

Church meeting minutes 28th July 2024

Present

Jesujuwa Ojumu, Dmytro Prydatko, Tetiana Prydatko, Bonnie Hunt, Edicula George, Rema Edicula, Pat Cole, Mike Hibbit, Maggie Hibbit, Angela Baker, Fiona Monger, Carol Wynn, Rosemary Froud, Adivan Emmanuel, Rhena Fletcher, Oliver Fletcher, Renato Fonseca, Nathan Hunt, Kevin Woods, Ariua Shemshahmehar, Andy Monger, Liiliam Fonseca, Malcolm Flemming, Mark Plummer, Zhiyao Huang, Buki Benson, Alyona Sobolieva, Denys Soboliev, Iryna Melish, Nina Martins, Fern Patrick, Tyrone Patrick, Victor Chan, Teresa Chan, Ruth Watson, Vikki Dupree, Christine Leong, Hung Leong, Steve Froud, Sallyann Hunt

1. Approved minutes of meeting on 9th June 2024
2. Steve showed the slide attached (Appendix 1) and explained the following

Just to explain, we are already a charity but as we are now larger, we need to register with the Charities Commission. To do this we need legal help, and so need to pay solicitor's fees. We were aware this would be needed and so factored £5000 into this year's budget to pay for this. We have now received the detailed fee estimates from Anthony Collins solicitors, and we believe it will actually be between £5820 and £7236 depending on the number of issues that are raised. So as this will cost more than the approved figure in the budget, we need the Church's permission to spend this.

Steve explained we could go through Stewardship which would initially be cheaper to do the initial registration but they would in fact then refer us to Anthony Collins Solicitors anyway for all of the required subsequent steps.

In addition to this, whilst looking at this detail we have discovered that we might need to seek further legal advice relating to the trustees of the land. There are 2 separate pieces of land in separate trusts which makes this complex. We plan to meet with the Baptist Union to discuss this, and if we do decide to go ahead and make changes to the trustees, we will need solicitors' advice costing in the region of a further £2400. We would like to ask the Church's permission to spend this extra amount if we decide to go ahead.

With this in mind the Church was asked to vote on 2 matters

1. To allow the Church to spend up to £7236 ie an increase of £2236 above what was already agreed in the budget. This was approved with 18 votes for and none against
2. To allow the Church to spend up to £2400 on legal advice regarding the trustees of the land. This was approved with 21 votes for and none against

Steve was thanked for all his work on this

The meeting was closed

Costs to Register as a Charity

Applying to become a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO)

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Budgeted for legal costs | £5,000 |
| • Estimate Anthony Collins, Solicitors (ACS) | £7,236 |
| • Estimate for additional work regarding land trustees | £2,400, |

Options considered:

- Stewardship – registration only (then ACS)
- BU recommend ACS
- ACS developed Baptist Church template with Charity Commission