



BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH

MEETING of the CONGREGATION

Sunday May 17 2009

MINUTES AND REPORTS

If you are collecting this copy before the meeting, please ensure that you bring it back with you on the day of the meeting. Thank you

May 17 2009 Congregational Meeting Agenda

Blackwood Uniting Church 11am

Apologies Pg 3
Minutes of AGM of congregation 16.11.08
Matters Arising:

Spoken Reports

Minister's Reports	Leanne Jenski, Ian Hunter	
Rev Ian Hunter's written report	Ian Hunter	Pg 7
Church Council	Ewan Hazeldine	Pg 8
Finance	Ray Bown, Brian Pickering	Pg 9
Elders and Lay Ministry	David Agnew	Pg16

Reflection on spoken reports

Tabled Reports

Property	Graham Brown	Pg16
Inter-Church Council	Gloria McArthur	Pg17
Beacon	Gloria McArthur	Pg18
Community Program & Shed	Janet Maschmedt	Pg18
Library Services	Joy Belling	Pg19
Mission and Justice	A. Blake, C. Megaw, E. Ninnis	Pg20
Urban Mission Network	Wendy Norris	Pg21
Black Wood Jazz	Sarah Agnew	Pg22
11am Congregation	Mary Thomas	Pg22
Pastoral Care Group 9.15am	Jan Rawolle	Pg23
Synod	Christa Megaw , Tim Lee	Pg23

Reflection on Tabled reports

Mission Planning / Budget Ewan and Alastair Blake

Election of Synod Reps and Secretary of Congregation

Benediction: Ministers

Next Meeting; Budget presentation July 26th 2009

AGM 22.11.09

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Congregation
Blackwood Uniting Church Sunday 16 November 2008**

Meeting commenced at 10.56am

1. ATTENDANCE: as per attendance sheets. **Present: 80** **Apologies: 11**
2. Opening prayer by Malcolm McArthur
3. Minutes of the May 15 2008 with corrections
 - Spelling of McCaskill and Peter Stevens
 - 4.7 supported by circle of friends – organised by church Property committee
4. Scrutineers for voting mignon Burgess and Claudia Cliff
5. Reports
 - 1) Ministers – presented by Leanne Jenski
 - began with article written by Leanne about refreshing our relationship with the church
 - highlighted Kids Hope program
 - will buy movie tickets for all teachers at the local primary school as a thank you from BUC
 - change to January services: 11 am to remain as normal
combined 9.30 Belair/Blackwood service under trees
at Belair National Park (council decision)
 - 2) Church Council – presented by Mark Williams
 - Highlights:
 - structure of council with numbers reduced
 - steering group to enable better flow of info from congregation to council
 - building up church in the community by shared worship and shared meals
 - Helen Lee bequest documents and deeds drawn up
 - Expressed thanks for confidence in his work as interim chair of council. Impressed and heartened by guidance of council
 - Thanks to Ewan for taking over as chairperson

Questions on 1) & 2)

- What happens on fire ban days for 9.30 services at Belair national Park? Council will consider this
- Is there an entry fee? As we are meeting on the oval, we do not have to enter the park proper.
- Will these services be advertised to the community? By postcards, Messenger newspaper and banner.
- What is the Helen Lee trust fund used for? Building the life of the congregation, building music and contemporary worship, building intellectual skills of the congregation. A small subcommittee has been formed to organise the administering of the grant comprising Alastair Blake, Brian Pickering, Alison Sutcliffe.

3) Elders

- acknowledgement of the service of Jan Rawolle and Richard Blackwell as elders
- 4 programs commended to the congregation: Kids Hope, Faith Sharing on the 3rd Sunday of the month, Life of Faith at Roundabout Forums, building of relationship with the Kauna people
- in the restructuring of the council, membership of the council by elders is optional

4) Finance

- 2 reports: property committee and main church account
- Motion to accept the financial reports CONSENSUS
- Graphs: showed an attendance graph; offering graph showing actual and adjusted for cost of living increases
- cost drivers: ministers costs have increases; office and synod have remained fairly constant; offerings have also remained fairly constant
- Budget for 2009: \$10,000 deficit; stewardship program late in 2009; reduced property committee budget; garage sale and community program will assist with increased donations; ministers' costs have increased again; this budget will allow us to continue similar programs and activities as in 2008
- Projections for 2010: will continue to run at a deficit and cash reserves will run out

Questions from Finance Committee

- Can we increase giving through stewardship program?
- Can we trim expenses further?
- Could we run office and cleaning by volunteers?
- Should we reduce ministers' hours?

Recommendations

1. AGM approves the proposed 2009 budget
2. AGM notes seriousness of the financial situation and Council's intention to bring forward recommendations in 2009 to address it
3. That Council, following consultation with members of the congregation, present a draft of a balanced 2010 budget to the May 2009 meeting of the congregation

Questions

Bob Lyon – as secretary of the property committee, the deficit is \$16,000. He expresses a concern that the community program is the only body that contributes to the running of the church

Wendy Norris – not continuing on Council

Ewan Hazeldine – as incoming chair of the Council. May is a short time for presenting a draft budget so proposes a special meeting in July to give a better time frame for consultation.

Ian Penny – How much extra would we need to give in order to meet costs.

Response is 4%.

David Agnew proposed "The congregation approves a reduction in the present council to fourteen (14)." CONSENSUS

Receive Elders report CONSENSUS

Finance report recommendations 1) CONSENSUS

2) CONSENSUS

2) May or July – no consensus

Discussion and comments on both May and July.

Alan Ninnes proposed “There is in May an interim report followed by a draft budget presented in July at a special meeting” CONSENSUS

5) Steering Committee report

Direction from Malcolm McArthur to note pluses, minuses and interesting points. These will be collected and passes to the steering committee.

- Steering committee is Rev Leanne, Rev Ian, Helen Blake, Jane Palmer, Simon Mitchell, Tony Otworowski, Ewan Hazeldine, Rob Stoner. [Sarah Agnew will replace Simon Mitchell]

Discerning our Journey.

