



**Annual Report for the Year ending
31st December 2022**

**For the
Congregation of**

**South Mandurah
Uniting Church**

**Annual General Meeting
Sunday 19th February 2023**



Welcome to the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2022. Last year was a very successful year for our church and I'm praying the coming year will be an even better one. I hope you will attend the AGM on Sunday 19^h February 2023 to show your support and appreciation for your Leadership Team and all the volunteers who worked very hard on our behalf during the past year.

Raelyn Punch
Chair, SMUC Leadership Team



Fellowship is an integral part of our church community. A great example is the gentlemen's fortnightly "Espresso" coffee mornings.

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The 2022 SMUC Leadership Team

Top Row: Raelyn Punch (chair)

Second Row (left to right): Andrew Gibson (secretary),
Kerry Lawson & Sherryl Smith

Third Row (left to right): Piet Speyers & Andrew Telfer

❖ Chairperson's Report

In 2022 our congregation was able to enjoy one of the best years we've had for some time. In part this was due to the restrictions relating to COVID 19 being eased, which meant last year we met as a congregation every Sunday at our building and none of our services had to be conducted on-line. However COVID-19 is still in the community and a number of our congregation have suffered its effects. By applying appropriate precautions our church has been able to return to a "normal" pattern of life.

Our return to regular weekly worship services followed by yummy morning teas has only been part, albeit an important part, of our church's activities during the past year. There have been many other events and activities, both within and outside of the church; some of which were formally organised and others were arranged on a more casual basis. In no particular order these included:

- Coffee, Cake and Fellowships mornings - Held weekly on Wednesday mornings by the ladies; they started the year meeting at *La Belle Pâtisserie* and then moved to *Seven Trees Coffee* in Erskine. The gentlemen met fortnightly on Tuesdays at the *Taste of Italy* in Halls Head.
- Lunches – there were a number of fellowship lunches held at Church after services, and some impromptu lunches held at local fish 'n chips or cafes.
- The Movies – various informal groups went to the cinema to see the latest movies. Many of the congregation saw the movie "Northern Safari", (which is set in outback Australia in the 1950's), at the church when we held a soup and movie night in August.
- Fundraising – there were various fundraisers throughout the year including an appeal for the people of Ukraine and Tear Australia;
- Home groups – Due to the impact of COVID 19 we currently only have two home groups operating. They have met weekly to share fellowship, learn more about God's word and care for one another. One of my aims for next year is to encourage the establishment of at least one new home group;

- The Mission Planning Workshop – In February members of the congregation participated in a workshop, ably facilitated by Rev Rob Douglas, to review our church’s Vision and Mission statements as part of the process for calling a minister or pastor;
- Stations of the Cross – as has been our tradition for some years (COVID permitting), SMUC joined St Damien’s Catholic Church in Dawesville for the Good Friday “Stations of the Cross”; followed by a hot cross bun morning tea on a lovely sunny morning;
- Seven week series on Joshua – in collaboration with Billabong Church and sharing speakers each week, sometimes in person and sometimes via a video link, we enjoyed a wonderful series of sermons exploring the book of Joshua;
- “The Prayer Room” - for the first time, with assistance from Billabong Church, we participated in the Prayer Room in the lead up to Pentecost Sunday;
- Royal Life Saving Society – a first aid demonstration was held at the church in September;
- Kings Park – a group travelled up to Kings Park to see the beautiful wildflower displays and enjoy a convivial lunch,
- Christmas - At the start of Advent we held our fantastic annual carols evening. The theme was “The six senses of Christmas” and the evening was greatly enjoyed by the large crowd who attended. The evening was followed by our regular Sunday Advent services leading up to the Christmas Day service.

During the past two years the Leadership Team has been working through a myriad of complex regulations and documentation in preparation for the SMUC putting out a call for a new minister or pastor. After much planning, discussion, prayers and meetings, plus what seemed like never ending paperwork, two weeks prior to Christmas 2022 the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) granted permission for SMUC to offer a position for a 0.4 FTE Pastor. This allows us to employ a Pastor for two days a week (15 hours). SMUC is required to advertise the position and it is hoped that a new Pastor will commence their duties around April 2023. After all the frustrations and setbacks of 2021 and 2022, this is a very

positive step forward for our church community and will open up new opportunities for growth for our church and potentially with the local community as well.

