

Freedom Christian Church AGM to the year ended 31.03.2023

The meeting opened at 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 need to give receipts for donations, 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 integrity. 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 time or finances. We trust each person will have integrity in deciding whether they meet these conditions.

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

Ray Moxham /Grant Whitelaw

We established a voting strength of 33 by raised hands and 36 by the attendance register handed around.

The Minutes of the previous meeting have been available on the website for the last 2 weeks and had been 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 an Audit had been completed on the 2022-2023 accounts as is currently required annually. Foster had been an invaluable help in this. There will be a vote today to determine whether or not we will change our Constitution to allow a review or an audit to take place. She reported that the Church had implemented a policy suggested by the auditors last year of an additional layer of approval for invoices and that this is working well. She indicated that Rebecca has stepped up and is helping with the day-to-day load now. She is still available as a back-up as is Foster Shek when expert accounting advice is needed. She thanked Foster and Rebecca for their input this year. The building loan balance is currently at \$174,750 and we were able to pay off a larger amount of our principal because of last year's low interest rates. Church currently has \$52,000 in a Term Investment with Christian Savings which has just matured and will be reinvested. 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. 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. He pointed out the budget attached with the agenda and that churches generally budget 1/3 of their income on the mortgage, 1/3 on salaries and 1/3 on daily

running costs. As a church we are reasonably close to these guidelines. The Missions budget is just over 10%, but Ray indicated that the current year's missions giving will be significantly higher because of the commitments we have had with Freedom International in the Solomons and Freedom Church in the Congo.

It was moved and seconded that this report be accepted

Trish Oh/John Twizel

2 Board Elections

Andrea and Serina are currently the only elected Board members. Trish is also on the Board because she keeps the books. We need 2 new Board members to give a total of 6 Board members. There were 4 nominations: Maureen Law, Adrian Solomon, Dillon Bhanu and John Twizel. We have lost 2 Board members this year, Jean Woolston and Dennis Clement and we seriously miss them as they both gave excellent service. Jean did financial approvals and Dennis did building care and fixing what needed to be fixed. Ray thanked them both (posthumously) for their contribution to the running of Freedom Christian Church. As a church, we are a semi-democracy. Our members control what we do. We elect a Board who is responsible for the physical oversight of the church. The Board employs our current 3 employees. They can also sack us! They look after Health and Safety and the Charities Commission. They do not organize the services. That is the job of the eldership. They do the spiritual running of the church. The 2 (The Board and The Eldership) have a symbiotic relationship. Carolien and Ray appoint the Elders who are approved by the Board. Similarly, with the Board, Carolien and Ray nominate possible new Board members and the Eldership approves.

3 Youth - Bua

Bua and Magele oversee the youth groups. At the beginning of the year, they asked each of the groups what was their aim for the next 12 months. Reflect, which is the intermediate age group 12-14 and run by Torika and Lai with Connor as their helper, had the aim for the whole year to be used in Church. Bua and Magele asked how had they incorporated that with the activities and programmes. Their response was that every time they get together they pray and they asked for specific prayer. One of their youth is now in the Prayer Group during the service and in the personal prayer time after each service. Risen, which is run by Antillea and Royden with Sam as their helper, have been focussed on the community and they have incorporated this into their programme by feeding the homeless and baking. Every term they have 2 services of Youth Church where they invite a guest speaker. This year they attended the Fearless Conference in Auckland which they absolutely loved. It made them think about their walk with God. The baptisms coming up is made up of a large component of the youth group. Bua asked that the congregation pray for this upcoming event and the lives of the young people submitting to baptism.

4 Sabrina - Under 5 Alive

Ray read Sabrina's report as Sabrina has left NZ to be closer to her family in Brisbane. They followed the bible-based curriculum 101 Bible Stories for Toddlers focussing on a Gospel story each week. The children are encouraged to share anything interesting they may have done during the week. Then a Gospel story is read or acted out. Then they typically have

songs correlating to the story and then an object lesson to help them think about the story. They finish with a craft or game again focussed on what they have learnt. They have 7 volunteers and Sabrina thanked them for their faithful commitment. Highlights for the year included 5 kids graduating up to Kids Church and an increase in kids attending. The under 5s appear more confident and have grown to love the Bible stories. Some new activities tried this year were painting, drawing, colouring and play dough and this artwork has been placed around the under 5 alive room. Snack breaks have also been introduced which the children love. The under 5 format is working well. Along with consistency of prayer, story, snack and closing prayer which helps create familiarity for the children and they have grown comfortable in knowing what to expect. A challenge this year has been consistency of attendance and the group dynamic which may vary each week.

5 Kids Church - Darlene

Darlene presented the Kid's Church report which she said has been going much the same as the Under 5 Alive group. Friday nights were a highlight which the kids have really enjoyed. And the challenges she faced were the number of volunteers.

6 Prayer - Ritu

We had a training session at the beginning of the year, and we now have a new prayer team. It has been great to see those that feel they have a calling on their lives and are putting that into action. Our prayer team is aware of the confidentiality of people's prayer requests and there are lots of people engaging with this. Every 5th Sunday of the month we have a prayer session at Church. This works out to be 3-4 times a year. Each of these 5th Sunday prayer meetings has been following a theme. The last 2 themes were foundation and structure. There are 2 weekly prayer sessions running at present, Wednesday during Mega and Sunday morning 10-11.