Stage 1. Who are we? A new church brochure has been produced
What difference does being part of this group make in your life/faith journey? Posters to be displayed

Tony Otworowski displayed a poster depicting the property committee and one for the prayer group and one from the book group

Leanne Jenski reported on common themes from responses of church groups –

- sense of community
 - sense of caring, sharing and belonging
 - to explore, learn and express ideas without fear
 - opportunity to serve
 - has diversity of gifts in practice
 - can grow together
 - community that reaches out} additions suggested by congregation
 - an inclusive community}

Advent focus “What is God waiting for us to do?” – intentionally non busy services

Giving information as to who does what in the church community.

Thanks were given to Jane Bassham and Mark Gill, tea and coffee people and the Steering committee.

6) Mission Report

- Introduced a brochure which has been ratified by the Council
- Invitation to the congregation to join the journey and put themselves on the road
- Need for a convenor of the Environmental focus group
- Asked for contributions to Mission and Justice cake stall convened by Glenis Reid
- Film Nights – first one in January “As it was in Heaven”
- Convenor needed for pancake day in March

7) Interchurch Council

- Thank you to Gwendolyn Morphett for 15 years service – confirmed by congregation. Glenis Reid is taking over from Gwendoline.
- Thanks to Leanne for coordinating the Kids Hope program

- Mention of Year 7 transition bags handed out by school chaplains – donations are being sought for the production of these bags, both money and goods
- Beacon program – a light of hope in the hills; to provide relief to those in need; will be based at the Church of Christ.

Questions

letter to be sent to Gwendoline expressing thanks for her contribution

8) Tabled Reports

Community program

9.15 Pastoral care

11.00am congregation

Youth Ministry

Simon Mitchell spoke about the youth ministry. Simon is leaving but the leadership is being carried on by Sarah Jarvis and Jess Dawson with support of Peter and Nancy Cranwell.

Malcolm McArthur proposed thanks to Simon for his contribution.

Questions

Janet Maschmedt shared responses from Community program about what it means to the members.

- 9) Library – Thanks to Joy Belling for her contribution
 Property – thanks by Bob Lyon to Stan White for the gardening team and Bob Potter as treasurer
 Kids Hope – need \$500.
 Thanks to Christina Wu for assistance with auditing. Letter of thanks to be written.

10) Synod Report

- draw attention of MP's to the proliferation of arms and business of war. Synod is asking us to write to MP's about the commercialisation of war.
- Uniting Church should support Fair Trade. Members should use their spending power to make a statement
- Thanks to Synod representatives: Tim Lee, Christa Megaw, Wendy Norris

11) Election of Officers

As per nomination slips CONSENSUS

Elders: Joy Boase; John Whitbread; Glenis Reid; Michael Bull; Alastair Blake

Council: Sarah Agnew; Alastair Blake

Chairperson of Congregation: Wendy Norris

Deputy Chairperson of Congregation: Michael Bull

Secretary: Margaret Knight

Nominees for Urban Mission Network: Wendy Norris; Anne Magarey

CONSENSUS

Next meeting as per the agenda

Thanks to Malcolm McArthur for his work as chairperson of the congregation over the last 2 years.

Rev Ian's Thoughts:

As we continue our journey to a deeper faith together there continue to be many signposts on the road that seem to indicate we are headed in the right direction. Over the past six months I have witnessed many caring and compassionate people who are striving to live out their faith more fully. There are many people who are asking questions about why we gather, what we are about and are we doing things that allow people to share their gifts. In events like the progressive supper, the garage sale and the fashion parade we have experienced the opportunity for the community to gather in fun ways that allow us to get to know one another better and out of that a deeper sense of community is born.

There are several opportunities for people to get to know each other better happening right now. There's the men's group that meets at the RSL on the first Friday of the month and ladies group that meets in the coffee lounge the first Sunday night of the month. There have been some get to know you lunches for our new members.

The spiritual practices gatherings on the first Monday continue to give people time for quiet reflection with God and the study groups and bible studies have been both interesting and stimulating. There is certainly opportunity and expressions of interest for more of these types of experiences to help us on our journey of deepening our personal faith. Our relationship with God and how we live it out is at the core of our community and each of us should be looking to cultivate a deeper, richer relationship with God.

Sarah and the new YAG leaders have organized a great schedule of events for the school terms and attendance is steadily growing. We are also thrilled to have Peter and Nancy Cranwell offering their wisdom with YAG as well. I am looking for four or five people that will provide support for our YAG leaders and work as a link with the wider congregation. If you are interested in sharing your gifts in this way please let me know.

Over the next few months I will be preparing for attending the twelfth national assembly. The theme is Living Water – Thirsty Land. It is in Sydney from July 15-21 and I am both excited and honoured to be representing our synod/presbytery and Blackwood. I encourage you to go on the Assembly website and read about the issues that we will be dealing with and if you have thoughts or ideas I would love to hear them.

Part of our responsibility as a national church is to continue to hear the voices of the people we serve and adapt to be relative to their lives. We are called to be part of the wider community and nation. Just as the national church meets to discern where God is leading us, so we at Blackwood have been doing a similar journey over the past year and a half. We are listening for how God is moving and working in our community and how we can become a bigger part of that. If you have any thoughts, ideas or visions we need to hear them. I am a believer that when we hear the margins then we hear more of the whole God picture. If you have had things to share but haven't yet taken the opportunity to do so please seek Leanne, Ewan Hazeldine or myself out. We want to hear you.

I am excited about the next six months and where we will journey together.

Blessings and safe journeying to all.

Ian Hunter.

Church Council

I am pleased to make my first report to the Congregation since taking up the role of Chairperson of Council.

A major focus for Council has been the decision of the AGM asking Council to prepare a balanced budget for 2010, reporting in May and July. In preparation for this Council, Elders and the Steering Group went on retreat in February, seeking to discern afresh what God is calling us to be and do in this time and place. We are indebted to Rev Ian Price and Rev Rob Stoner from the Synod's Mission Resourcing Network for their leadership. We then invited the Congregation to participate in a similar process in March, again lead by Rob, as a result of which, a list of missional priorities were developed. This process has been supported by two other task groups – the Steering Group which has been working on clarifying who we are and what we value (as reported to the AGM); and a Budget committee which has been working on a mission-based approach to budgeting to better align our budget process with our understanding of God's calling to us in this place. This work will be shared with the Congregation at the coming meeting.