2022 was a year of visiting speakers. We were blessed to have a wide variety of visiting speakers who provided thought provoking and sometimes challenging messages to our congregation. Speakers included Suzy Thomas (UCA Moderator), Rev Dr Andrew Williams (UCA WA General Secretary), Rev Lesley de Grussa, Dr Cheryl Lim (Tear Fund), Dr David Liaw (OMF International), Mr Steve Hall (Adult and Teen Challenge), Mr Tony McAlinden who spoke on prison probation reform, Mr Neil Masters (YouthCare), Mrs Noella Ross, Mr Doug Burtenshaw; and Rev Luke Williams, Mr Yoy Alberastine and Mr Samuel Annan from Billabong Church, all of whom contributed to our 7 week sermon series on Joshua.

The visiting speakers were in addition to our “in-house” regular speakers, Mrs Frances Davy, Mr Piet Speyers and Rev Mike Fawcett who do a fantastic job. Additionally we had a number of wonderful “congregation led” services. Who could forget the joyous Easter Sunday service led by Mr Ken Lehmann and the Advent Carols organised by the Thompson family?

New technology is finally coming to the SMUC. When participating in the 7 week series based on the Biblical Book of Joshua in conjunction with Billabong Church we trialled the use of live video-linking. The technology took a while to set up but once it worked, it was great! On speaking to various congregational members afterwards it appeared that people are happy to do it again. We had a zoom message, recorded messages and a number of video clips, short films and music during various services. With the change in the way technology is used, one of the LT projects for 2023 is to review and if needed, start updating the software and hardware used during Sunday services so the SMUC can stay current and able to access this technology when needed.

A new project trialled in 2022 was participating in “The Prayer Room”. The Prayer Room is a non-denominational activity and has been run on a state, national and international level for a number of



years. The SMUC Prayer Room participants met every day for a few hours in the Fellowship Room in the week leading up to Pentecost Sunday for individual and group prayer, and activities. On Pentecost Sunday a special celebration service was held followed by lunch afterwards. It was so successful that we plan to participate again this year in the lead up to Pentecost Sunday. Thank you to the team of Frances Davy, Kerry McCrie, Julie Lehmann and Sherryl Smith who did a fantastic job and I am excited to see the SMUC participating in 2023. A bonus from the Prayer Room was the establishment of a regular Sunday morning mini-prayer session of 15 minutes commencing at 9.00am which is open to everyone who wishes to join in.

What's new at the SMUC?

After the two break-ins in 2021 the security at the church was upgraded. We now have a roller shutter door at the back of the storeroom and a double security front door.

In February 2022 the LT were approached by the Falcon Lions Club to use the SMUC Fellowship Room and facilities for their meeting premises as they were in need of a new "home". The Falcon Lions Club now have a written contract and started to use the SMUC in May 2022 and they love it. Their members have said: *"Thank you for the use of the venue. The venue is perfect for our needs"*, and *"Once again reiterating how happy we are to be using SMUC rooms for our meetings. Such a warm welcoming space"*.

Our church has continued our tradition of supporting charities and in 2022 we donated over 10% of our income to assist our community. In addition to food for the *Grocery Box*, we have donated much needed funds to YouthCare, Adult and Teen Challenge WA, and provided financial assistance for various appeals and mission services. The collection of recyclable cans and bottles for "Cash for Cans" has grown in strength, raising approximately \$500 in 2022. All of which was donated to a local charity; Mums Cottage. Please keep collecting your recyclables and placing in the special bin located in the church foyer.

This year SMUC received a request from one of our visiting speakers, Tony McAlinden. He asked if we would work with two

other churches on a special project to collect toys for children up to 14 years of age. On the first Sunday of Advent, 8 large boxes of wonderful toys were handed to Tony for delivery to Bunbury Prison for the prisoners to give to their children as Christmas gifts. It is wonderful project that supports the mental health and wellbeing of prisoners and their families, and provides so much joy too. Thank you for supporting this very special community project so generously.

