

Freedom Christian Church AGM to the year ended 31.03.2020

The meeting opened at 12.05pm with a welcome from Pastor Ray, and a prayer from Kiruba Simpson.

Pastor Ray welcomed the people to the Annual meeting of Freedom Christian Church also known as the Waikato City Assembly of God Trust Board. This year's meeting is a voting meeting so our voting strength was established by a count of adults 18 and over. We do not have a formal membership so our informal membership consists of those who contribute to the running of the Church and attend regularly. Contributing means giving, working, serving or helping within the Fellowship. Our voting strength was established at 27.

It was moved and seconded that Bua be appointed as scrutineer.

Grant Whitelaw/Carolien Moxham

Ray commented that at some point we may need to do something formal about our membership. Membership gives you control within the Church. Most people think that membership gives the church control over you. This is **NOT** the case.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were summarised and confirmed. Ray noted that 50% of those in Church do something within the Fellowship. This is compared to the average for most churches that 20% of those in church do 80% of the work. He encouraged everyone that we are a church of committed people.

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

Clayton Chamberlain/Lynette Wong

Matters Arising

- 1) Christians Against Poverty (CAP): We are still in the same position with CAP, not working formally but still donating towards their need.

Ministry Reports

1 Worship

Tamar presented a report on the Worship Team for the year. She noted that the Worship Team continues to grow. She is proud of the team's growth for the year both spiritually and physically. There have been new learning curves. She thanked the team for going along with the significant changes this year has brought. Most significantly, COVID-19. She explained that it was quite nerve-racking at times with the different stresses brought on by live-streaming and recordings of the worship. Everyone adapted really well. There was real improvement as the weeks went on. There was also significant challenges for the sound team with Sunday Services as well as live-streaming. The whole team had been incredible. They had a worship leaders course during the year in which they learned new skills and new worship leaders came on board. Because of Tamar's pregnancy, JJ has had to take on Worship directing by himself. Tamar expressed specific thanks and appreciation to JJ.

2 **Youth**

Bua reported that the theme for this year is “Putting God First in Everything They Do”. With every programme they do they put something in about God. They can do all the fun stuff, but the leaders also want our youth to go home with a God thing. There is tremendous passion within the youth leadership team. Even with the lockdown they continued with online youth chats. This had varying degrees of success. Bua explained that they hooked up with the Manurewa youth and every 1st Friday of the month they have a youth-led service. The young people are encouraged to bring friends and other youth groups within the AG Movement in the Waikato to bring them together. This is going strong. Overall the youth group and leaders have been awesome. Royden and Ants leading Risen, and Jaimi and Dillon leading JumpStart are incredibly passionate about their young people. Sam Reader is now helping out with the Risen Youth. This is an incredible step up for him which Bua and the team are really excited about. A month ago they ran a 2-week youth training course. It was supposed to be longer but they did it in 2 weeks with 5 sessions a day over 2 weekends. She thanked everyone involved.

3 **Under 5 Alive**

Kiruba reported that the Under 5 Alive group is really going well. Their aim is to bring the Under 5 children into the way of the Lord. They sing together and spend meaningful time together. There are 2 teams and Kiruba expressed thanks to all the team leaders and helpers. She also thanked the parents and a special thanks to the parents who co-operated during the lockdown. She noted that there is space available for anyone who would like to be involved in the Under 5 Alive programme and to see Pastor Ray or herself if they would like to be involved.

4 **Kids' Church**

Picking up on Pastor Ray's advice that we do not have a register of attendance, Darlene reported that Kids' Church does keep a register and attendance record. This is because of the new government requirement for all people working with children.

They are running a new programme this year from Hillsong. She found that it relates very well to the children where they are now and who they are in Christ. There is a lot of teaching on the screen and the numbers are growing. They are averaging 30 children every Sunday over the 2 services. Darlene thanked everyone involved in the leadership and helping out at Kid's Church. They too are also open to volunteers.

It was moved and seconded that the Ministry reports be adopted:

Jenny Mundy/Simpson

Pastor Ray commented that both Kid's Church and Under 5 Alive are team led. There are 3 Kid's Church teams and 2 Under 5 Alive teams. Mostly they run month-on / month-off. And you are always working in a team. You will never be asked to run something on your own. He emphasised that the Church has a Policy that states that if you are volunteering in any capacity in the Church and you no longer wish to do that job, all you have to do is tell him or the leader of the activity you are involved in. You will

only be asked to give them time to fill your position – you will never be asked to give a reason why you want to stop.

He also advised that there is currently a Royal Commission looking into sexual abuse of children in care. There will be a time when our church will be asked “what are our policies on child safety”. As a church we have adopted the AG Movement’s Policy on Child Safety. This means as a church we will never endeavour to cover anything up. If anything happens you will be informed straight away. And the authorities will be advised straight away.

Joy is on hold for the year because of COVID and the rest homes are being very cautious. Grant organises the greeters roster. We have a large team of cleaners. Varoon now has a cleaning business and he did a spring-clean of the building just before the Church Birthday. There is another roster of volunteer flower-arrangers. You will notice that the flowers are always fresh. We don’t do plastic!

A new initiative has started this year – 2030. They do a bible study once a month for the 20-30 year olds. If everyone came each month there would be about 25 young people.

Clayton and Heather continue with the prayer ministry. We have an awesome Leadership Team comprising Bua and Magele, Simpson and Kiruba and Ray and Carolien. And we have one extra team now – our live-streaming team. We call them the Stream Team. Mega Group continues to do well with an average of 25 people in the morning and a little less in the evening.