Council has also undertaken a ministerial review, in close consultation with Rev Leanne and Rev Ian, aimed at providing feedback on the development of their ministries and the effectiveness of those ministries in the development of our faith community. We consulted widely with a representative cross-section of the congregation. The outcome affirmed that we are blessed with our ministerial team and the leadership they are giving us on our journey as a faith community, seeking to engage in mission in obedience to God's calling. They bring different gifts which are complementary, but share a common theological perspective and view of mission. It became apparent through the review that the role and division of work of the Ministers was not widely known and understood, leading in some cases to unrealistic expectations. In seeking to correct any misconceptions, Council decided to make a summary available to the congregation. (See Attachment to this report.) Council also acknowledged Leanne and Ian's differing approaches to support for their ministries and affirmed that formal feedback regarding their ministries can be made through the Chair of Council.

Other matters considered by Council include

- Promotion of community-building activities to be run by various groups, commencing with the Progressive Dinner and the Fashion Parade.
- Establishing a communications task group to improve internal and external exchange of information about BUC activities and programs.
- Timing of the first Helen Lee Scholarship and acknowledging John Lee's further gift to the Trust Fund. Contributions to the Fund to also be invited.
- Mentoring for young leaders.

There has been one change in Elders representation on Council with Bev Eccleston replacing Joan Hazeldine. In addition our Secretary, Jan Walsh, has foreshadowed her retirement later in the year and we ask for prayers as we seek a replacement.

Ewan Hazeldine, Chair of Council

Attachment

Roles and Division of Work between Ministers

As described in the Regulations of the UCA, Ministers are called by Jesus Christ to "proclamation of the gospel in word and deed". This calling is exercised in many ways, including

- preaching of the Word
- presiding at the celebration of the sacraments
- equipping members for ministry in the community

- nurturing candidates for baptism and confirmation
- witnessing in the community to the gospel of Jesus Christ
- serving in the community, especially among those who are hurt, disadvantaged, oppressed or marginalised
- pastoral oversight and counsel
- pioneering new expressions of the gospel and encouraging effective ways of fulfilling the mission of the Church

In their team ministry at BUC, Rev Leanne and Rev Ian have agreed on a division of the activities of the ministry team, which has been endorsed by Council. Unlike the previous ministerial team, neither minister has a special focus on the 9.15 or 11am worshipping communities: the preaching and pastoral work is shared in proportion to their settlements.

Rev Leanne's settlement is full-time. Rev Ian's settlement is a 0.5, or halftime, at BUC. His other 0.5 settlement is with Belair UC.

It should be noted that Ministers in congregational settlements in the SA Synod are expected to commit 10% of their time to activities related to the Synod or the wider church.

Rev Leanne has a specific focus on the Community Program, ministry to children, meetings of the Inter-church Council and other ecumenical activities. Leanne is conducting a Living The Questions study and is keen to lead more Bible studies. She initiated and co-ordinates the Kids Hope program at Blackwood Primary School. In the wider church, Leanne is a member of the Synod Selection Panel, the Synod Uniting Care Commission, the Urban Mission Network and the Friends of Unity Committee.

Rev Ian has a special focus on youth ministry and justice. He intends to establish an appropriate way to work with a group of young adults. Ian started the Spiritual Practices group and is leading a book study group. In the wider church, Ian is a member of Presbytery Placements Committee, Synod Strategic Plan Core Justice Team, the Urban Mission Network, Solar Churches Committee and the Desert Journeys program.

V1. April 09

Finance and Stewardship Committee

2008 outcome

2008 turned out to be a better year than expected, in that the budgeted deficit of \$16,300 was reduced, in fact, to a smaller deficit of approx \$4,000. Although we had a \$10,000 shortfall in offering income, this was more than offset by reductions in expenditure on the new community connections project (\$8,000), on capital works (\$5,600), and in several other areas. Expenditures in a number of key areas, including capital works, will occur in 2009 instead. One-off income from the return of manse contributions (about \$4,000) has also helped reduce the deficit.

Attached are unaudited financial statements for the Main Account, the Community Program, and the Property Committee for the 12 months ending 31 December 2008. It is planned to present the audited statements at the next meeting of the congregation.

Progress in 2009

The offering income received to 31 March 2009 (\$38,700) is in line with the budget.

Expenditures for the quarter are less than expected due to the timing of some payments. The table below is a summary of the financial results for the first quarter.

First Quarter 2009 – Summary of Receipts and Payments

Receipts to 31 March 2009	\$
Offering income	38,723
Property income	3,013
Community Program enrolments etc	13,534
Other	5,782
Total receipts	61,052
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Payments to 31 March 2009	
Ministers costs	26,454
Property	4,341
Community Program	11,145
Other	18,076
Total payments	60,016
Cash operating surplus to 31 March 2009	1,036

Looking forward

If the current level of giving is maintained through 2009, we can expect total offerings to reach or slightly exceed our budget of \$150,000; and with careful control of expenditures, we should be able to manage our finances satisfactorily this year. However, as foreshadowed at the November 2008 AGM, the real challenge for us is how we make ends meet in 2010. In the absence of significant changes, we are anticipating a deficit in 2010 of at least \$20,000. Changes needed to balance our 2010 budget will be the subject of a special congregational meeting in July 2009.

Our committee has included two very active treasurers: Peter Burgess, who manages the main account, and Bob Potter, who has managed the accounts of both the Community Program and the Property Committee during 2008. Following Bob's retirement after more than a decade in these roles, I am pleased to advise that Brian Pickering, a long standing member of the Finance and Stewardship Committee, has taken up these responsibilities.

We have also lost our volunteer auditor, Christina Wu, who has recently moved house to Western Australia. Congregational member (9:15 am), Michael Hughes, has offered to undertake some of our auditing.