Our church is a volunteer based organisation and we could not run without our volunteers. Thank you to everyone who has worked in any role in our church during 2022. The roles are many and varied; some are highly visible and others are more “hidden”. Thank you to all our very special Enablers; this includes the people who provide our famous morning teas; the welcomers at the front door who offer a cheery good morning as we arrive for Sunday service; the worship leaders and speakers who spent hours planning and researching their words to us in the weeks leading up to Sunday services; the musicians and singers who arrive an hour early on Sunday morning to practise as a group to lead us in glorious songs of praise during service; the readers who study the allocated bible reading for the service so they can speak clearly; the prayer leaders who prayer for us and with us; the Sunday School leaders who carefully plan an age appropriate and fun activity for our children and all the workers “behind the scenes.” The audio visual operators who ensure we have words on the screen and sound; the people who plan and arrange our fabulous decorations for the various events in the church; the LT rep who every week ensures everything is left clean and tidy as they lock up the building after service; the gentlemen who keep the maintenance up to date; the volunteer drivers who chauffeur church members to services and appointments; our very able Treasurer, David Jessup; the Leadership Team who donated so much time this year (more than previous years because of the Minister/pastor call), and those who collate and create the Messenger, contact book, update the Facebook and Web pages. ALL OF THESE PEOPLE ARE VERY SPECIAL as they have generously donated their time and efforts to help the SMUC run smoothly and I offer a very LARGE THANK YOU.

With great sadness I confirm that three members of the Leadership Team are stepping down at this year's AGM. Piet Speyers and Andrew Gibson have completed their terms and decided not to seek re-election, and Kerry Lawson has resigned from the Leadership Team to go on a long awaited (and much anticipated) holiday around Australia with her husband Ron. On behalf of the congregation I sincerely thank Kerry, Andrew and Piet for their cheerful participation and dedication to our church, and for their work on the Leadership Team in all the different roles they have so capably performed. Andrew and Piet are not stepping away entirely, as they have decided to continue with the planning of the Speakers List and all three will continue their respective roles on the Enablers List and the other work that they do for our church. I look forward to welcoming new members onto the Leadership Team to join Sherryl Smith, Andrew Telfer and me as we continue serving our church.

There is always a risk that I will miss someone when offering thank you's but I particularly want to thank my loving husband, Peter, who every week researches, prepares and sends out the Messenger to our church community. Peter also compiles the Enablers List, the SMUC Contact book and the AGM Booklet along with various posters, PowerPoints and anything else I ask of him. Thank you for your dedication and patience.

In closing I would like to remind us all of the following;-

"A church is not a building but a community where people are sharing their lives and supporting each other through Fellowship, caring, friendship and a shared faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."

South Mandurah UC congregation have supported each other through COVID-19, illnesses, injuries and many other trials and tribulations. Fortunately these are offset with many happy events full of laughter and love throughout the year. As we move into 2023 I know this spirit of love, friendship, support, faith and generosity will continue to grow in OUR church community and we will be stronger as a community because of these wonderful gifts.

Raelyn Punch

❖ **Ministry Report**

The ministry of the South Mandurah Uniting Church continues faithfully.

Piet Speyers and Francis Davy have provided a sterling contribution to the congregation in their worship leadership and preaching. A big thank you to Ken Lehmann, Robyn Speyers, Jenni Anderson, Cynthia Clive, John Lawrence and Andrew Telfer who lead our worship services; we appreciate your ministry.

We have also been blessed with numerous visiting speakers including the Moderator Susy Thomas, Rev Andrew Williams (General Secretary WA Synod), Rev Lesley de Grussa, Steve Hall (Teen and Adult challenge), Toni McAlinden, Doug Burtenshaw, Dr Cheryl Lim (Tear Fund), Dr David Liaw (OMF International), Neil Masters (YouthCare), and Noella Ross. One of the highlights of our Ministry during 2022 was the 7 week series on the book of Joshua run in collaboration with Billabong Uniting Church. Rev. Luke Williams, Yoy Alberastine and Samuel Annan from Billabong UC all delivered messages to our congregation. We also appreciated the visit and ministry of Rev Rob Douglas, the Presbytery's mission consultant. Rob will be providing ongoing support and guidance to the congregation relating to our church's mission.

The services continue to be recorded each week and they are then posted on You-tube, Facebook and our website. Thank you to Robyn and Piet Speyers for all the work they do recording, editing and uploading the videos.

The two coffee morning fellowship groups continue to provide forums for caring and sharing. Everybody is encouraged to remember that these groups provide good opportunities for inviting friends along to join in. This is a great way to share with others and show how our faith impacts our life.

Two important ministry areas are pastoral care and prayer ministry. Most of this ministry is done by members of the congregation especially in the home groups. However there is need for a more

coordinated team approach to ensure that as many people as possible are receiving pastoral support and contributing to the “prayer and care” of each other.

A prayer time before the service week is held each week at 9 am. This is an opportunity for any or all members of the congregation to pray together.

