

WILLIAMSTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST 2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Welcome to our Annual Report for our AGM 2023!

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Note that all reports are for the Financial Year 22/23, the period from July 2022 to June 2023

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**WILLIAMSTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Sunday 6 November 2022 – Chapel and via YouTube
Livestream**

Chairperson: Frank Morabito

Minutes Secretary: Karen Hartman

1. Welcome and declare the meeting open: Frank Morabito

2. Election of Executive

Under Section 7.4 of the Church's Constitution, each elected position shall be for two years, and 50% of the positions are to be vacated for a new election each year.

Executive Membership:

David Fenn: 2-year term expires in 2022

Scott Lanyon: 2-year term expires in 2022

Frank Morabito: 2-year term expires in 2023

Karen Hartman: 2-year term expires in 2023

With the expiry of David Fenn and Scott Lanyon 2-year term, 3 of the 5 Executive positions are vacant and these positions are open for elections.

Nominations: *David Fenn and Scott Lanyon*

Results of the Election:

David Fenn and Scott Lanyon were re-elected.

3. Confirmation of minutes of 2021 AGM meeting

Confirmed as accepted as a correct record.

4. Business arising

5. Presentation and Acceptance of Reports: Frank Morabito

Taken as read; no questions or comments arising.

6. Chair of Executive Comments: Frank Morabito

Grateful thanks expressed to the Ministry Team and our whole church community for their commitment to Jesus and the vision of our church in its fellowship and community life through the year.

7. Lead Pastor's Comments: Megan Jung

A year of exciting growth and the movement of the Holy Spirit across our Church.

New Future Options group will be launched to discern the fresh shape of our neighbourhood engagement and how we can revitalise our building to better serve, bless and reach our wider community.

8. Finance and Auditor's Report: Frank Morabito

9. Proposed Church Budget: Frank Morabito
The Chairperson presented the budget.

Proposed Budget: Accepted

10. Appointment of Auditor: Louise Sutton (Accountable Business Services) re-appointed as church auditor for 2023.

11. Closing Prayers: David Fenn

Chairperson's Report

Greetings Church,

Time to reflect on the past twelve months on the mission of Williamstown Church of Christ.

The story of transition and mission continued to gain momentum, clarity, and direction this year. We saw our Future Option Group (FOG) undertake extensive community research, prayer and discernment of as we seek to be a Church actively engaged in our neighbourhood. We are grateful and appreciative of FOG leading us to reimagine our building and physical facilities to best serve our current and future mission, ministries, and neighbourhood engagement.

Our Connect Groups are now embedded in our culture and continue to fill the space of encouragement, equipping and blessings in between our Sunday gatherings and we thank our Connect Group leaders for their commitment and energy.

We also saw the positive impact of streaming our Sunday service online and our investment into our social media presence has continued to have with new visitors attending our service in person.

Our church was blessed with more baptisms, Inner West Youth led by Bronwyn Fernando and our amazing Inner West Alpha continuing to grow in its reach and impact in 2023.

Once again, and as always, when we look to the future, we remain mindful, and respectful, of the saints of our past and of the continuing stewardship of our story.

So thanks to the Ministry Team, the Future Options Group, our volunteers at church and outreach – Mainly Music, Alpha, Seeds, Inner West Youth – and thanks also to my fellow Executives, Karen, Scott, David and Megan for their support and hard work.

Thanks also to all our Church community for continuing to be a part of our story and our vision. We look with anticipation and excitement to all God has in store for us in the coming year.

Frank Morabito
Chairperson of Church Executive (board)



Lead Pastor's Report

2022/2023 has been a year of growth and stepping into a new season, as God has brought us deeper into prayer, community and discipleship. It's been an exciting year of seeing God clarify our focus and future directions through the Future Options Group journey. It's been a fruitful season in the life of our church! Here are some highlights of our year together as Willi Church:



Sunday Gatherings God is moving in our Church in this season! There is an openness to the Spirit, a desire for God, a passion for the Word of God, care for one another, lots of new faces and a focus on prayer that is so tangible across our Church, including our new monthly Prayer Space. It was a highlight to gather in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens through Sundays in January for 'Church in the Park', we enjoyed great community time and conversations, encouraging times of prayer and a relaxed, restful start to the new year, as we gathered outdoors. Another highlight of the year was celebrating Matthew's Baptism, and celebrating Willi Church's 137th birthday in June 2023.

