

St John's Presbyterian Church

AGENDA OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 20 APRIL 2018 AT 10:15 AT THE CHURCH

1. Constitution
2. Welcome
3. Present
4. Apologies
5. Adoption of the agenda
6. Adoption of the Minutes
7. Matters arising
8. In Memoriam
9. Session report
Receives the report
10. Stewardship report
The Congregation:
The Congregation:
 1. Receives the report.
 2. Approves the Audited Financial statements for the year ending December 2017.
 3. Retain Chambers Tax and Wealth as auditors.
 4. Appoint Bernadine Coetzer as the new Treasurer and member of the Stewardship Committee.
11. Appointment of the auditor
12. General
 - 12.1.
 - 12.2.
 - 12.3.
13. Closing

St John's Presbyterian Church

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2016 HELD ON SUNDAY 26
MARCH 2017 AT 10:15 AT THE CHURCH

1. Constitution

Rev. Murphy constituted the meeting with prayer

2. Welcome

Rev. Murphy welcomed all members and noted that a quorum was present.

3. Present

Priscilla Nieuwoudt, Lynn Holman, Peter Holman, Peter Esterhuyse, Colin Cilliers, Marita Cilliers, Stoney Steenkamp, Elsa Viljoen, Jenny Viljoen, Mabelle Neuhoff, Hester Lischke, Dalina Young, Mariana Brits, Anne Worth, Tony Neuhoff, Brian Viljoen, Grace Mentz, Andre Geldenhuys, Gail Geldenhuys, Mercia Nel, Marie Chapman, Kingsley Chapman, Willie Matthee, Mariaan Murphy, Margaret Matthew, Heather Schulenburg, Peter Schulenburg, Basil Parker, Nak van der Merwe, Michelle van der Walt, Banie van der Walt, Nicole van der Merwe, Shelley van der Merwe and Bernadine Coetzer

4. Apologies

Apologies with reasons were received from Doug Lamb, Mary-Ann Lamb and Sandy Crews. After discussion the following proposal was moved:

The congregation sustains the apologies

Seconded and **AGREED**

5. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

6. Adoption of the Minutes

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were circulated and taken as read. After discussion the following proposal was moved:

The congregation adopts the minutes of the 14 August 2016 AGM

Seconded and **AGREED**

7. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

8. In Memoriam

The meeting observed a few moments' silence in memory of Theresa Jones who was born on 7 March 1921 and died on 17 May 2016. Elder Colin Cilliers thanked the Lord in prayer for her life, testimony and service as a departed sister.

9. Session Report

The Session report for 2016 was circulated and taken as read. After discussion the following proposal was moved:

The congregation receives the report

Seconded and **AGREED**

10. Stewardship Report

The Stewardship Committee report along with the Audited Financial Statements for 2016 were circulated and taken as read. After discussion the following proposals were moved:

The Congregation

10.1. Receives the report.

Seconded and **AGREED**

10.2. Approves the Audited Financial statements for the year ending December 2016.

Seconded and **AGREED**

10.3. Retain Chambers Tax and Wealth as auditors.

Seconded and **AGREED**

10.4. Accept the resignation Herman Booyen as a member of the Stewardship committee.

Seconded and **AGREED**

10.5. Appoint Bernard Calder as a member of the Stewardship Committee.

Seconded and **AGREED**

11. Closing

Elder Colin Cilliers closed the meeting with prayer

SESSION REPORT FOR 2017

Session meetings

Session met regularly every fortnight throughout the year (except during school holidays), with prayer meetings alternating with business (admin) meetings. Peter Holman was ordained as an elder on 2 April 2017. This raised the number of elders to 8.

Ministry Teams

St John's is blessed with the following ministry teams which provide wonderful avenues for service by many of our members. All of the teams were fully functional during the year, namely

- Discipleship and Leadership Development (DLD)
- Youth (Sunday School and Teen Church)
- Missions and Outreach Ministry (MOM)
- Pastoral Care
- Welcomers
- Hospitality
- Fun
- Gardening
- Multimedia.

The following activities deserve special mention :

- Commitment Sunday on 29 January 2017 (DLD)
- Connect Weekend on 28 to 30 July 2017 at Amanzi Game Lodge (DLD). The purpose was to build and strengthen relationships.
- Women's Conference on 18 August 2017 (DLD). This was held in the church, and the invited speaker was Ivy Sutton. The theme of the evening was **You are Beautiful**.
- Several congregational braais (DLD).
- A Wisdom and Wine evening on 20 October 2017 (Fun team).
- A luncheon at the church for the Gruis Street residents on 10 December 2017 (MOM). They also attended the morning service on that day.

