

SUTTON COLDFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH
Church Members Meeting on zoom and YouTube
MINUTES
2nd February 2021

Attendance: 197 Quorum: 81

1. Opening Devotion

Donald shared scriptures and encouragement from Hosea 6:3 and James 5:7-8 encouraging us to remember that God is with us. In the midst of winter God will come to us and he will bring us through. We should not give up but be patient and press on. Donald then led us in a time of prayer.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

John talked through the minutes of the meeting on the 20th of October 2020 on Zoom. The minutes were accepted by the meeting. John also thanked members for responding to the appeal for more giving which has been tremendous.

3. Membership

a. In: Beth Heritage
Sarah O'Sullivan

b. Out: Alan and Sylvia Bennett
Chris Reeves

Donald told the meeting that Alan and Sylvia Bennett have requested to come out of Membership as they are Worshipping and Serving at Harvestfields Church. We thanked them for their ministry amongst us.

Chris Reeves has also requested to come out of Membership as he and his family have settled in Canada.

Beth Heritage and Sarah O'Sullivan have requested to come into membership. Donald explained how they have been part of the church.

Donald prayed for all those named above, and Beth and Sarah were successfully received into membership after a unanimous vote.

4. Finance Report and Budget for 2021

Donald read Genesis 41:47-49 & 56-57 as an introduction, reminding the meeting that God provides for our needs, whilst giving thanks to God for meeting our needs and providing for us this year.

Whilst our regular, monthly giving has gone down, we are currently in a good place, and whilst the overall trend of giving is down, we do have a resulting in year surplus.

There are several reasons for this:

- a) We have not had Sunday offerings normally derived from people during our Sunday services.
- b) We recognise that some people have had to reduce their giving as their income has reduced.

- c) We asked the church in April 2020 and January 2021 if the church could give one off-gifts to underwrite the potential loss of regular income. We were blown away by the generosity of giving by many – thank you.
- d) We had grants given to us in 2020.
- e) Expenditure has decreased in some areas due to the lack of use of our buildings resulting from the Covid lockdown.
- f) The community fund which is large at the moment will be spent over the year. But we asked members if they were able to reallocate any giving to the community fund to the general fund instead.
- g) We have had 2 legacies given to the church as follows:
 - i. Bill and Lill D’Arcy left a legacy of £2600. The family wanted this to go towards something that was on Bill and Lill’s hearts, that they could be remembered by. They were huge advocates of Alpha and were involved in our outreach, particularly serving tea and coffee as people arrived. The money has gone towards the purchase of a coffee machine for cafechurch.
 - ii. Jacqui Horner – We received recently a legacy of £50,000 from the estate of Jacqui. Jacqui’s family wanted the funds to go into the renovation fund for the redevelopment and maintenance of our buildings. This has been such a blessing and has enabled us to do things we were worried we wouldn’t be able to afford.

Donald prayed for the gifts and the generosity of giving of Bill, Lill and Jacqui.

John brought an update and presented the revised budget to the meeting for 2021. The budget has been publicised on our website so folks can see the figures. The budget is also attached to this document. John concluded that a budget is the worst case scenario, and confirmed that the Leadership Team do believe that it is manageable.

The Church Meeting accepted the Budget for 2021 after a unanimous vote.

5. An Appreciation

Donald thanked John for his service and all that he has done within his role. In particular, for the remarkable contribution to the refurbishment of the church building and his diligence in keeping up to date with our COVID response. His mentoring of the younger members of staff and his enthusiasm in moving forward has meant that the transition to livestreams has been made easier because of John’s previous work. He was also thanked for his immense patience. We gave a round of applause to John.

6. Consideration of Deb Lyden to be Discipleship Team Leader

Donald gave a history of Deb’s service with SCBC:

- a) Joined us as a mission intern in 2010.
- b) Youth intern
- c) Young adult’s worker
- d) Discipleship worker

At a church meeting we took a decision that we wanted to train, develop and enable younger leaders to come through in our church. We subsequently encouraged and invited Deb to do an MA which she completed in the summer of 2020. We have seen Deb grow in character, gifting and responsibility and we want to commend her for this role.

Donald outlined the role of the Discipleship Team Leader, confirming that Deb's hours and role would not change much, and then invited people to comment or ask a question:

- a) Lyndsay Drury made a comment about Deb's integrity.
- b) Velma Troko made a comment about how exciting it is to see Deb grow up in our Church and join the Leadership Team. She has watched her grow and move from Brazil and has been impressed. Velma gives God the glory for his hand on her life. She thanked God for Deb's humility.

The Church Meeting was asked to vote on the appointment of Deb as Discipleship Team Leader. Donald prayed.

Donald explained that people could pray via zoom, telephone or email and that lines would close at 9:15pm. Donald explained that he would let people know the result of the vote via the weekly email on Friday.

Closing Prayers

Donald closed the meeting in prayer.

He prayed for:

- a) The family of Brian Lyden whose funeral is on Thursday.
- b) For our members who are not able to or have not engaged with our online activities.
- c) Churches who are struggling financially and / or with technology, and adapting to the current circumstances.
- d) For church members that are struggling financially.