Simpson has taken over the Evening Services. Pastor Ray says he has attended about half of them and they have had a whole bunch of different people speaking. He made a special note of thanks to Simpson and how this has taken a huge load off him and he has been really enjoying coming to the evening services. In 2 weeks time Simpson will be ordained.

Pastor Rina (Putaruru) has faced amazing obstacles this year and Pastor Ray is incredibly proud of how she has handled these difficulties and the church family in Putaruru this past year.

Finally, Pastor Ray advised the church that we have an expanded staff this year. Bua is doing one day a week and Rebecca (Reader) is also doing one day a week. He hopes to broaden out the work we as a church can do. He expressed a big “thank you” to Bua and Rebecca for taking some weight off his shoulders.

5 Finance

Trish then presented the Finance Report. She thanked those who give faithfully and generously to the Church without which we could not do what we do. She explained some of the larger items:

- Church Refreshments – this continues to be one of the biggest expenses of the Church at \$13,000; just over \$1,000 a month is spent by the Church on food.
- \$9,000 on Clow Place. This amount represented just over \$4,000 on the canopies architect and materials to erect, the rest covered materials for displays, repairs to fixtures, kitchen utensils, painting supplies etc.

- The AGNZ Levy is a fee we pay to the AGNZ as our parent body and is a small percentage of our annual giving. (3%)
- Interest Expense is the figure we have paid out in interest on our Christian Savings Loan. She confirmed that this amount is only the interest paid, not the total amount including the principle repayment.

Moving over to the page containing the assets and liabilities she pointed out that we have \$80,000 in savings. She explained that this money was put into staggered term investments maturing month by month. This amount has all matured now and the Board recently agreed that \$60,000 would be used to reduce the Christian Savings Loan which stood at \$220,000 at the beginning of April this year. The more we reduce this loan the less interest we will pay so it makes sense to reduce this as and when we can. She finished by thanking everyone who gives to the church, both financially and practically for the ongoing support and success of this fellowship.

This year we have had some difficulties with the Auditor (Blessed Abacus). One his main complaints about us and fellowships like ours was that things are not produced in a timely manner. Pastor Ray was quick to defend Trish pointing out that she does most tasks within a week.

A question was asked about what our net surplus was for the year and where could we find that. Pastor Ray pointed to the "Surplus for the Year" figure of \$53,378. This figure was part of the \$80,000 shown on the assets page under the Bank accounts heading. Currently we are covering costs – we are not building up a surplus.

It was moved and seconded that the reports be accepted

Jean Woolston/Serina Sharma

Election of the Board

There has been one change to the Board this year. A change which was provoked by government policy. Trish acts within the Church as Treasurer. The Charities Commission best practice recommends that Treasurers sit on the Board, so she votes along with the rest of us. As a Board member she come under the protection of the insurance that we hold. Trish was co-opted onto the Board at the beginning of this year. There were no new nominations received for the Board. All on the Board want to serve, but none see themselves as indispensable. The Board represents the congregation. The congregation appoint the Board and the Board owns the Church. They own the building on behalf of the congregation. The Board employs the Pastor and our 2 part-time employees, Bua and Rebecca on your behalf. They are the legal entity within the Church. They are officially "where the buck stops". Today we are voting to retain our existing Board for the next 2 years. The vote was carried unanimously. Pastor Ray took the opportunity to thank the Board for their commitment to the fellowship and showing the congregation an example of this when being a Board member means coming down to fix a door because our Building Warrant of Fitness require it.

It was moved and seconded that we retain our current Board for the next 2 years.

Ray Moxham/Bua Tekavai

Pastors "State of the Nation" Address

No-one expected this year to be what it has been. Churches are conservative. It is our nature. That being said, there is always the threat that we may not be able change because we are stuck in the past. That question was asked by God of us this year! We had to learn new ways of doing things and we had to learn new skills. We did it quickly and seamlessly. The Worship Team recorded the music. And we rocked it! Lockdown could have done serious damage to the Church. We hardly missed a beat. We did not miss a beat in heart or spirit or numerically. We went from strength to strength. To identify why this was, there are three possibilities:

- We have an awesome Leadership Team;
- You are the most amazing brilliant Church;
- And that we serve an absolutely amazing God.

No doubt it is a combination of those factors. Everyone pulled the Church through. Numerically we are ahead of where we were before lockdown. The second service on Church's Birthday last week was full. We are going from strength to strength. In the midst of what could have been a crisis year, we give thanks to the awesome leaders that took the Church through, to the awesome God who was faithful in difficult times, and to the amazing congregation who held it together. Pastor Ray encouraged everyone to keep loving, keep serving, keep worshiping, keep giving it your all. Jesus is building His Church. Pastor Ray expressed that he has no idea what the year ahead holds. But there was one thing to pick up on that COVID stopped. There is a seminar called The Growth Collective which was put on hold, and we want to see it come together to see churches grow. We will be bringing together leaders from around the Waikato region and different people will be sharing their visions. It is a way of bringing churches together and for the leaders to get to know who else is out there. Paul Gordon and a number of other people from various fellowships will be involved as well.

At this point the meeting closed and Clayton prayed. The meeting closed at 12.50pm.

Immediately following the closing of the meeting Stan Woolston thanked Pastor Ray and Carolien on behalf of the whole congregation, especially for how they handled the changes required during lockdown with awesome preaching, awesome commitment which everyone in the fellowship felt, and which made the whole ordeal all the more bearable than anyone thought possible.