7 Worship - JJ

The Worship Team currently consists of 27 volunteers. There is more when you include the sound and live-stream volunteers. The 2 newest volunteers are Justin on the drums and Roman on the base. This there has been a worship workshop. It was very good, and the team were blessed. We have introduced 4 new songs this year, previously it was 1-2 new songs quarterly. The worship leaders choose the new songs. We try to stay up to date with our song selection. Last year we had about 150 songs to choose from, this has been reduced to 50 this year. The top 5 songs at Freedom this year have been Here Belongs; I Speak Jesus; Goodness of God, How He Loves, and Great Are You Lord. JJ thanked the team for their commitment and invited questions. Any complaints can be directed to Pastor Ray!

It was moved and seconded that the Reports be accepted.

Ray Moxham/Grant Whitelaw

Board Election Results

Maureen Law and John Twizel were elected to the Board. Pastor Ray noted that it was a close race this year.

Remit 1

Amending the wording of our constitution.

From: All church Board accounts; and records shall be audited at the end of the Church's financial year by an independent auditor appointed by the Board. Departmental accounts will also be audited.

To: All church Board accounts and records shall be audited or reviewed for the end of the Church's financial year by an independent auditor appointed by the Board. Departmental accounts will also be audited.

Pastor Ray advised that we are a Tier 2 church on the Charities Commission guidelines. This means that "legally" we do not need to be audited or reviewed, but for the sake of transparency we choose to do so. It costs approximately \$6,600 to get an audit. Auditing gives a good look at our processes, accounting and other processes. A Review is just the accounts. An audit includes accounts, policies, employment, and a Review is just finances. A Review is about ½ the cost of an audit. We plan to have an audit one year and a review the next, alternating from year to year. This will point out where our weaknesses are.

It was moved and seconded to take a vote on this Remit

Ray Moxham/Andrea Thien

Remit 2

A question was raised by Joseph Collins and Peter Billings re new home fellowships. Joseph spoke to this remit and gave the congregation some positives and negatives.

Positives: Believers in the New Testament decided to come together; home groups can sort out the messiness in Church; allowing space for discussion is healthy; delegation of a fellowships facilitator is recommended; practice our God-given gifts. People can explore more gifts in the body of Christ; the body will have more opportunities to fellowship daily; people get to know other members of the body better; participants will feel more joy; the body will grow with more reasons to invite new believers.

Negatives: Sometimes poor doctrine is raised; there can sometimes be arguments between people with different views.

Challenges: How can we know people we do not meet regularly?

There was a question about whether is anything currently stopping people meeting in this way? Pastor Ray advised that there wasn't any and then shared with the congregation the history of what we now call Mega Group.

When Freedom Church started, 3 home groups were started. There was one Pastor in charge. The groups ran between a year and 18 months. Every week there was a major problem, sometimes physical violence. That is why we moved to Mega Group. The Pastor in charge had the strongest pastoral care ministry, but after this time he did not want to do it anymore. We run both Megas on a Wednesday because we wanted to force the congregation not to attend something every night. We wanted to make sure people had a life outside church. I am happy with the way we do things now. If the congregation feels differently, we will implement something else. Dean runs 2 groups at the moment, one for ex-prisoners and one online. There was a comment that this person was happy with the status quo. Ray asked Joseph if he was happy for the eldership to appoint a committee to work out how home fellowships would function if the majority of the Church wanted it? Joseph was happy with that. Morning Mega would be rebranded and evening Mega would be dropped.

It was moved and seconded to take a vote on this Remit

Joseph Collins/Peter Billings

Child Protection Officer

Pastor Ray advised the Church that Katy Solomon is the new Child Protection Officer. This position has come about at the initiation of the AG Movement. We have had 4 training sessions in order to ensure our children are safe in our Church environment. We have adopted the AG Policy and we already have most of the recommendations in place. This building has lots of glass and windows which is good. There is little space for anyone with evil intent to hide. Each of our people is police checked. Katy's role is an addition. Her role has 4 components:

- i) To make sure the Policy is being followed;
- ii) To report to the Board accordingly;
- iii) To observe and make sure children really are safe;
- iv) To receive any concerns. If anyone has a concern, Katy is the person to advise.

State of the Nation

This year we have had challenges and blessings. We are baptising 8 people this year. We are still in "post-COVID" mode and are still trying to grapple with how this has affected church attendance. People are attending less regularly. It has been an amazing year despite the challenges.

Missions

How did we end up with a Church in the Solomons and a Church in the Congo?! Thank you, Lord! You will be aware there is a catch 22 situation with missions. If you work with locals on the ground, money will go a long way. There is lots more to be done on the missions field. Ravi and Marieke will be going out as soon as they get the necessary paperwork done.

Ray thanked everyone who presented reports and advised that all is going well. Each department is doing amazingly. Eldership and Board meetings are a joy, and he already has ideas for Christmas! We have over 70 volunteers acting every week in Church. He expressed a huge "thank you" to everyone who attends, gives and volunteers. As we love one another we will grow.

Remit Voting Results

Remit 1 - 19 for and 1 against

Remit 2 - 6 for and 26 against

Ray advised that we would implement Remit 1, and we will look at ways to mitigate the programme for Remit 2.

The meeting closed at 1.20pm with prayer from Vivek and Pastor Ray who said Grace before we had pizza lunch together as a fellowship.