



**Christ Church Cathedral
Polokwane**

Annual Vestry Meeting

26 February 2017

Agenda and Dean's Report

Christ Church Cathedral strives to be a Church of excellence and resource to the Diocese of St. Mark the Evangelist, providing kingdom ministry and sanctuary to the city through active participation of all parishioners

Agenda

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Minute Secretary
3. Roll & Apologies
4. Acceptance of the Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 28th February 2016
5. Voting for Office Bearers
6. Matters Arising
7. Presentation of Reports
 - 7.1 Dean's Report (*presented at preceding Eucharist Service*)
 - 7.2 Treasurer – Audited Financial Statements for 2016
8. Election of Office Bearers (*voting conducted at beginning of Vestry*)
 - 8.1 Wardens (*2 plus 1 Alternate*)
 - 8.2 Councillors (*maximum 8. At least one licensed lay minister*)
 - 8.3 Synod, DSC, Elective Assembly and Archdeaconry Council (*2 laity plus 1 lay alternate*)
9. Appointment of Auditor for 2017 - DZB
10. Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Council and Prayer for New Council
11. Date of next Meeting – Council Orientation 07th March, Exco
14th March, Council 28th March
12. Close of Vestry

Annual Vestry Report

2016

Dean of Christ Church Cathedral

I again greet you all in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are, each and every one of us, called to faith and obedience to the guidance of God, our Father in Heaven.

God is never silent, nor without strategy for our lives. God has a purpose for us, and through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we are each on a journey toward a particular ministry appointed for us by God.

We must therefore seek to be alert to the leading of the Holy Spirit as we strive to fulfil that which is our ministry task. Such a ministry will be centred on the church of which we are members, and extend into the wider community; to our neighbours.

One of the roles assigned to me as Dean, and to the Council, is to determine the strategic ministry goal for this church. Permit me in this report to lay before you what we believe is our new and unfolding strategy.

Accomplishments Thus Far

In 2014 we began a plan of ministry which we termed *Council Focus 2014*. This focused on establishing and setting in motion six key areas we believed necessary in launching the Cathedral into an effective ministry, and to lay a foundation for us to achieve our vision statement:

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We have come a long way in achieving these aims, and it seemed right to us that we re-visit our mission and be lead again by God as we consolidate certain areas and embark on new ministry.

But first, permit me to highlight areas of success.

We employed both a Youth Pastor and a Childrens' Pastor, and established a dynamic Youth Group and Childrens' Church. Both Rendani Mudau as Youth Pastor, and Tebogo Monyai as Childrens' Pastor have now begun their studies at the College of the Transfiguration in Grahamstown. God willing, they will become clergy in this Diocese in a few years' time.

In their place, we welcome Thabo Maruma as our new Youth Pastor and Verger. Thabo is also exploring a calling into the ordained ministry and is a member of the Diocesan Volunteers and Interns Program.

We present a biannual service focusing on Primary Health, during which we offer free health screening.

We have an annual focus on the Sixteen Days of Activism of No Violence against Women and Children.

We have established the Wednesday Evening Teaching and a quarterly training program for lay ministry.

Cathedral staff offer training on specialised ministries such as Haggai, Mission Shaped Ministry, Lay Minister Training and the My Anglican Church Management Program.

We have identified and begun maintenance on our built environment.

We have established IT systems for our worship, ministry and administration.

There is more to do in each of these areas, but whereas before we had very little to offer, we now have established programs and systems.

Council over the years have worked hard in turning these dreams into reality, and I am proud of what we have achieved.

Our various organisations continue to meet on a regular basis and perform their sterling work of witness and ministry. I here highlight the important ministry of the Mothers' Union of Christ Church Cathedral.

Their aim is the advancement of Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life, and currently consist of thirty-one members. They meet weekly for prayer, offer pastoral care, oversee special projects and are involved in numerous Cathedral activities. I thank them and salute them for their ministry.