Ephesians 1: 15 – 17

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Rev. Mike Fawcett



❖ **Treasurer’s Report**

For confidentiality reasons the Treasurer’s report has been removed from the website version of the Annual Report.

Members of the congregation may apply for a copy of the Annual Report from Raelyn Punch, Chair of the Leadership Team of SMUC.



Annual Giving Program

The SMUC has a long history of donating to Australian registered charities with our aim being to donate a minimum of ten percent of all income received. With so many worthwhile charities requiring support, the Leadership Team takes into account the standing and profile of the various groups to ensure that the money is distributed wisely, with an emphasis on groups within the Peel region.

During 2022, the SMUC supported the following organisations:

Adult and Teen Challenge
Food bank - Mandurah
Mum's Cottage (Mandurah)
Mandurah Red Cross
OMF International
Peel Community Kitchen
Tear Australia
Tonga Tsunami Community (Uniting World)
UCA Mission and Service
YouthCARE
Ukraine Emergency Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual giving program, whether through your giving during services or by directly supporting the various fund raisers which were run during the year.

Raelyn Punch



❖ Children and Youth 2022

It was a gentle year in 2022 in the Fellowship Room during church services. Our average number of children under 12 years of age has reduced to 2 or 3 on a regular basis. Occasionally the numbers would increase during school holidays with visiting grandchildren of a congregational member but then the numbers would reduce again during term time.

Even though our numbers are down on previous years, the SMUC has a small group of dedicated children's leaders who every week

prepare an interesting lesson for any children who might be attending church.

Thank you to Julie Lehmann, Kerry Lawson, Judy Smith and Raelyn Punch for volunteering to spend time teaching the younger members of our congregation about the bible and Jesus.

If you are interested in joining the KUCA team's roster or would like to help with Sunday School, please speak to Raelyn or any of the members listed below.

The KUCA Team
Raelyn Punch, Kerry Lawson,
Julie Lehmann & Judy Smith



❖ **Small Groups**

Home Groups

Home groups have an important role to play in our church leading to increased spiritual growth and promoting friendships, care and general support for one other. Following the COVID 19 epidemic of 2020 - 2021 there were only two home groups meeting weekly, and those groups have grown and are doing extremely well. For a number of reasons there is a need for more home groups to be established. The reasons include increasing the opportunity for people to participate by holding the meetings at different times, that the current home groups are close to maximum capacity (which reduces the opportunity for one on one conversations and overcrowds people's homes), and to avoid the leaders of the existing home groups being over worked. It would be fantastic to see the emergence of two or more new home groups in 2023. If you are interested in starting a new group or would like to attend one of the existing groups, please speak to any member of the leadership team.

Prayer Group

The prayer group has continued to meet every Sunday morning prior to the service at 9-00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This initiative arose as a result of the desire for such a group, as expressed by members in the 2020 congregational survey, and from the Prayer room which was leading up to Pentecost Sunday. The prayer group is open and welcoming to anybody who wishes to attend.

Coffee Fellowship

The ladies' and gentlemen's fellowship coffee mornings have proven to be very popular, with increasing numbers attending. The ladies met weekly and initially patronised the "La Belle Patisserie" coffee shop in Northport (Wannanup) before switching to the Seven Trees Coffee cafe in Erskine later in the year. The gentlemen met fortnightly at "A Taste of Italy" café in the Farmer Jacks Halls Head Shopping Centre. The coffee mornings are open to everyone and give attendees the opportunity for companionship and stimulating conversation over delicious coffee and pastries.

Community Groups

In 2022 two community groups were meeting at the church on a regular basis. These were the Tuesday craft group (see separate report) who meet every week to enjoy each other's company whilst working on various projects, and the Falcon Lions Club who meet monthly. They have been very appreciative of the opportunity to use SMUC's facilities and it is anticipated that they will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Going Forward Into 2023

There is great potential are more small groups to be established, and their purpose is only limited by our imagination. Groups could include a writing group, board game or card group, a wine appreciation group, a gardening group, a men's hobby group or perhaps a touring or camping group. They could meet as often, or as infrequently as the members decided, and only need a small



number of enthusiastic members to get started. If you have an idea for a group, why not invite others to join and make it happen?

Raelyn & Peter Punch



❖ **Fellowship**

I want to start the social report with a BIG THANK YOU to all the people in the church who step up and help in whatever way is needed when the call goes out for assistance. Any event is only as good as the people who help; whether they're organizing the food, decorations, the music, cleaning up or any of the other tasks that are required for successful events to run. Naturally, if no one turns up there is no event and so thank you to everyone who attends, and a special thanks to those who bring guests.