Ray Bown. Chairperson, Finance and Stewardship Committee. 26 April 2009.

**BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH MAIN ACCOUNT 2008
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS STATEMENT AT 31 DECEMBER 2008**

RECEIPTS	
Hire of Facilities	312.00
Miscellaneous and Donations	5675.48
Interest Earned	837.04
Offerings all Services	150168.47
Mission giving	15214.05
Reimbursements	15163.44
Fundraising Planned	0.00
GST Collected (2008)	405.83
Total Receipts	187776.31
PAYMENTS	
Children's Ministry	229.99
Worship and music materials	1559.46
Education	121.95
Pastoral Care	100.00
Youth	392.13
Ministers costs	102835.90
Network contribution	2260.10
Office – wages	14310.58
Office & Admin - operating & equipment	8395.97
Resource Centre	350.64
Stewardship	0.00
Advertising /promotion	1059.28
Distance Mission	14715.43
Synod Mission & Service	10824.95
Local Mission - Community Connection	1602.50
Local mission - Community Program	2000.00
Local Mission - ICC	3304.00
Reimbursements etc	7848.81
Property Committee	11200.00
GST Paid (2008)	1249.40
Total Payments	184361.09
Cash Operating Surplus/ (-) Deficit	3415.22
Opening Balance 1 January 2008	13946.82
Closing Balance 31 December 2008	17362.04

**BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH MAIN ACCOUNT 2008
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2008**

ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Current Account – Satisfac	10974.02	
Petty Cash	100.00	11074.02
Investments		
UCA Investment Fund – Term	5500.00	
UCA Investment Fund – Call	788.02	6288.02
Total Assets		17362.04
LIABILITIES		
Project Funds from Donations		
Family Camp	2275.00	
Christmas Bowl	1078.45	
Congregational Lunches 11.00AM	560.59	
West Papua	412.00	
Wedding Deposits	200.00	
Total Liabilities		4526.04
Nett Assets		12836.00
Equity		
Retained Earnings	-5976.19	
Current Year Earnings	4258.79	
Historical Balancing	14553.40	
Total Equity		12836.00

12/3/2009

**BLACKWOOD PROPERTY COMMITTEE
Statement of Receipts and Payments at 31 December 2008**

	APPROVED BUDGET		ACTUAL RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS	
	2008		2008	
<u>RECEIPTS</u>				
Hire of Facilities - Weddings	500.00		830.00	
Hire of Facilities - Other	7200.00		5041.82	
Total Hire of Facilities		7700.00		5871.82
Garage Sale and Other Fund Raising				
Donations - Outreach	1200.00		1300.00	
Miscellaneous	200.00		227.00	
Total Miscellaneous and Donations		1400.00		1527.00
Subsidy from Church Council		11200.00		11200.00
Memorial Wall Plaques - Income			272.73	
- Deposits	0.00	0.00	90.90	363.63
Interest		300.00		321.40
TOTAL RECEIPTS		20600.00		19283.85

PAYMENTS				
Property - Utilities				
Electricity	4000.00		4240.57	
Water	470.00		419.65	
Insurance	3800.00		3617.86	
Emergency Services Levy	50.00		47.20	
Sundry Cleaning Materials	580.00		545.31	
Total Utilities		8900.00		8870.59
Cleaning Contract				
		7200.00		6999.50
Organ Tuning	340.00		169.36	
Garden Plants etc	100.00		62.64	
Miscellaneous Repairs & Maintenance	1325.00		1703.72	
Kitchen - Cutlery/Crockery/Glass	100.00		29.73	
- Hydraboil	700.00		0.00	
Foyer - Carpet Repair	100.00		0.00	
- Painting Walls	150.00		0.00	
Main Hall - Concertina Door				
Maintenance	100.00		0.00	
- Chair Maintenance	200.00		84.00	
Dene Hall - Cleaning Carpets	150.00		0.00	
Coffee Lounge - Painting Walls	175.00		108.82	
- Screens and Pinboard Maintenance		0.00		60.00
Aldersgate - Cleaning Carpet	210.00		0.00	
Hewett Hall - Stage Box Recovering	150.00		0.00	
External - Signage	100.00		0.00	
Car Park Marking	200.00		0.00	
Contingency	200.00		0.00	
Church Sound Equipment	100.00		228.03	
Alarm Monitoring	300.00		290.91	
Other				
Memorial Wall Plaque Expenses	0.00		166.36	
Total Property Maintenance	-	4700.00		2903.57
Eco Activities - Rainwater Tanks	5000.00		7751.22	
Less SA Water Rebate			-1000.00	
Relocate Air Conditioning	1000.00		713.48	
Paving Carpark	4900.00		0.00	
Vision Statement Lighting	500.00		0.00	
Office Safe	0.00		454.55	
Cupboard - Back Office	0.00		431.82	
Office Cabinet	0.00		212.73	
Mobile TV Stand	0.00		90.00	
Gutter Guard Dene Hall Roof	0.00		400.00	
Worship Space Enhancement	0.00		347.02	
Unallocated	3600.00		0.00	
Total Capital Works		15000.00		9400.82
TOTAL PAYMENTS		35800.00		28174.48
Cash operating surplus/ (deficit)		-15200.00		-8890.63
Opening Balance 1 January		22663.00		16002.30
Closing Balance		7463.00		7111.67

BLACKWOOD PROPERTY COMMITTEE BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

Assets		
Cash at Bank		7312.36
Total Assets		7312.36
Liabilities		
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected	165.11	
GST Paid	-782.56	-617.45
Memorial Wall – Deposits	545.43	
Memorial Wall – Prepayments	272.73	818.16
Total Liabilities		200.71
Nett Assets		7111.65
Equity		
Retained Earnings	10750.33	
Current Year Earnings	-8890.63	
Historical Balancing	5251.95	
Total Equity		7111.65

**BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH COMMUNITY PROGRAM
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	APPROVED BUDGET		ACTUAL RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS	
RECEIPTS				
Fundraising		1000		942.82
Commission	600		293.43	
Photocopying	400		317.19	
Trading Table	700		815.75	
Sundry	100		646.25	
Refreshments	0		380.80	
The Shed	300		947.00	
City of Mitcham grant – School Holiday – Program	0		550.00	
Miscellaneous and Donations		2100		3950.42
Interest		700		1142.45
Workshop	0		891.05	
Craft Classes	44500		48781.04	
Display Day	2800		7212.71	
School Holiday Program	500		300.00	
Cancer Foundation – Morning Tea			335.50	
Less Donated to Cancer Foundation			-335.50	
Program Enrolments		47800		57184.80
Subsidy from Council		2000		2000.00
Giving Christmas Bowl		800		0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		54400		65220.49
PAYMENTS				
Wages Instructors	34300		35486.39	
Workcover	400		301.97	
Continued Learning Program	0		840.00	

Payroll Costs Instructors		34700		36628.36
Wages Coordinator	11607		11589.02	
Superannuation	1173		1033.74	
Workcover	120		126.03	
Wages Casual Coordinator	0		2651.27	
Total Payroll Costs Administration		12900		15400.06
Cleaning Contract		3000		3450.00
Refreshments		600		774.86
Postage and Stationery	120		205.97	
Equipment and Furniture	0		746.22	
Gifts	70		120.50	
Fundraising	50		770.30	
Advertising	200		664.77	
Donation Blackwood Property Committee	1300		1300.00	
Display Day	1200		1610.41	
Sundry	350		750.42	
School Holiday Program	1000		162.54	
The Shed	310		320.99	
Mitcham Council Grant - School Holiday Program	0		550.00	
Total Other Costs		4600		7202.12
Giving Christmas Bowl		800		0.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS		56600		63455.40
Surplus/Deficit on Trading		-2200		1765.09
Opening Balance 1 January 2008		28070		30118.21
Closing Balance		25870		31883.30

**BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH COMMUNITY PROGRAM
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2008**

ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank - Satisfac Direct Credit Union	27497.25		
Petty Cash	100.00		
Petty Cash Class Fees	50.00		
Total Current Assets		27647.25	
Other Assets			
Term Deposit - Satisfac Direct Credit Union		5000.00	
TOTAL ASSETS			32647.25
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
GST Collected	1090.70		
GST Paid	-522.13	568.57	
Payroll Deductions PAYGO		195.00	
Total Liabilities			763.57
TOTAL NET ASSETS			31883.68
EQUITY			
Retained Earning		10081.99	
Current Year Earnings		1765.09	
Historical Balancing		20036.60	
TOTAL EQUITY			31883.68

28/1/09

Report of Elders and Lay Preachers

1. Membership

At the November meeting Joy Boase, Glenis Reid and John Whitbread were elected to serve as elders and Alastair Blake and Michael Bull were re-elected. Richard Blackwell and Jan Rawolle retired as elders.

2. Elders and Council Membership

David Agnew, Alastair Blake, Ewan Hazeldine and Bev Eccleston have elected to continue as members of Council. Mary Thomas is an elected member of Church Council. The remaining elders have elected not to attend Council meetings.

3. Faith Sharing

Faith Sharing continues to be a vital part of the spiritual life of the congregation. At the end of 2008 Elders and Lay Preachers reviewed the Faith Sharing evenings and resolved that they should continue into 2009, but that two people rather than three share stories of their faith journeys each month.

4. Worship in the Park in January

As an experiment Blackwood conducted a contemporary service in the Belair National Park on each of the Sundays in January, whilst continuing to hold traditional services in the church at 11.00am. Belair joined us for the first of these "Services in the Park". This format is likely to continue in January 2010.

5. Bible Studies

Rev Ian has been leading a series of Bible Studies "Experiencing Jesus" in the first half of the year. Rev Leanne is leading another study on Living the Questions.

6. Life and Faith at the Roundabout Forums

The first two forums for 2009 will be:

- Thursday 21 May- Barry Burgan, Head of the Business School at Adelaide University, to talk about "The Global Financial Crisis: How will it change the way we do things?" or "Great Financial Crisis or Great Social Crisis?"
- Thursday 30 July-Dean Jaensch, formerly Professor of Politics at Flinders University, to talk about "What's wrong with politics in Australia, including water"

7. Planning Retreat

Elders participated in the Planning Retreat in February organised by Council and in the further planning in which members of the congregation took part in March.

8. Getting to Know us Lunch

A lunch for newcomers to the church has been held this year and a second lunch is currently planned.

9. Candidate for Ministry of Deacon-Christa Megaw

Having been delegated by Council to do so we interviewed Christa for the Ministry of Deacon, following which we were pleased to report to the Ministerial Selection Committee of our unanimous support for Christa's calling.

David Agnew, Convenor

Property Ministry

Membership:

In alphabetical order: Graham Brown, Danny Goldsmith, Russell Grear, Lisa Haddrick, Penny Harper, David Hawkins, John Hewitt, Bob Lyon, Tony Otworowski, Jane Palmer, Ray Pentland, Brian Pickering, Jean Potter, Bob Potter and Keith Rodda.

Current goals:

To maintain the church and manse buildings, property and equipment in good order and make improvements so that facilities are suitable for use in presenting the Church mission and worship activities and for others using these facilities.

To utilize energy savings, rain water and solar power in the church buildings where feasible.

Achievements:

Air conditioning for Coffee Lounge – Thanks to funding from the Community Programme a reverse cycle air conditioner has been installed in the Coffee Lounge and provides both much needed cooling and also cheaper heating.

Garage Sale Fund Raising – Our biennial garage sale was held on the 18th of April and appears to have resulted in over \$10,000 for the maintenance of the property and provision for the continued community activities at BUC. Many thanks to Tony Otworowski and his volunteers.

Routine things

Things such as reviewing church building hire rates, checking the first aid kits, providing key and asset registers, provision of a scaffold for organ maintenance, cleaning the shed and store room, carpet cleaning, cleaning of windows and curtains, cleaning leaves from gutters, changing light bulbs and tubes, repairing of fences, repairing chairs and tables, replacing hessian on the mobile screens, and the sorting and storage of Blackwood Church archives continue.

