

Church Members Meeting Minutes

10th July 2022



WESTBOURNE PARK
BAPTIST CHURCH

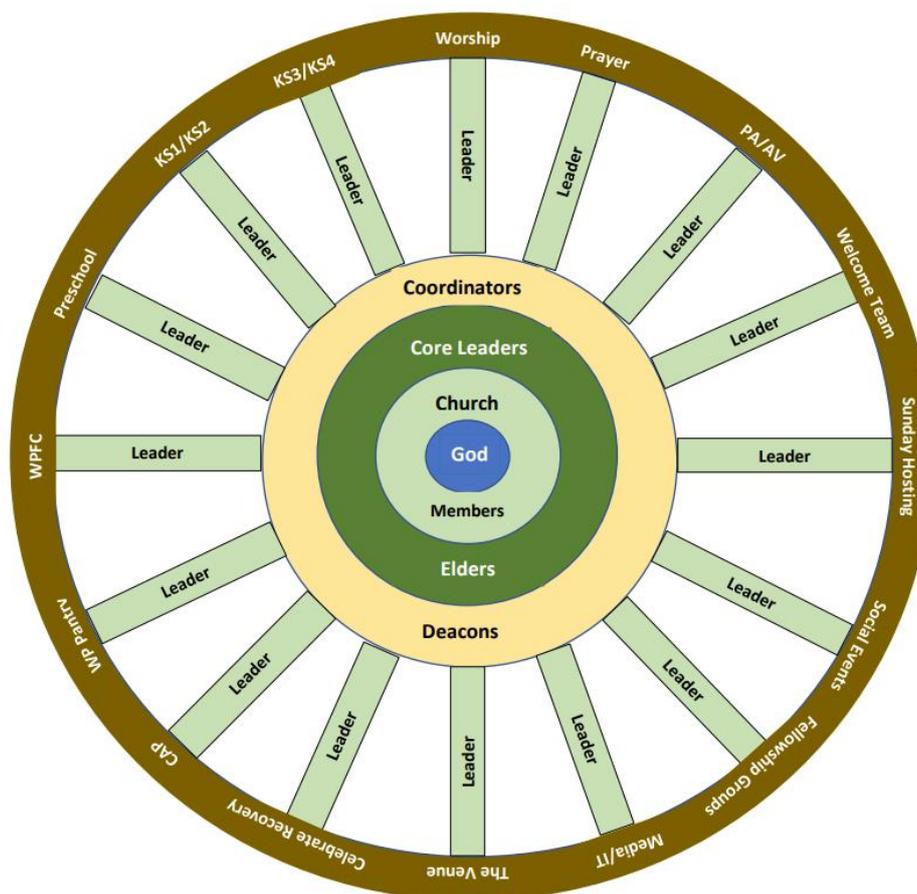
22 Church Members were present. A number of friends joined the meeting. Apologies given were recorded in the attendance book.

LOVE GOD

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

LOVE CHURCH

Church Leadership Structure: Following the presentation at the May Member's meeting, Elizabeth updated the meeting on the proposed model for church structure, based on a Hub and Spoke model.



This would be a flexible / adaptable model that could change as we introduce new activities. It would build on people's gifting, enabling leadership without the commitment of election. It would also support Deacons to work more closely with Core Leaders/Elders, so also developing people. Time was spent in small groups discussing the proposed model. The following comments were received with responses in italics:

- We like the Wheel diagram; it promotes movement, gives opportunity to develop people in leadership roles. Operational comment: it will need Role descriptions, identified roles and functions. *We have some old role descriptions that can be reworked and updated, and would need to be in place before any leadership elections*
- Question: Would core leaders and other leaders have separate meetings or together? *It would need to be a mixture of both. We have lost leaders meetings over the last 2 years, and they are important to reinstate. Exact regularity would need to be worked out.*

- Wheel is a great graphic and visual description of what we're already doing. It promotes inclusion and growth. Small contributions would create movement on the wheel.
- How would new ideas be checked, as wouldn't want anyone to just start a ministry area that doesn't fit into the mission/vision of the church? *The Core Leaders have discussed people having to present a new idea to them, and then possibly to the church as well, to ensure we develop things that are in keeping with the church mission and biblical principles.*
- New roles need to be part of God's calling for the church.
- People's gift will expand the number of spokes. Could this create more pressure on Core Leaders? *It is envisaged that Deacons and Core Leaders will work closely groups of ministries to support them. The number of Deacons may have to increase as the church grows in ministries.*
- *Deacons and Elders would need to meet the Biblical criteria for leaders.*

We need to plan for Leaders elections this year, probably in November at our AGM, as would be usual for WPBC. At the moment only Denese Forde is in an elected role. All other leaders have completed their 3 year term of office. We may need to separate elections over the next 2 years to provide stability in leadership, but this can be discussed in September.