Vision 2025 After our 2022-2025 Vision and Strategic Directions launch last year, we announced at the 2022 AGM the exciting development of the launch of our 'Future Options Group' (FOG), a key group whose goal was to drive forward the future options and possibilities for our mission and site redevelopment at Williamstown. Endorsed by our Executive, FOG worked together from December 2022 to June 2023 and was made up of Bron Lanyon, Julie Wiggins, David Fenn, Gary Hemmings and myself. With a focus on prayer, conversation and discernment, the group aimed to discern together how God is leading us to reimagine our building and physical facilities to best serve our current and future/imagined Mission, Ministries and Neighbourhood Engagement over the next 10+ years. Through church visits, hearing stories of what God is doing in other communities, reading, and a journey of prayer, we as a church were energised and excited to hear the fresh vision as presented by FOG and Exec on our Future Update Sunday on 17 September 2023. I want to acknowledge and thank our Future Options Group for their time, commitment and discernment serving on our FOG alongside myself.

Our Key Focus: The key statement we shared at our recent Future Update Sunday encapsulates our key vision for this next season as a Church:

"With our Spirit given resources, we are a vibrant community place of connection, where people find connection around the table, where we are an Alpha church, where we provide a space where people can slow down, where we host events such as AFL Grand Final on the big screen and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, where we have so endeared our church to our local community that we are established as a known 'brand' in our community – as a known community contributor – together with being a preferred community meeting place for individuals and groups, and where we are meeting as many community needs as we can such as a sit down meal, food hampers, community garden, playgroups (Mainly Music), play space for young families, youth programs, courses. We look after our community. And we

collaborate and partner with inner west churches to work together on initiatives to strengthen our community. Potentially reaching into local primary/high schools with coaching, breakfast clubs.

What is the ‘why’ behind this new journey we are embarking on? We see a big future that God has in store for us! We want to stretch ourselves as a community to grow outwards, to see our church building explode with activity and to demonstrate the love of Jesus more visibly to our neighbourhood by meeting the needs of our community. We see our Church being a community ‘hub’ or meeting place where people are drawn to come, where people feel comfort, safety and trust. We are not satisfied with who we are as a community now; we are hungering for more engagement with our wider community and we want to bless and endear and connect with people in our local community in fresh and new ways which will show the love of Jesus to our community and see us as a Church be interconnected with and known by those who live and work in our local neighbourhood. What an exciting future we have!

To create the space and environment for this to become a reality, we have plans to revitalise our church building and facilities over the next few years to see us become a meeting place and a place of connection for our wider community, remedying the isolation and loneliness we see in our community. We see our Church alive with activity through the week.

New Name, Fresh Future We were excited to announce as part of our Future Update Sunday that in late 2023 our Church will change its name officially to The Bridge Church - A Church of Christ For the Inner West. Our new name recognises our location neighbouring the West Gate Bridge, together with our identity as ‘bridge builders’ from our culture and city to Jesus and the Christian story. The beauty of the image of a bridge is its capacity to bring people together, an image that is intrinsic to our Church mission & future plans. God has called us to be a place of belonging, and to help people connect with one another, and with God.

We are so excited to see the fresh directions that God is calling us into become a reality over the coming couple of years, and for a new name that will tell our wider community who we are, and hold relevance and resonance for our wider community.

Digital Connection Our YouTube Worship Livestream remains a key part of our ministry and reach, with almost every newcomer on site indicating they have joined us online before coming along in person. Whether away from church due to illness or travel, so many of our Church community also enjoy joining us live on Sundays via YouTube Livestream. Our Instagram and Facebook social media channels have also continued to grow and be a hugely effective tool, helping connect so many people to our church and its activities this year.

Thank You to our Executive Throughout the year the church has been fortunate to have visionary and committed leadership from the Executive team in Karen Hartman, Frank Morabito (Chair), David Fenn and Scott Lanyon. We are also richly blessed in our Ministry Team; I thank Bronwyn Fernando, Bron Lanyon and Sarah Thompson who have

offered their ministry and gifts to our Church over this past year with passion, prayerfulness, creativity and generosity. We have an amazing team!

Thank you to each of you for the ways in which you continue to serve Jesus and our church with passion and dedication.

(Rev) Megan Jung
Lead Pastor

Associate Pastor's Report

Connect Groups Connect Groups continue to be an important part of our church community. They are a place for:

- Pastoral care
- Deepening relationships with one another
- Growing in relationship with God

This year we began two new Connect Groups; the pop-up Sunday group and Alpha Next, for those who wanted to continue the journey after Alpha.



Inner West Youth Inner West Youth (IWY) is a combined youth ministry for teenagers from Williamstown CofC and Footscray CofC. We have continued in our Youth Encounter (bible study) and Energise (activity) nights for 2023. Due to unforeseen circumstances, a few leaders had to step back from IWY which led to some nights being cancelled before we cut back the youth program to make it sustainable for 2023. We are looking at ways to maintain and grow this important ministry in a sustainable way for 2024.