Bob Potter has retired as Treasurer - after many years of serving as Treasurer of the Property Ministry. Bob retired in November, 2008 and we thank him for his invaluable service. Brian Pickering is our new Treasurer.

The Church Gardens – are an important aspect of our image for the community and over many years Stan White has managed a small team of volunteers who regularly ensure that the gardens are well cared for. Stan has retired and we thank him for his countless hours spent in the garden. John Hewitt is presently running things but he would appreciate someone stepping forward to take over this task.

Graham Brown, Convenor

Mitcham Hills Inter-church Council Inc.

2008 saw significant changes to the Mitcham Hills Inter-church Council both in personnel and focus issues -- Greg Ratcliff (Church of Christ) and Gloria McArthur (Blackwood UC) retired from Executive roles. Peter Russel (Church of Christ) worked alongside newly elected Treasurer, Helen Hartley (Blackwood Hills Baptist) for some months to ensure efficient handover of the ever-increasing volunteer Treasurer's role, which includes effective management of Federal funding for Christian Pastoral Support Workers (CPSW's).

It has been another outstanding year for CPSW's whose dedication and passion is evident in reports submitted to MHICC and in reports from the CPSW coordinator (Greg Ratcliff), the SMG (Schools' Ministry Group) Regional manager, and from school Principals and teachers, parents and students. The difference the CPSW's make to the lives of individual staff, students, and parents is testimony to the calibre of CPSW's we are fortunate to have in this area. This is a worthwhile effective outreach ministry, only partially funded by the Federal government; continuing financial support is required for this work to continue.

This year has seen the development of the Beacon Emergency Relief Project under the coordination of Aileen Templeton - see separate article for more detail.

School Sunday was observed at the Blackwood Uniting Church in February when CPSW's and Beacon personnel were commissioned. Kids' Hope Program is now operating in five

local primary schools with another in the planning stage. A World Day of Prayer Service was held in the Catholic Church.

Holy Innocent Belair was the venue for a Sunset Jazz Concert in February. \$1300 was raised to supplement the Council's budget. It is hoped that church musicians, school choirs and the Blackwood High School Band will combine at a future date for a Grand Musical Occasion –to further add to the finances of the Council.

Details about the work of churches in this area and MHICC can be viewed on the MHICC web site—www.mhicc.wordpress.com

Representatives from this Congregation to MHICC are Glenis Reid and Gloria McArthur

Beacon Emergency Relief Program

15th April, 2009 2.30pm at the Church of Christ, Blackwood saw the official opening of this program. "Local Churches working together to help local people" is the result of much dedicated work by a few who seek to address some of the injustice and to alleviate a little of the needs in this area. At the official opening we were joined by other Emergency Relief outlets - FaCShIA, Uniting Care Wesley-Adelaide East, Marion Life, Salvation Army Head Office, Brighton Care to name a few.

Stan Evans, (local MP) cut the ribbon and representatives from our sponsors Flight Centre and Curves were present.

Volunteer counsellors are available on Wednesdays from 10.00am -2.00pm at the Church of Christ. A few clients over the past weeks have been assisted with food items, donated by members of Curves), food vouchers for Foodland and IGA. We are also able to assist after assessment with bus tickets, contributions towards Telstra accounts, Electricity accounts, and prescriptions. In future we look to offer basic budget management.

Andrew Knight of Signs by Knight kindly donated the outdoor pavement Sign and Blackwood Hills Baptist contributed to the printing of brochures.

The Logo, a necessity amongst loads of other information for applying for Grants, clearly shows the connection of Beacon to the MHICC. This is an ecumenical project –local churches working together to help local people.

There are two ways of donating to enable this outreach to continue. If Tax deduction is not required donations may be sent to Mrs Helen Hartley, 222 Shepherds Hill Road, Blackwood payable to MHICC or if tax deductibility is required cheques should be made payable to Church of Christ Care Works, clearly marked BEACON Blackwood program and sent to Rev Mark Riessen, C/- Blackwood Church of Christ, Shepherds Hill Road, Blackwood. An enclosed stamped addressed envelope in both cases would be appreciated.

Grant money cannot be used for set-up costs, or administration, - only for products directly assisting clients. Ongoing costs therefore need to come from the Beacon Budget. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Gloria McArthur (volunteer)

Community Program

As always, it has been a busy few months.

- The annual Display Days were held at the end of November, with huge participation from members of the Community Program. All classes were represented and there

were 25 stalls Of particular note is the Gardening Club stall selling plants and dried fruit, raising \$2, 640. The kitchen, through its lunch and refreshment sales, raised over \$1,200.

The participation by members of the congregation in this outreach and fundraiser is valued highly by the program. The Management Committee is looking at the way the display days work to see if there are any improvements/modifications needed.

- The beginning of 2009 was a difficult start for the Program, with the unexpected death of one of our long serving tutors, Barbara Skinner. Students were quite saddened and in combination with the extreme heat and news of the Victorian bushfires; there was an air of heaviness over the Program for much of the term. It has been encouraging to see the level of care that students have shown for each other, and that has been available from members of the congregation. Leanne led a simple memorial service for Barbara Skinner for the Community Program, and many people found this comforting. Students also donated to a memorial plaque to go onto our Memorial Garden wall.
- In response to the extreme heat, low attendances and a large number of requests from students, Management Committee and the church Property Committee agreed to install, at Community Programs' expense, a split system air conditioner unit in the Coffee lounge. This has been a most welcome addition, particularly for those who feel the heat badly. It should also be a much more efficient use of power for heating in the colder months. An added benefit is the upgrading of the powerboard in the kitchen, as this was necessary to install the unit.
- The Community Program has, apart from its tutors and crèche workers, only one paid staff member. All the rest of the work is done incredibly well by volunteers. We are, like all community organisations, in need of more volunteers, particularly to go on our emergency furniture roster and to help in the office. Please see Janet Maschmedt or leave your name at the office if you can help.
We would also like to pay tribute to Bob Potter who is trying to finish up as treasurer after over 10 years service to the Community Program. He has ably steered the finances through some tough times and has cheerfully dealt with payroll, BAS statements and GST issues to name but a few. We thank him & hope that he is able to spend much less time with us & more with Jean.
- The Continuing Learning Program and The Shed are both travelling well, and offering different ways for people to connect with and support each other. Continuing Learning is always aiming to offer "food for thought" – keep an eye out for their information. The Shed blokes are a very industrious group of men, renovating bikes and bits – to date over 200 bikes. In conjunction with Belair UC, we are looking at the shed accommodation and function, so that both groups have the space and shed facilities they need, and that comply with OHS requirements for volunteers.