With the consensus of the meeting being positive, it was agreed that the Core Leaders will continue to work up the details of the new model, circulate to Members and bring them to the September meeting.

Church Membership Applications: Abena updated the meeting that we have two applications for membership.. Unfortunately we haven't been able to visit them in time for this meeting, so will ensure this is done for the next meeting. Anyone wanting to be involved in Membership visits should speak to Elizabeth or Abena.

Pastoral Vacancy Process: Elizabeth updated the membership that the profile of the church was completed, and thanks were expressed for the contributions of church members. This was sent to the London Baptists, who forwarded it to the Baptist Union. This process took a bit longer than we had anticipated so it was only open for about 2 weeks, rather than the 4 weeks the Core Leaders had intended. We have received 3 profiles of pastors expressing interest in being considered for the pastorate. The Core Leaders are currently matching each one against the church profile individually, and are meeting on Tuesday evening to share our thoughts. If there is anyone we feel matches closely, we will engage in further discussion with them, and potentially invite them to preach. If none of these match the church profile, we will ask the BU to open our search again. Prayer was requested. An additional Member's Meeting may be needed if we progress this before September, but Core Leaders will keep the church informed.

LOVE PEOPLE

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street Party: Time was spent sharing feedback from this event. Comments included:

It was very successful - Great ideas! All churches worshipping together was powerful and we should do it more often. 3 times a year of quarterly was suggested.

The food was great but organisation could be better around the table layouts and having designated people to serve drinks. We need more cakes next time.

The police were impressed with how tidy and clean we left the street.

Invited guests were impressed by the event.

People passing by were really impressed with how inclusive it was

The Prayer Team were very present and prayed throughout the party

Thanks were expressed to Geoff who led on the organisation, and who dealt with the local council regarding closing the road. The first weekend in June each year is the Big Community Lunch, and the

suggestion was made that we make this part of the church calendar, if possible as a Street Party if the council agree to close the road, although this would be charged for in future.

Plans for connecting in 2022: the following dates were shared as opportunities for us to connect as a church family

- a) Sunday 14th August: Church Lunch
- b) Sunday 2nd October: Harvest Lunch
- c) Saturday 15th October: 'Time to Mourn, Time to Dance' event, which will be performed by a Christian dance company. Tickets will be sold for this event, and people will be encouraged to invite friends.
- d) Sunday 11th December: Christmas Dinner
- e) International evening: to be confirmed

In addition Denese highlighted that there will be a Light Party on 31st October.

Also in response to people wanting to connect with the other churches more, there will be a Prayer evening on Friday 2nd September to primarily focus on introducing Celebrate Recovery, but also opportunity to worship and pray together as churches.

LOVE GOD'S RESOURCES

Allocation of WPBC Tithe 2022 / 2023: Elizabeth presented an update on the different organisations that WPBC supports with our tithe, focused on sharing it Locally, Nationally and Internationally. We are committed to WPFC as it is our partner charity. We also are committed to Baptist Home Mission and Baptist World Mission as members of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The other people / organisations we have been supporting have not been reviewed for a while, so members were asked to review in groups and suggest who we should stop supporting, and who/which organisations we may want to start giving to. The following changes were suggested:

Local	National	International
Continue Westminster Street Pastors and Agape Arabic Centre	Continue CAP and PNMUK	Continue Wycliffe and CUP
Add an organisation supporting young people		Add an international relief charity?
Create a church emergency fund to support members. (2 groups)		Add Aurora Africa Trust (2 groups)
Westbourne Park Food Pantry - to support volunteers with free shops or vouchers		TEARfund (links with international relief charity above)
		Open Doors (Magna is an advocate for them)
		Organisations that support Ethiopia aid. Uganda, DRC and Mozambique also mentioned.

Comments/Questions:

Clarification was asked as to whether the Arabic Church is the same as the Agape Arabic Centre. *It is felt these are different organisations, but it is good to check this.*

As we are a multi-cultural church it is important to support organisations that support different countries around the world.

Proposal to commit for a certain length of time, as we have just done with Margaya Fellowship in Sri Lanka for 3 years, which finished in 2021/2022.

We could incorporate fund raising for organisations like TearFund into a Street Party or similar event. We need to preach about tithing to emphasis it in the church.

Consider having 4 organisations and give to them one quarter each year so we are not spreading the amount too thinly.

Building Works Update: Elizabeth updated that the building remedial works are progressing well. The corridors have been done. They are currently working in the Clifford Hall. They are due to move into the Sanctuary possibly from this coming Thursday, so the services may be in the Clifford Hall next Sunday for a couple of weeks.

Next Member's Meeting Date: 11th September 2022.

Abena closed the meeting in prayer.