Safe Church In 2023 we made a lot of great progress in our Safe Church implementation; including holding our 'Safe Church workshop', that was a requirement for all who volunteer with children. All Safe Church information can be found on our website Policies page. The ministry team continue to work towards ensuring our church environment is a safe place for everyone.

Alpha Alpha, a series of interactive sessions that explore life, faith, meaning and Christianity, was led by Bronwyn, Bron & Scott in Term 2. We had volunteers from Willi Church and Christ Church Anglican help with things like discussion, hospitality, prayer, and the live talks. We were so encouraged to host a total of 30 guests, all at different points on their faith journey. Alpha 2023 spawned a new Connect Group called Alpha Next and a great excitement and wonderful momentum as we look towards Alpha 2024.

Bronwyn Fernando
Associate Pastor

Inner West Mainly Music

Inner West Mainly Music, our music centred playgroup for children aged 0-5yrs and their carers, has continued to play an important role in the lives of families and volunteers and is a key expression of our mission and neighbourhood engagement at Willi Church.

We thank God for continuing to flourish our playgroup ministry and helping us to connect with more than 35 families over this past year! (19 of those as regular attendees) We celebrate the opportunity to journey alongside parents, grandparents, carers and children both in person and through our active and supportive WhatsApp group and Facebook as the children grow and change and as the adults have continued to navigate the twists and turns of life with newborns, toddlers and preschoolers.

Mainly Music doesn't happen without a brilliant team: I want to thank Jason, Lisa, Manny and Kat, along with Ali and Laura, and more recently Bron and Janet, who are such enthusiastic, encouraging and caring team members who bring a strong heartbeat of welcome and connection to this vibrant ministry. I also want to thank Patti and Barb who continue to be faithful in praying for our sessions each week, and for any pastoral care prayer points for our Mainly Music community members.

Thank you everyone.



Sarah Thompson
Mainly Music Coordinator

Seeds & Intergenerational Ministry

Seeds

The Seeds volunteer team is a dedicated group of people from our church family who invest their creative energy and time in the faith formation of our children and young people.

Throughout the four terms of this year we have read, prayed, sang, role-played, enjoyed snacks and created crafts - all aligned with the themes of the 'Kidswise' teaching material:

- God's Amazing World
- God's BIG Kingdom
- Our God Rules, and
- God's Great King.

Each week our Seeds team creates a safe environment where community, curiosity and wonder about God, His people and His world are explored and fostered together. There is a real sense of belonging to Seeds among our children and a growing connection with their church family.

Over this past year some of our families have experienced challenging times. The Seeds team has adapted, rallied and supported one another to sustain our weekly Sunday morning Seeds program.

Let's give thanks to God for our Seeds community and their tenacious commitment to nurture the faith of our children and teens. Let's also give thanks for their support of each other and the families in our church community and beyond.

Intergenerational Church

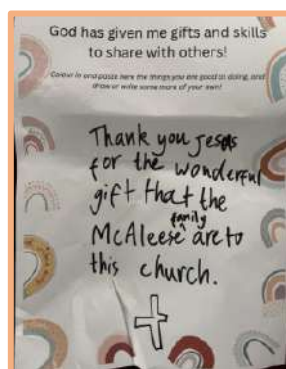
Our church family has connected across the generations, building our relationships and sharing the joy of growing in faith together.

We have seen this in our Wonder Sunday services, Intergenerational Songs, our Festive Advent Brunch, Book-Week, child dedication services, families on Sunday morning 'welcoming', in our practice of blessing and praying for Seeds each Sunday, prayers of blessing for all of our children at the start of the new kinder and school year and the weekly connection shared at Sunday morning tea.

I would like to thank Kate who does a great job as our Early Seeds Group Coach. I would also like to thank Ali, Charlie, Jay Ann, Jonathan, Lynnette, Naomi and Trina for their time and support they have given our children, each other and the wider family this year.

Blessings,

Bronwyn Lanyon
Intergenerational Team Leader



Our Focus, Values, Practices & Strategic Directions Towards 2025



Our Focus

Real God, Real People,
Real Community

Our Values

1 / BELONG // There's Room For You

We invite people to experience life at Willi Church. We don't have it all together, but we have come to experience a profound hope in Jesus that changes everything. We are inclusive, non-judgemental and celebrate everyone's individual story.

2 / BELIEVE // God Keeps Changing Us

We are a church where lives are transformed as we encounter Jesus in the joys, challenges, rhythms and routine of everyday life.