As with the past few years, we celebrated the Christmas Season at the beginning of Advent. The church looked a treat with our nativity scenes and new banners. Thank you to Julie Lehmann and the team who decorated our church. A person, who is not from our church, said to me: "What a lovely way to start the Christmas Season with the real meaning of Christmas." The timing seems to be ideal because we are not clashing with the other events which are organised closer to Christmas. I have had nothing but good comments from lots of people, both from within our church family and from those who came to visit that night. My only wish is that we could encourage those people to worship with us more often. Please remember to invite people to join us for worship or to the other events which we hold during the year.

As a church we have the opportunity to socialise each week after the service. This is a great time to make connections with others from the church and to welcome any visitors while enjoying a delicious morning tea. Thank you to all those who are on the morning tea roster and to those who help clean up afterwards.

Due to my work commitments I'm often unable to attend the Ladies Morning Tea, but when I can it is always lovely to join the ladies.

While I have not been invited to the Men's Morning Tea, I am told it is enjoyed by those who go. If you would like to attend the fellowship coffee mornings but need help to attend, please ask for assistance. Everyone is welcome, irrespective of whether they attend our church.

For me, the other big social event is Judy Law's bible study group. It is a special time for all who attend each week. Bible study groups are a great way to expand your knowledge of our Lord's teachings and to forge friendships with others from the church. If you are not a member of a bible study group I urge you to join one. The group can be as simple or involved as its members want it to be.

Another event during the past year was our mission planning workshop which was a required step in the process of recruiting a minister or pastor. We also had a fellowship lunch after last year's AGM, a pancake breakfast before a service in lieu of Shrove Tuesday, and at Easter we joined with St Damien's to celebrate the Stations of the Cross. Thank you to Raelyn for her delicious homemade Easter buns.

Your leadership team is starting to organise events for the coming year so look out for them. Please check the Messenger for details, take part in the events, and bring friends and family.

As I'm retiring from the Leadership Team and as fellowship coordinator, I would like to thank everyone for your encouragement and help with our social activities. I've loved doing this work and hope that someone else will step forward and take over this fulfilling and enjoyable role. Please speak to me or any of the members of the Leadership Team if you are interested.

Kerry Lawson



Outreach & Mission

The Grocery Box

Thank you to everyone for your continuing support with donations that go towards helping families and individuals who are struggling with everyday living. Every fortnight I deliver our donations to "Emergency Relief" volunteers at Mandurah Uniting Church. The donations are distributed or made available for those in need to collect.

Please continue generously supporting this worthwhile cause. The variety of donations has been great and is very much appreciated. Only non-perishable foods and personal care items can be accepted.

Sherryl Smith

Cash For Cans

Our second year of collecting for our "Containers For Change Program" has been most successful. As at the 19th December the total raised was \$477.50 from your donated cans, bottles and cardboard drink containers. The Leadership Team kindly rounded this amount up to \$500, and the money has been donated to Mum's Cottage in Mandurah.

Thank you to everyone who brought in their contributions for recycling. This great result wouldn't have happened without your donations. It doesn't matter how few you can donate, as collectively our congregation can make a big difference.

Averil & Cliff Clark





❖ **Craft Group**

2022 was back to normal for the craft group, although numbers fluctuated quite markedly during the year with ladies often away with Covid, or holidays.

Funds from the “Bring and Buy” mornings, which we held a couple of times during the year, are used to offset costs of bus trips or craft supplies.

The main fundraiser, the “Pink Ribbon” Morning Tea, was run in October and raised a very satisfying \$1897 which was donated to Cancer WA for cancer research. Thanks to those who helped to support this important annual cause.

This year’s bus trip was to Bunbury to visit the Dolphin Recovery Centre; followed by lunch at a lovely old hotel near the water.

Lunches at local restaurants happen randomly during the year. We don’t have a break during school holidays, so grandchildren and their friends are welcome to come along with Nan.

We have several different craft activities running each week, but basically we just invite people to come along for a chat and cuppa if that is what they would like.

