

Church Members Meeting Minutes

18th September 2022



WESTBOURNE PARK
BAPTIST CHURCH

24 Church Members were present. A number of friends joined the meeting. Apologies given were recorded in the attendance book.

LOVE GOD

Ken opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes of the September 2022 Meeting have been available on the church website. No comments or changes were advised by those present.

LOVE CHURCH

Church Leadership Structure - Roles of Elders, Deacons and Members: After a brief recap of the new Leadership Structure, time was spent in groups discussion role descriptions for Members, Deacons and Elders. Comments were received from the groups as follows: It was helpful to define the roles; How would the Deacons be involved? *A: Through serving the church; working in practical ways, both seen and unseen;* Jesus chose people based on their experience and heart; It is unclear what to expect; How would people know who to go to? *A: Once there is a team in place, we expect to allocated different areas of church life for deacons to support alongside elders;* What will the process be for nominations? Can people self nominate or canvas for a nomination? *A: Members will need to look at the role requirements, pray about this, and speak to people they feel God is prompting them to. Self nomination is not accepted;* There is clearly a difference from being an overseer as not being nominated for one task; Its about the heart of the person not just their ability; Its not clear what the specific role is for each person. *A: this is key to the change, that the deacons will work alongside the elders. When a team is in place it will become more clear;* Should we delay and discuss at another meeting? *A: the decision to proceed with the model was made at the July Members Meeting, so it was agreed that we should continue towards elections in January 2023 It was also clarified that the new model provides roles for all members. Very few will be elected roles. There will be Ministry Leader(s) and team roles for every aspect of church life.*

The constitutional requirements for leaders elections were presented, and it was agreed to move the next Member's Meeting to 15th January due to Christmas and New Years Days falling on Sundays, and to not count those weeks in the constitutional requirements for announcing elections. The process will start in October. 50% of Members need to vote for the vote to be valid. Nominees need to receive 2/3rds of the votes to be voted into the roles. Prayer is so important throughout this process as well.

Church Membership: Abena updated the members that we have had one application for membership and 3 other expressions of interest. Abena will arrange to meet with Celena Malcolm, and we will follow up with the other 3 people. Josephine Bolland will be returning to the Philippines to live with her family, so we will be saying goodbye to her next week. Patricia Aquilar has asked to be baptised. We will arrange a date before Christmas. 15 names of members who have moved out of London or no longer attend WPBC were brought to the meeting, and it was agreed to end their formal membership, but they will continue to be friends of WPBC.

Pastoral Vacancy Process: Elizabeth updated the meeting that we have been receiving some profiles of pastors who are interested in being considered for the pastorate here. The Core Leaders are

reviewing each one but have yet to see one that is a close match to our church profile. Continued prayer for this process is requested. With a gap in Members Meetings now until January, it was asked, and confirmed, that if there is any progress with this, we will hold an additional members meeting before January.

LOVE PEOPLE

Celebrate Recovery: Elizabeth updated the meeting that our new programme, Celebrate Recovery started this past week. We are working with All Nations Church and have a team of people from both churches. We had a prayer launch on 2nd September, and ask for continued prayer for this programme, as it helps people address their hurts, habits and hang-ups with God's help.

Dates for 2022 to connect: Elizabeth updated on events planned for this Autumn.

- Date TBC – Harvest Bring and Share lunch
- Saturday 15th October – 'A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance' tickets
- Monday 31st October – Light Party
- Sunday 13th November – Service of Remembrance
- Sunday 11th December – Christmas lunch

LOVE God's Resources

Auditing of Accounts 2021/2022: this process is underway, and thanks to Patricia Chering's hard work, is running smoothly.

Allocation of WPBC Tithe update: Following the discussion at the last meeting, the agreed distribution of our tithe was confirmed.

WPBC Tithes 2022/2023			10% Tithe	£ 16,964.00		
Local		National		International		Total
Westminster Street Pastors	£ 500.00	BU Home Mission	£ 4,000.00	BU World Mission	£ 4,000.00	
Agape Arabic Centre	£ 500.00	CAP	£ 400.00	Wycliffe	£ 3,000.00	
WP Pantry	£ 800.00	PNMUK	£ 400.00	CUP	£ 300.00	
Emergency Fund	£ 800.00			Aurora Africa Trust	£ 500.00	
A Youth project	£ 500.00			Open Doors	£ 300.00	
				Tearfund	£ 1,000.00	
	£3,100.00		£ 4,800.00		£ 9,100.00	£ 17,000.00

Building Works Completion update: Geoff asked people to 'spot the difference' in work completed in the building! In summary the builders have done repairs to sound proofing, Clifford Hall, corridors and family room, drains, and painted throughout.

Closing Prayer: Abena closed the meeting with prayer.

Date of next meeting: agreed to be Sunday 15th December 2023.