3 / BLESS // We Want Our Neighbourhoods to Flourish

We are active in our neighbourhood as we follow Jesus. We want the blessing and reality of God to be experienced by those around us as we live generously in our local community and beyond.

A stylized orange hand graphic with fingers spread, located in the bottom left corner of the page.

WILLIAMSTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST



Our Practices

As individuals and as members of a community, we both shape and are shaped by the rhythms and activities that make up our lives. Therefore we commit to be intentional to live out these 15 Key Practices, especially when we come together as a community of faith:

Prayer · Scripture · Communion · Sharing our Stories
Community · Worship · Generosity · Listening
Connect Groups · Pursuing God's Presence · Healing
Confession · Teaching & Equipping · Intergenerational
Relationships · Fun!

Our Strategic Directions 2022-2025

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Live into our Fresh Focus & Values | 6. Discern around our Church location/property |
| 2. Thriving Connect Groups | 7. Discern together the fresh shape of our Neighbourhood Engagement |
| 3. Growing Seeds ministry & intergenerational culture | 8. Embracing Digital |
| 4. Healthy Mainly Music, Tweens, Youth ministries | 9. Church Branding & Signage |
| 5. Discern around our Church Name | 10. Thriving Alpha ministry |

WE CELEBRATE WHAT GOD IS DOING IN OUR CHURCH
AND FEEL EXCITED FOR OUR FUTURE AND THE GREAT
THINGS GOD HAS IN STORE FOR US!

WWW.WILLICHURCH.ORG.AU
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

Financial Statement – Actuals 2022-2023

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

Church of Christ Williamstown Vic
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	TOTAL
Operating Income	
General Offerings	120,251
Hall Hire	14,509
Interest Received	66
Manse Rental Income	23,938
Mainly Music Income	2,009
Other income	1,200
Youth activities	1,292
Total Operating Income	163,266
Gross Surplus	163,266
Operating Expenses	
Finances	2,100
CCVT Fees	2,488
Alpha, Seeds, Ministry, BeTween, etc	5,727
Donations, Gifts & Fundraising	1,000
Building on-cost	10,587
Administration	
Consumables	1,140
Advertising / Promotion	693
General Expenses	550
Misc and Sundry Expenses	1,390
Licences & Subscriptions	3,661
Office Expenses	2,037
Total Administration	9,471
Employment expenses	122,914
Mainly Music Expenses	1,986
Incorporation Fees	825
Total Operating Expenses	157,097
Net Surplus/(Deficit) before depreciation and loan	6,168
Depreciation and loan repayment	
Depreciation	22,015
Total Depreciation and loan repayment	22,015
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(15,847)

Balance Sheet

Statement of Financial Position

Church of Christ Williamstown Vic
As at 30 June 2023

30 JUN 2023

Assets

Current Assets

Bank and investments accounts	98,823.41
Prepaid Expenses	5,263.74
Total Current Assets	104,087.15

Fixed Assets

Office Equipment	3,624.45
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Office Equipment	(2,437.42)
Computer & Church Equipment	21,874.83
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Computer & Church Equipment	(12,553.98)
Building Improvements	136,466.43
Accum Dep Building Improvements	(78,789.76)
Total Fixed Assets	68,184.55

Office Prepaid Visa (NEW)	2,206.80
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Total Assets	174,478.50
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Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	90.00
Employment	8,244.12
Accrued Expenses	4,575.00
Bond	150.00
GST	(96.51)
Total Current Liabilities	12,962.61

Non-current Liabilities

Loan	10,422.37
Income Received in Advance	4,000.00
Total Non-current Liabilities	14,422.37

Total Liabilities	27,384.98
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Net Assets	147,093.52
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Equity

Current Year Earnings	(15,847.12)
Retained Earnings	147,940.64
Special Reserve	15,000.00
Total Equity	147,093.52

Auditor's Report



FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR WILLIAMSTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023

To the Members of Williamstown Church of Christ,

I have conducted a review of the accounts and financial statements of Williamstown Church of Christ for the financial year ending 30th June 2023.
Please note that the Church Committee are responsible for the completion of the Financial Statements.

The review has been conducted by examining all income, expenditure and Balance Sheet items for the financial year from the material provided.
Where possible internal controls were examined.

The Church's state of affairs as at 30th June 2023 and are contained in the attached statements.

I declare this to be a true and fair view of the Church's Financial Affairs completed on Friday 27th October 2023.

Yours faithfully



Louise Sutton
Cert IV Bookkeeping *National College Australia*, DTh, MPT Eastern, IPA

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