

Freedom Christian Church AGM to the year ended 31.03.2024

Held on 3 November 2024

The meeting opened at approx. 12.10pm with a welcome and prayer from Pastor Ray.

We are a non-profit organisation registered with the Charities Commission. As part of this we have certain benefits. We are able to give receipts for donations which allow our members to claim one third of their donations for tax purposes, and we are not liable for taxes. We have certain responsibilities and requirements to be a charity. We need to report to the Charities Commission on a yearly basis and we need to have this Annual General Meeting following the preparation of our annual accounts. We have no formal membership. To qualify to vote on remits at the AGM each person needs to be over 18, they need to contribute to the church either through finances or time. We have a Board which organises the physical affairs of the Church. On the Board are Andrea Noakes, John Twizel, Serina Sharma and Maureen Law. In addition Pastor Ray is on the Board because he is the Pastor and Trish Oh in her role as Bookkeeper. The Eldership look after the spiritual side of the Church. The Eldership consists of Darren & Rebecca Reader, Vivek & Gaythri Rajendran, Bua & Magele Tekavei, Samu & Elenoa ??, and Ray & Carolien Moxham. We have an amazing Board and Eldership at present.

It was moved and seconded that JJ and Rebecca be appointed as scrutineers.

Ray Moxham/John Twizel

We established a voting strength of 30 by raised hands.

The Minutes of the previous meeting have been available on the website for the last 2 weeks and were handed out along with the agenda.

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed.

Ray Moxham/Ritu Pledger

Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

Ministry Reports

1 Finance – Trish

Trish reported that we have had another successful year where income was sufficiently above expenses to allow us to operate without stress. She acknowledged the help of Rebecca with mainly data entry and Foster as a qualified Accountant to answer occasional questions which she was unable to answer. She advised that the constitution has been changed to allow us to do an Audit every 2nd year and a Review in the intervening year. This year was supposed to be a Review but did not appear to be significantly different from the Audit last year. PKR, the accounting firm used have been asked for an explanation but none has been forthcoming. Trish thanked Foster and Rebecca for their input this year.

Trish then updated the members present with a small number of items that they would be most interested in.

- The building loan balance is \$158,838 as at 31 March and at 30 September it was \$150,744. Church has 2 loans, one with Christian Savings and one with a private investor. Both loans are against the building, and the private investor's share is in the region of 28% of the building value.
- The 2 Freedom Church plants overseas, namely in the Congo and the Solomon Islands, have both received approx. \$12,000 each support from us this year which was spent on building work in the Congo and school supplies in the Solomons.
- No Capital Expenditure recorded for this year but the Church has recently installed and replaced air conditioning units in the Sunday School and the auditorium. This will show in next year's accounts.
- Church Refreshments continue to be our largest single expense item in the day-to-day running of the Church. She encouraged everyone to enjoy those chocolate bikkies and the morning tea feast enjoyed every Wednesday morning at Mega.
- Trish is confident that the church's finances are in good shape.

Ray added that the Profit and Loss report for the year is attached with the agenda and last year's Minutes and that the more involved Performance Report is available on the website.

It was moved and seconded that this report be accepted

John Davis/Carolien Moxham

2 Board Elections

Board members are elected for a 2-year term. This year Andrea Noakes and Serina Sharma's 2-year term is up. They have both accepted nomination for a further 2-year term and there were no additional nominations. They were both re-elected. Pastor Ray thanked the Board for the work and support they perform and the responsibility they carry.

3 Youth – Bua (presented by Magele as Bua is overseas at present)

Bua and Magele oversee the youth groups. The youth groups are going really well. The year has been based around Nehemiah Building the Wall, and in the process this relates well to building relationships with God and each other. Youth is held on Friday evenings. They had a sports day earlier in the year with youth groups around the region. The youth really enjoyed the Fearless Camp. They were 3-4 youth events during each term with the youth from other churches. There was outreach in the community, where the youth identified the homeless in town and prayed for them. Main Event was another creative event run by Pastor Ray. Reflect focussed on their relationships with God. Bua thanks the youth leaders for their continued hard work. Every 2 years there is a new Youth Group started with the older youth integrating into the programmes of the Church.

4 Under 5 Alive - Gayathri

There has been growth in numbers and engagement this year. They do mostly interactive stories and craft. The Under 5 Alive team has grown and some special events took place. The children were asked what they liked most about Under 5 Alive and their answers were "making stuff, play, praying, stories". It was every encouraging that none of them mentioned the gifts. It is the plan to expand the resources and the programme this year. Gayathri thanks the church and all the parents for their support for the children at home and in church.

5 Kids Church – Darlene

It has been a great year for volunteers and teams. Darlene thanks everyone involved. They have lowered the maximum age to 11 this year and this has proven to be the right move. She reported that the group has been easier to manage. Average numbers were about 30 children over the combined 2 Sunday morning services. Embracing technology keeps everyone busy, no one is bored. Some children pray voluntarily now, and they take turns. Our focus has been to prepare them for the future. A comment from one of the children recently was "God doesn't believe in Halloween" make the leaders feel that they are doing something right.

6 Prayer – Ritu

We continue to do what we have been doing for the past 2 years. There is a prayer meeting during Mega Group on Wednesday mornings and 10.15-10.45 Sundays. We always have people for the people preaching and communion. We have 2 people at the front for prayer after every service, and we have a very successful WhatsApp Group. There have been some amazing answers to prayer. There is a special Prayer Meeting in the evening of every 5th Sunday. These meetings are very interactive, full of engagement, prayer, fun and laughter. We have run prayer and fasting a couple of times this year. Sometimes we pray for other churches. In 2025 we are waiting to have a prayer wall in the Prayer Room. A place to put your prayers on and just pray. This will be a specific place to pray for your needs.

7 Worship – JJ

The Worship Team currently consists of 33 very dedicated volunteers. An increase of 5 on last year. The year went very well. The song "Goodness of God" is the most popular song and was sung 25 times during the year. Our schedule is put out 2 months in advance which gives people time to reorder their calendars. This has resulted in an increase from 75-80% acceptance and the decline rate is down 20%. The goals for the coming year were not shared because JJ wants the worship team to hear them first! The worship team budget is very small, roughly 1% of the church's income. The things on their wish list at present are a new stage box which will be in the region of \$2,500, and new monitors. Pastor Ray thanked JJ and Eleanoa for the hard work and dedication they put into the worship team.

8 CPO (Child Protection Officer) – Katy Solomon

Katy is sick at present so Pastor Ray advised that her role is to help ensure the children in our church are protected and that church is a safe place. She is an independent point of contact when people may not feel comfortable talking to pastors. She ensures that all volunteers for kids church are vetted. She has undertaken training with youth leaders around children and keeping them safe. She ensures that safety is discussed at every youth meeting, and setting clear expectations. Children and adults are not to be alone in the Kids Church rooms. We have a child safety policy, but this is only as good as its application. We say we value this but do we? Churches are vulnerable and it is important that we get this right. There was a Royal Commission Report this year which indicated that 1/2% of abuse in care was in churches. This is a small percentage but it needs to be zero.

9 Door Greeters – Grant Whitelaw

Grant did a humorous report suggesting that we get AI to replace the church's door greeters. Even though this was a little hilarious Ray reminded all those on the door that their job is very important as it is the first point of contact for any new people. They are also the fire wardens and it is their job to ensure everyone is out of the building in an emergency.

State of the Nation

The meeting closed at 12.55pm with prayer and grace from Pastor Ray before we had pizza lunch together as a fellowship.