

IPSWICH UNITING CHURCH COMMUNIQUE

19th November 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Extra Meeting

The Church Council met briefly at Glebe Road on Sunday 24th October to finalise the specifications for the new church logo and letterhead. A professional graphic artist has been engaged to undertake this work and we are expecting their proposal early in the new year.

Regular Meeting

The Church Council met at Jacaranda Street on Wednesday 10th November and David MacGregor led the devotions based on Psalm 127:1 “Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.” David made the observation that we, the people, are being built together as the house of the Lord as we continue our journey of becoming and being Ipswich Uniting Church.

Communication

From recommendations brought by the Communications Task Group the Church Council determined to:

1. Affirm the design of the Christmas postcards and have them printed and distributed to advertise the special events, and services of worship, across the Congregation during this Advent and Christmas season.
2. Prepare new Welcome Bags when the new logo has been determined.

It was reported that some data has been entered into the UCare system and the program will be trialled by selected groups and worshipping communities over the next couple of months.

A Website Team was proposed to manage the development of the new website. It was determined that quotes would be obtained to engage a professional to reconstruct the Ipswich Uniting Church website and that a “Coming Soon” banner would be in place until the website is completed.

In response to advice from Synod it was determined that all Space Age signs be fixed in the lowered position due safety concerns. The sign at each location has been lowered.

Administration

From recommendations brought by the Administration Task Group the Church Council determined to:

1. Note that the banking protocols were being implemented with each group that currently has their own bank account. The new system of reimbursement has been explained and the relevant forms are being provided.
2. Note that the Administrative Assistant at Ellenborough Street and the Office Administrator at Glebe Road have chosen to accept the offer of redundancy.
3. Confirm the appointment of Eleanor Arnett as the new Office Administrator for Ipswich Uniting Church.
4. Note that Peter Arnett was not involved in any way in the process.
5. Note that Eleanor will be on a three month probation with a review after nine weeks.
6. Note that Eleanor will be based at Ellenborough Street on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at Glebe Road on Wednesdays and Fridays. The mobile phone from Ellenborough Street will stay with Eleanor. The Office Mobile number is 0466 787 703.
7. Note that a list is being compiled of those requiring a licence for using Office 365.

The Blue Card Organisational Portal has been established. It was determined that it be centrally located with the Administration Officer and that each location consider the appointment of a liaison person to have access to the portal. The Leadership Team in each location will consider this.

Future Ministries

The Future Ministries Task Group provided an update on the possible configuration of the Ministry Staff Team commencing in 2023. Specific recommendations will be brought to the next Church Council meeting.

From a recommendation brought by the Future Ministries Task Group the Church Council determined to:

1. Appoint this Task Group to complete the Congregational Profile in consultation with the Congregation.

The Congregational Profile and the Ministry Position Descriptions are documents required by the Presbytery and the Synod prior to commencing the Ministry Placements process.

Strategic Action

The Strategic Action Team has commenced the work of fulfilling the Strategic Plan. From a recommendation brought by the Strategic Action Team the Church Council determined to:

1. Give approval for a Celebration Service for the whole congregation at 9am on Sunday 6th February, at a suitable venue to be determined.

Peter Taubner

Peter is progressing well through his treatment. We continue to pray for Peter and Jeanette at this time.

Calendar of Events

27 November – Craft Fair @ Brassall

28 November – 9:00am Special Advent Service @ Jacaranda Street

28 November – 10:15am Advent Family Service @ Glebe Road

1 December – 9:30am Women’s Christmas Morning Tea @ Ellenborough Street

5 December – Picnic in the Park (subsequently postponed)

11 December – 7:30am Men’s Fellowship Breakfast @ Jacaranda Street

19 December – 8:30am Christmas Carols Service & Morning Tea@ Brassall

22 December – 5:30pm Carols Service & Sausage Sizzle @ Ellenborough Street.

24 December – 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service @ Glebe Road

25 December – 8:00am Christmas Day Celebration @ Glebe Road

Conclusion

The Church Council is continuing to work extremely hard in wrestling with the challenges before us. Thank you for our ongoing prayerful support and encouragement.

Yours in Christ’s Service,

Barry Westphal
Chairperson

Christine Howden
Secretary

Peter Arnett
Lead Minister