

NORTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 130th Annual General Meeting held in Bethlehem Baptist Church on Friday 4 November 2022 at 3.29 pm

Opening: Josie Te Kahu welcomed those present on behalf of the tangata whenua (NBA), Shelley prayed and introduced the NBA Board and Staff, gave instructions for the meeting along with the agenda, including the timing of the meeting.

Attendance and Apologies: Attendance confirmations were received from 90 people, representing a total of 42 churches. Apologies were received from 5 people representing a further 4 churches.

Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting: The meeting accepted the minutes from the previous AGM held via zoom on 1 December 2021 as a true and correct record. Caleb seconded. Passed.

Annual Report: Shelley Motu'apuaka added her welcome and moved the adoption of the 2022 Annual Report, which was seconded and passed.

Presented by Chair:

Shelley spoke to the report and made the following points:

- Appreciation and celebration were expressed towards churches for their excellency in the post-covid time. She acknowledged that the outcome of Hillside is an indication of failure of caring for each other and hence encouraged everyone to care for each other.
- The three main areas of the next steps forward in terms of what and how the Northern Association Board governs – 1. engage a lawyer to look at the governance structures – to have more clarity and wisdom, 2. put in place an Audit and Financial Risk Committee (AFR), 3. create a stronger Board with a balance in skills and experiences. Shelley encouraged the churches with the teaching in Romans - to devote to one another.
- Shelley moved to accept the chair report. It was seconded by Simon Currie and passed.

Address by Regional Leader:

Reti spoke to the report and made the following points:

- Reti acknowledged the work Shelley has contributed to the Board. She highlighted that we should celebrate - 1. among the six new Baptist churches and fellowships in the past year, five of them are from Northern, 2. the NBA has given half a million to other associations in supporting their work, 3. we have made a commitment to contribute \$650,000 in total towards the cost of the closure of Hillside Baptist Church and we honour that we did this as a family. She showed much gratefulness.
- Murray Jenkins shared stories of his childhood as his parents David & Dorothy Jenkins planted a number of the far North churches. This year is the 40th Anniversary of the Baptist Centennial Project started in 1982. One of the churches established was Kerikeri Baptist Church. They used to be meeting in a library and in the homes of the congregation. Murray then shared a little of the story of the establishment of the churches. His parents moved from Whakatane and started a church in Paihia, then Russell and Kerikeri. A vision they had is that Baptists must bring missional change in a collective way. It is a challenge.
- Of The 15 priorities that Charles presented at the Hui, the NBA is working towards 11 of them as a staff team.
- The five Northern priorities are – 1. Walking together; 2. Everyone a witness; 3. Partnering with Māori for gospel renewal; 4. Growing our leadership base; 5. Transition planning. Identifying leaders should start from Sunday School, 15-20 years ahead. We should also put in mind the change in demographic in Auckland and Northland.

Address by Network Pastor and Health Development (NPHD):

Rick acknowledged we are living in a unique transformational time. We need creativity and change, and we see God is doing a new thing. Our broken world needs the gospel. Our Regional Hui this year focused on personal renewal and the necessity to embrace change. This year Rick has journeyed with two churches over 20 weeks. Laingholm Baptist Church shared their journey through a video. Melissa from Beachlands also spoke around the journey for them. There have been a lot of changes in their church.

There is also a collective, sadness about the reality of churches in NZ that the churches have been pushed to the fringes. We need to ask God to show us how to serve Him in the local area and how to be more available and to collaborate with other churches. In time of this, we need to commit to one another and be a catalysis to one another.

Adoption of Annual Report: Shelley moved, and Josh van de Worp (Franklin) seconded, the adoption of the 2022 Annual Report - this was passed.

Recognition of Service: Rachel Roche led an activity to show recognition and acknowledgement for pastors who have committed to different numbers of years of service with the Movement. Alan Taylor (Eastgate) was the last man standing in our group.

Appointment of Board: There were five nominations received for the five vacancies - Shelley Motu'apuaka (Blockhouse Bay Baptist) seeking re-election for a further two-year term, and Edmonds Namburi (Dargaville Baptist), Ian Coombridge (Albany Baptist), Grant Harris (Windsor Park Baptist) and Shania Norman (Whāngarei Baptist) seeking election for the first time. Brief introductions of the nominees were presented verbally. Voting took place and all candidates exceeded the 75% approval requirement. They will therefore join Caleb Finlayson (Windsor Park Baptist), Rosie Fleming (Cityside Baptist), and Jack Jia (North Shore Chinese Baptist), who have a further year to run in their terms, on the Board for the new year.

Special motion: Shelley moved that we gather a group to review our constitution to strengthen our appointment of candidates and bring recommendations to the 2023 AGM. This was seconded by Gary Grut (Glen Eden) and passed.

Financial Report 2022: Reti Ah-Voa presented the annual accounts for the year ending 31 August 2022, highlighting church contributions again exceeding budget third year in a row (\$141,000), coupled with payroll savings (\$35,000) due to vacancies, and donation from HBH \$30,000, were the main factors leading to a result much better than budgeted. Unfortunately, the swing in unrealised gains from a positive \$67,000, due to market forces over the last year actually resulted in a loss of nearly \$64,000 this year – a negative shift of \$120k. This downturn undid all the positive work in the operations area. Reti Ah-Voa moved that the report be accepted - this was seconded by Simon Currie (Lifepoint, Ruakaka) and passed.

Budget 2023: Reti then presented the Budget for the 2023 financial year, noting we had set a stretch budget for an increase in church contributions (10%). Churches were reminded that we only asked for the modest amount of \$15 per attending adult per annum. So, for example, a congregation of 80 adults would pass on \$1200 for the year for the work of NBA in supporting our faith communities. Church contributions represents less than half of the annual income so, we need to be more creative about how to generate passive income. Baptist Action are looking into income generation using our capital assets. We are anticipating an increase in expenses – specifically in staff costs and travel now that we are unlikely to return to lockdowns, payroll (as we are anticipating filling our vacancies in the coming year) and we are also paying rent for the offices in the National Centre. Due to our lack of control over the markets, no provision has been made for unrealised gains. This is the last year of the National Leaders grant which expires in December 2022. We will, however, still have the burden of the Hillside cost to shoulder alongside the BU for the next three years. In order to come in close to breakeven, we would need to transfer close to \$370,000 from specified funds. This was followed by a time for questions. Reti Ah-Voa moved that the 2023 budget be accepted - this was seconded by Allan Taylor (Eastgate) and passed.

Appointment of Auditor for 2023: Reti Ah-Voa moved that the current auditor, Charity Integrity Audit (Peter Conaglen), be reappointed for the 2023 year. This was seconded by Nigel Brereton (Lifepoint) and passed.

Shelley concluded the meeting by emphasising the importance of the bi-cultural journey and how Māori need to be given the opportunity to thrive. Shelley prayed.

The meeting finished at 5.11 pm.

Next Annual Meeting: To be advised.

Minutes confirmed:

Chairperson: S. Mutagamba

Date: 05/03/2023

