation to church. Donald thanked John for his work sifting through regulations and government guidance. Unfortunately, church will not be able to hold services in the short term. Our next step may be to allow some to come watch some of the live streams soon. Further information will follow as soon as possible.
5. Second Thoughts will be re-opening next week, 1st July 2020.
6. Donald prayed for all those connected with church during this time.
7. Donald shared about new people reached – foodbank receiving and giving, livestreams, videos shared and passed on by church. Donald asked for prayer.
8. Explanation of the need for a new Trustee.
 - a. Our church has three strands that are quite healthy.
 - I. Legal requirements
 - II. Membership of Baptist Union
 - III. Our own practices developed over time.

Legal requirements mean that we need trustees that are responsible for the church, and that we have more trustees that are unpaid, than we have paid staff that act as trustees. The church chooses such trustees by voting. Spiritual financial and practical leadership should not be separated and should be taken into account when deciding upon a potential trustee.

We now need to appoint a trustee to prevent the equilibrium between paid and unpaid trustees being out of balance.
9. RESOLUTION Those on zoom voted to accept virtual voting until 'normal' church meetings can resume. The vote agreed that we are happy to continue making decisions in this way.
10. We wished happy 70th birthday to Richard Cox and thanked him for all that he does.
11. Financial update.
 - a) We have received significant donations in the last few weeks and whilst general giving has decreased due to the lockdown, these larger donations mean that we are still in a healthy position.
 - b) We did furlough two staff members and these two staff members have now returned to work.
 - c) In the General Fund we have a current in-year surplus of £18872.03, overall we have a small deficit balance in the General Fund of £1291.42.
 - d) We have received 2 one-off grants – one for salary costs of our community worker, from SCCT, and the other to support Second Thoughts, from Birmingham City Council.
12. Opened for questions. No questions were asked.
13. Donald explained suggested criteria when considering potential elders.
 - a) We need a minimum of 3, and a maximum of 7.
 - b) We do want to try and be diverse in all life experiences within the trustees.
 - c) We are looking for people with spiritual gift of wisdom.

- d) They should be baptised church members.
- e) Life and leadership experience.
- f) Mid to second half of their lives with time availability.
- g) Re-elected after a five-year period and will hopefully serve for two periods.

14. Lyndsey Drury was thanked for her wonderful service. It was noted that she has served with wisdom, grace, insight, and compassion.

15. Election of a new trustee. Others have been considered as trustees, but plans have gone awry due to COVID-19. Donald admitted to feeling overwhelmed as he has not been able to spend time with new prospective elders. So, we needed to find someone experienced, especially as we are going through the process of appointing a new admin team leader. It was felt we need someone that is known to many, and whilst in this current situation will be able to start duties without receiving much training etc. We hope to bring other names forwards in the coming months.

16. Donald introduced Mark Maybury, explaining his experience to early retirement, including his roles in the church, and as a local school governor. Mark will be unlikely to seek re-election after 5 years.

17. Opened for questions:

- a. Judith heritage asked: Any plans to diversify? Donald responded yes, we are looking to diversify serving, but it is a big step to an elder, and help with this is appreciated.

18. Donald explained voting methods, and prayed:

- a) Anonymously on Zoom now
- b) By phone call to the church office
- c) By email to churchmeeting@scbc.org.uk

19. Donald led us in prayer for people in the community, and we prayed to ourselves the names of those we know are struggling.

20. The church meeting ended at 9.00pm.

21. Votes were collated and independently verified, with 100% of votes received supporting Mark Maybury's nomination as a Church Elder.