All those who serve so faithfully on the various ministry teams are thanked for their commitment and their love of the Lord.

The DLD team has unfortunately been disbanded by Session, because Session has come to believe that the all-important responsibility of Discipleship and Leadership Development should be borne by Session itself. The DLD team, under the capable leadership of Paul Azar, deserves the gratitude of the congregation for a job very well done for many years. Session applauds them.

Small Groups

It remains a matter of regret for Session that so few of our members are involved in a small group (cells groups, Bible study, Men for Jesus), because small groups are and remain the main sources of care and fellowship for our members. We really need to progress beyond **only on a Sunday** Christians.

Worship Services

It is with pride that Session reports that the Word of God was again faithfully preached from our pulpit throughout the year.

A delightful nativity play was presented by the Sunday School at the family service on 26 November 2017.

St John's again participated in Holy Week with a number of other congregations in Bloemfontein. It truly is a special blessing to praise and worship with brothers and sisters from other church families.

Presbytery

Our thanks to elder Herman Booysen for his continuing work as Clerk of Free State Presbytery. Session is pleased that St John's plays such an important part in the life of our Presbytery.

Membership

Our membership roll reveals that we have 156 active and 17 inactive members, a total membership of 173.

In Memoriam

The following members died during the year :

- Lorna Strege 30-04-1926 - 05-05-2017
- Dennis Hayden 11-07-1934 - 12-07-2017
- Thato Bono 28-04-1999 - 02-09-2017
- Johan Bezuidenhout 04-08-1947 - 04-11-2017

We fondly remember our departed brothers and sisters.

In conclusion, we thank the Lord for His provision and blessing of St John's during 2017. Truly, the Lord is faithful, merciful and greatly to be praised!

Humbly submitted.



Colin Cilliers
Session Clerk

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT – 2017

1. Stewardship Committee

The members of the committee for 2017 were: Nak vd Merwe (Chairman), Jaques Murphy (Minister), Stoney Steenkamp (Treasurer), Basil Parker, Nevin Wittstock, Bernard Calder and Colleen Pieterse (Secretary). Stoney Steenkamp resigned as treasurer during December 2018 due to ill health. I would like to thank him for his unselfish commitment over the years.

During the last financial year the Stewardship committee managed the finances and property of St John's to the best of their ability. As the financial position during this time was challenging we had to make some prayerful decisions. I want to thank my fellow committee members for their time and unwavering commitment.

Some of the undertakings of the Stewardship committee were:

Maintenance:

- No projects were initiated, only running maintenance was done, due to the financial constraints.

Fund raising:

- The continuation of the 100 club. Even though interest dwindled to 30 participants
- Sale of some of the redundant sound equipment.
- Jumble sales, initiated by Nevin Wittstock

Leasing of church property:

- A year contract, for the use of the church hall, with the option to renew was signed with The Assemblies of Christ Light Tower Ministries to the amount of R8000.00 per month in January 2017.
- A further contract for the use of two offices in church house, with the option to renew was signed with Inclusive Education South Africa to the amount of R2000.00 per month in August 2017.

Letter to the congregation;

- A letter to the congregation was initiated by the Stewardship committee to inform the congregation of the financial position of the church and to ask them to prayerfully consider their contributions.
The response to this letter was very favourable.

I would also like to thank Session for their support and input during this challenging year.

2. Church Personnel

I would like to thank all the church personnel for their diligent work over the last year.

3. Financial Statements

The audited financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2017 were received from the auditors, Chambers Tax and Wealth, during the middle of January 2018. These statements were scrutinised by the Stewardship committee as well as Session and found to be a true reflection of the church's financial position. The statements are available for inspection by the congregation on request.

Out of the statements I would like to bring to the attention of the congregation the fact that we had to withdraw R83500.00 from the church's investments to be able to honour our commitments.

4. Treasurer

Due to the resignation and subsequent death of our previous Treasurer Stoney Steenkamp the meeting has to appoint a new treasurer. Bernadine Coetzer has graciously offered to fill this position. She has been co-opted on to the Stewardship committee as acting Treasurer as from March 2018.

5. Proposals

The Congregation:

1. Receives the report.
2. Approves the Audited Financial statements for the year ending December 2017.
3. Retain Chambers Tax and Wealth as auditors.
4. Appoint Bernadine Coetzer as the new Treasurer and member of the Stewardship Committee.

Nak van der Merwe
Chairman Stewardship Committee