Janet Maschmedt

Library Report

The church library exists to provide material for bible study leaders, worship leaders, lay education students as well as adults and children wanting inspiration or relaxation with Christian books, CDs and DVDs. In the last six month we have acquired new books in the following areas:-

Worship and Faith Development

'Praying a new story" by Michael Morwood "offers a way of seeing and being in the presence of an 'everywhere God' in all, through all, never absent, always near". In contrast to this "2000 years of classic Christian prayers" includes prayers which have been loved over the centuries.

Recently we have added "the Message" a modern translation of the first five books of the bible, "The Student's serendipity bible", and a children's bible "Gold and honey Bible" "Two small books on laypeople and the church" by Rod Jensen offers insights on today's church and the church of the future.

Justice and Reconciliation

"Transforming and reforming tourism" which has contributors from many countries raises questions about the ethics of tourism.

"Reconciliation" by Benazir Bhutto was written just before her assassination.

"Economic, social and cultural rights in West-Papua: a study on social reality and political perspectives" provides important background information on West Papua.

Thank you to all those who have suggested new titles and those who have donated books to the library. Please give us new books rather than those which were written many years ago.

Joy Belling

Mission and Justice Report

For our Mission and Justice programme this year we are concentrating on 4 main themes with various other interesting projects.

Our Journey takes us to West Papua where we learn about the church there as well as medical needs. An exposure trip to West Papua is planned for February 2010 and if people are interested in taking part please contact Rev. Peter Stephens. Earlier in the year the Papuan Moderator of the church visited Blackwood briefly and we heard of the problems and needs which our partner church faces. We have contact with West Papuan students here and look forward to our continued friendship with and support of them

Secondly we journey with our indigenous people and Ewan Hazeldine and a small interest group continue to maintain contact with the aboriginal centre at Marion. Help is also needed for aboriginal homeless people in the city. See recent newsletter items if you can help.

Our third journey takes us into the Sacredness of all Creation where we prayerfully consider our responsibility to the environment. Anne Magarey is the key person for this and is looking forward to sharing her ideas with us.

Kids' Hope is the fourth aspect of our Mission and Justice emphasis and involves mentors working in Blackwood Primary School with individual children each week.

Ongoing projects include sharing food with the homeless and needy by bringing contributions to the church for distribution as well as collecting stamps for overseas mission activities and bread tags for fundraising for Mental Health. And if you haven't yet got a sock to save your spare cash for our overseas project see Peter Burgess.

One Sunday in each term we sell Fair Trade tea and coffee and are very pleased that our Blackwood community is now a certified Fair Trade Church along with many other Uniting congregations who recognise the need for justice for poor farmers and growers. This is why we use only Fair Trade Coffee for morning teas etc.

We held a special Coffee Break Morning Tea on Sunday May 10 to encourage the use of Fair trade coffee and tea.

Dried fruit sales continue to assist our neighbours in the Riverland and we appreciate the support our church community gives.

We observed Frontier Services on Sunday May 3rd and receive their magazine which keeps us updated about the needs of people working in the outback.

Other magazines such as Uniting World (Uniting church work with overseas partner churches)World Vision, Mission Aviation Fellowship, TEAR, GO (Interserve) and several

others are always available in the church foyer to widen our knowledge of mission and justice needs.

We would like to express our thanks to the people in our congregation for the continued emphasis and interest in Mission and Justice matters. If you feel passionate about any of the aspects of our Mission and Justice programme and haven't yet indicated that interest please see one of us or the key person for the area in which you wish to participate.

In these difficult economic times it would be easy to become introverted and think only of ourselves but we believe that Blackwood takes seriously the words of Micah 6:8 "to do justice, love kindness and to walk humbly with God"

Alastair Blake, Christa Megaw, Enid Ninnes
Coordinating group for Mission and Justice

Urban Mission Report

We have enjoyed meeting with like sized church communities and hearing their stories. I have added the dates for the next few. If you want to join Anne Magarey and myself please give me a ring as happy to car pool.

The next big event will be the sessions with Diana Butler Bass.

Saturday 27th June, 9.30 am – 3.00 pm, Resourcing Day, Adelaide West UC (no charge)
Diana will share insights she has discovered that are keys to renewing congregations, core practices and disciplines that lead to positive transformation and how established congregations can become "new again", including the importance of the story we tell about our congregation and how a consistent narrative shapes our values and identity and leads to encounter with the communities around us.

Sunday 28th June, 1.00 pm - 3.30 pm, an Afternoon with Diana, Pilgrim Church
Commencing with light lunch at 12.15 pm (\$25.00 enrolment fee)
This session, *Imagining a New Old Church*, explores insights from Diana's research for ministry practices in established churches in city and regional centres.

Monday 29th June, 10.00 am – 12 noon, continuing the conversation, Adelaide West UCA.
Concluding with light lunch (\$25.00 enrolment fee)
Discovering the unique character and culture of *Congregations as Communities of Practice* and the implications for developing strong ministry directions.

Monday 29th June, 10 am – 12 noon, continuing the conversation, Adelaide West UCA.
Commencing with light lunch at 12.15 pm (\$25.00 enrolment fee)
Rediscovering the call to mission, *The Vocation of the Congregation*, by in-depth study, corporate reflection and developing strong narratives.

All of Diana's publications are available at the Resource Centre, Level 2/212 Pirie St, Adelaide.

Brochure & registration form for the conversations available from Heather Bald phone (08) 8236 4243 email hbald@sa.uca.org.au and from <http://mrn.sa.uca.org.au/happenings/diana-butler-bass-visit.html>.