(As an aside, you may wonder why I have only focused on the MU? They were the only organisation who responded to my request for a report for inclusion in this Dean's Report for Vestry.)

There are of course other organisations ministering in the Cathedral, and they too are worthy of our support and appreciation.

Going Forward

Permit me to briefly outline the new focus Council is embarking on. I have titled the new focus; *Vision Future*, and it consists of five goals.

First, we will seek to be fully committed to Christ by becoming intentional disciples of Christ.

This will entail learning about and committing to Jesus as Lord and Saviour; striving to be more responsible in our personal giving; attending discipleship courses; developing a ministry to young adults; establishing new Home Groups; and establishing a Servers' Guild.

Second, becoming a Cathedral family.

This will entail establishing zones, each with a Zone Pastor; holding fun events; and working together in our fund-raising.

Third, focusing on the maintenance needs of the built environment and the development of our infrastructure for future growth.

Presently, we sit with buildings over fifty-years in age, and which have serious maintenance requirements. For example, we have electrical, water, sewerage, general maintenance and security problems. We must address these issues decisively in order that we move forward in our ministry needs without having to delay ministry development because we are spending money trying to keep the buildings operational.

Fourth, we must plan for future ministry growth. We require a vision for where we wish to be two to three years from now.

For example, we urgently require a Sub-Dean. At 2017 costs, we will need to raise an extra thirty-thousand rand monthly to cover their stipend, accommodation and transport. Without such an experienced clergy-person our envisioned growth in ministry will be severely curtailed.

Another urgent requirement is the development of a Parish Centre in which our administration and ministry can be grouped together. This will offer effective control of administration and an economy of scale in areas such as telephone and IT.

We also seek to plant a new church within the growing city of Polokwane. This may be a twin of what we offer here, or an exciting new development as we reach out to people who would not normally attend any of our services.

Finally, as we devote energy into these new areas, we must not lose focus on what we have already achieved, especially in the areas of young people, a prophetic witness and involvement in the community, as well as our growing preaching and teaching ministry.

In Summary

This is a lot of information to absorb at this meeting, as well as being condensed for this Report. However, Council will keep you informed of developments, and be available to answer your questions and receive your suggestions.

Remember, our vision statement calls upon all to be involved in practicing every-member ministry. Should any wish to receive the full working document – Council are still to flesh it out and assign ministries to people – please do not hesitate to drop me an email requesting it.

Should you feel the touch of the Holy Spirit to offer to assist us, we would love to hear from you. This would include constructive criticism and suggestions.

I am personally excited by the vision and mission unfolding before us. I believe it is Holy Spirit inspired and achievable. I believe we are more than capable of making this happen. However, we must work as a team.

My Appreciation

I thank all those who have strived to fulfil the mandate of God by offering to stand for Council, who volunteer their time and talents in our ministries, and who support the staff and clergy in a myriad of different ways.

Your love and support are hugely appreciated. Thank you.

A Quick Reminder

For us to function efficiently, it is vitally important we communicate with you and analyse trends within the church. To this end, we use the My Anglican Church Management System. But, such a system is only as good as the information contained in it. Please make sure you are accurately recorded in the data base.

We also depend on your generous giving of finances and time. We cannot minister if the bank account is empty. Unfortunately, we have recently had to delay payment and ministry because of insufficient funds. Please re-consider what you give and how frequently you make that offering.

In Conclusion

I thank my beautiful wife for her support, encouragement and assistance. Without her ministry, I would not achieve very much at all.

I also thank my staff for their work; they make us a successful church.

I thank my Wardens and the Council for their support; their ministry is equally valuable in making us grow and impact our community.

Finally, we thank Christ for being with us and guiding us. We are his and he is our redeemer.

Thank you for allowing me to be your minister and for your support.

May God bless and guide us all.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. Pretorius', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Luke Pretorius

Dean, Christ Church Cathedral