Network News

Gatherings - Please put these dates in your diary.

Thursday 28th May at Enfield

Thursday 27th August at Clearview

Thursday 26th November at Morialta

Wendy Norris Urban Mission Network Rep.

Black Wood Jazz Advent and Holy Week spaces

Our Advent gathering was cold and a little windy, and the threat of rain ever-present, but those who brought their chairs and picnics to the Blackwood UC car park were warmed by the smooth jazz, inspired by stories of hope and courage, and enjoyed conversation and creativity. We heard the story of Edith Cavell, an English nurse in Belgium at the time of the German invasion during WWI. Edith helped soldiers to escape German capture, was arrested, imprisoned, court martialled and executed by the Germans. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German church leader opposing the Nazi regime, pleading with the church to do the same. He was killed by the Nazis in the final days of the war. Martin Luther King's call to non-violent protest for the civil rights of African Americans during the 1960s put him in opposition to fellow African Americans; his demand for civil rights put him in opposition to much of the rest of America. Mother Teresa is also very well known for her choice to live amongst the poorest of India and suffer with them. The final story we heard was of an unnamed Christian publisher in Burma, who is being persecuted by the junta. All five of these people demonstrated that deep hope and trust in God, in Jesus Christ, insists on being lived out. For Holy Week, we again had Daniel Lee and friends to create just the right atmosphere with jazz. Three characters moved among the people sharing their stories of the days before Jesus' crucifixion. The woman who had anointed Jesus at dinner evoked laughter, a soldier posed interesting questions, and Peter almost had people in tears at his sorrow having denied Jesus. People commented that this was a moving experience, and that they appreciated this opportunity to engage with the Holy Week story. We reflected on the events of that week, and our journey through Holy Week this year, taking bread and wine for that journey to the cross.

As I am soon moving into the Supervised Field Education part of my preparation for ordination, I will no longer be coordinating Black Wood Jazz. If you would like to join the team to keep creating these important spaces for deep exploration of faith and life, please contact the team. I would like to thank the team – Heather, Tim, Rowan and Imogen Lee, Pam Marlow, Marnie Agnew, Leanne Janski, and past members, Rachel Williams, Rebecca Purling and Steve Thompson – and the musicians, particularly Daniel Lee and friends, for their creativity and energy for Black Wood Jazz. And many thanks also to the Blackwood Uniting community for your support, encouragement and participation in the Black Wood Jazz spaces. I look forward to hearing how these spaces continue to enrich your discoveries of God in the world and your lives.

Sarah Agnew

11am congregation Report

11am congregation continues to worship and care for each other through Sunday worship, Sunday lunches, Pastoral care and Friday friendship. Average attendance at worship over the last 6 months is around 40 with higher attendances at Communion, Special days such as Palm Sunday, visiting choirs and lunch days. Money raised at the lunches is used to continue to sponsor our CCF child Ephrem in Ethiopia with any extra money given to causes that the group suggests.

Pastoral Care has been coordinated by Jan Wiseman and the model of carer groups continues to work for this 11am group

First Friday Friendship has many members from the 11am worship group, others are local folk who are looking for a monthly exchange with friends. Attendances vary between 15 to more than 25. Friends exchange their life stories, travel experiences and even insight into Shakespeare

Dried fruit sales are still providing a close link with the drought affected Riverland horticultural industry. Wholesale bulk purchase of fruit gives immediate cash to the grower whilst the profit from sales of packed fruit helps support the Frontier Services. Two special fruit sales provided money for the disaster Shelter Boxes in one instance and the other

provided money to the Community Program and to the project of renovating the Ladies' rest room.

Future plans for these groups is to continue to provide care and support as required

Mary Thomas

Pastoral Care group

The Pastoral Care group aims to ensure that the 9:15 am congregational members are welcomed, cared for and included in the ongoing work and worship of the church. We try to make every 9:15am attendee feel a part of our church family, important to that family and able to contribute as much as they choose, to the life, worship and work of the church in the areas in which they feel suited and called.

There is no doubt that this church has a rich and diverse group of activities available to members and it is our role to make sure that newcomers are aware of them and able to fit into them. The Cluster groups, Bible study groups, Faith sharing, Book group, Prayer Group, Community Programme, Continuing Learning, Walking group, Friday friendship group, ECO group, Mission and Justice, Church Camps, Jazz Services, Life and Faith forums, Facility Maintenance Group and general volunteering are just some of the activities which are available. It is in the smaller groups that friendships can be developed and new comers can gradually feel part of the church family.

We try to keep track of those suffering from illness, spending time in hospital, travelling or experiencing changed circumstances and where appropriate maintain contact with them, The prayer circles are used to support those in times of crisis and individuals and families in need can know that the church is upholding them in prayer. We rely on information from members of our congregation and from the ministers to know which people have needs. No doubt we sometimes miss people in need, but we do our best.

Newcomers lunches have been held when we have a group of new attendees and these have proved to be a good way of welcoming them. Eight newcomers were welcomed on March 22nd and there will be another lunch on May 24th 2009.

We are small group who meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every second month. We would welcome others to join us to help to make our 9:15 am congregation a welcoming and nurturing place.

Jan Rawolle

Notes from Synod Adelaide West UC 27-28 March 2009

On the Friday night, the new Uniting College for Leadership and Theology was launched. This is the new name for what was called Parkin Wesley College. It aims to have a more practical focus on training people for leadership within the Uniting Church.

On Saturday, Rev. Dr. Anthony Floyd, National Director of Multi and Cross Cultural Ministry of the UCA National Assembly, spoke about our vision of having a church for all of God's people.

Key principles for building a cross cultural community are:

- Affirming our unity and diversity in Christ
- Mutual sharing and Learning
- Hospitality and Inclusiveness
- Living out the Gospel of Hope and Reconciliation in God's World.

Kynan Brooks and Ernest Sorensen were affirmed to be ordained as Ministers of the Word. Uniting World, an agency of the National Assembly, was promoted. It connects the Uniting Church with overseas churches and their communities.

Christa Megaw