Everyone is welcome 9.00am Tuesdays

Sue Lawrence



❖ **Property Report**

The Church maintenance group were joined by Keith Johnston during the year, and we continued to maintain our church building in good condition. The work included:

- 1) Sealing the leaking skylight in worship room for the second time. Hopefully it is now fixed;

- 2) The water supply back flow valve was checked in December by a plumber;
- 3) The fire extinguishers were regularly checked;
- 4) A busy bee was held to repair the fence along the Old Coast Road. A number of the posts had been damaged by white ants;
- 5) Security for the building was improved following break-ins on 11 September and 29 October 2021. A roller door was fitted to the external store room door and security flyscreens have been fitted to the front door.
- 6) All the fluorescent light tubes and starters were replaced in the worship and hall areas.
- 7) Removal of the palm tree near the kitchen door; and
- 8) Miscellaneous minor maintenance items were done around the church.

Some of the work was done by the men of the church, who generously donated their time and skills; so a big thank you goes to them.

The Community Services group has continued to do the gardening around the building. These are people working off their community service commitments, and the work is done at no cost to the church. Thank you to Brad and his team.

In the coming year we are considering repainting the kitchen.

Andrew Gibson & Keith Johnston
Maintenance coordinators



❖ **SMUC AGM MINUTES – 27th FEBRUARY 2022**

Welcome by Chairperson

Raelyn Punch welcomed everyone to the meeting which commenced at 10:45 am.

Devotions: Andrew Telfer - 1Peter 1:3 “Hope”

Opening Prayer: Rev. Mike Fawcett

Attendees:

Kerry Lawson, Raelyn and Peter Punch; Jan and Andrew Gibson, Cynthia Falconer, Sherryl Smith, Lindsay and Jenny Dunning, Andrew Telfer, Piet and

Robyn Speyers, Keith Johnston, Kingsley Palmer, Peter Hyde, Rosie Sharpe, Jan Robertson, Grace Richardson, Frances Davy, Judy Law, Averil Clark, Jenny Anderson, Alison Yule, Rev Mike Fawcett, Pauline Terblanche, Elaine Jarrett, Desney Gordon, Kerry McCrie

Apologies:

Cynthia and David Clive, Barbara and Brian Smith, Linda and Andrew Thompson, Jan Fawcett, Robyn and Judy Goulder, Ken and Julie Lehmann, Sue and John Lawrence, John Cowdell, Jill McIlwaine

A quorum was present

2021 AGM minutes – no matters were raised. It was moved by the chair and approved by consensus that the minutes be accepted.

Annual Reports

Raelyn Punch spoke on the 2021 Annual Report Booklet with all Church reports contained in this document. With the report having been made available to the congregation via electronic circulation and some printed versions being available at the church prior to the meeting, all reports contained in the booklet were taken as read. No questions or matters were raised regarding any of the church reports. The reports were accepted by consensus.

Treasurer's report

For confidentiality reasons, the Treasurer's report has been deleted from the Website version of the Annual Report. Members may request a copy of the Annual Report from Raelyn Punch, Chair of the SMUC Leadership Team.

Elections for LT membership

There were two vacancies on the Leadership Team. Piet Speyers' term had concluded and the second position had been vacant for the past year.

There were two nominations for election to the Leadership Team; Sherryl Smith and Piet Speyers. Each nominee gave a short two minute presentation to the meeting.

The chairperson explained who was eligible to vote. As per UCA guidelines, a closed ballot was conducted with a majority vote required to elect a nominee. Alison Yule and Andrew Telfer were approved by the meeting to act as count officials for the election.

Piet Speyers and Sherry Smith were both elected by a significant majority. The chairperson congratulated and welcomed both members to the Leadership Team.

Presbytery /Synod Representative – John Lawrence is our current representative. As no nominees were received the LT will ask John if he wishes to continue as the SMUC representative.

General Business

The chairperson discussed the following matters:

- 1) **COVID 19**
 - a) SMUC continues to follow the guidelines set by the UCA. Recent changes will allow speakers, worship leaders, singers and musicians to take off their masks when on the stage.
 - b) COVID certificate checks – members were advised that over the next few weeks people will be asked to show their COVID certificates to Raelyn Punch and a record will be kept of those who have shown them.
 - c) The chairs in the worship area have been spaced at 2 sq. metres as per current WA government guidelines.

- 2) **NCLS** (National Church Life Survey)
The completed survey forms will be sent off this coming week.

- 3) **Paying visiting speakers**
The LT has decided to offer payment to all visiting speakers including mileage. They can accept payment or ask for the payment to be sent to a charity with a registered ABN of their choice. Speakers with paid employment are not included.

- 4) **Falcon Lions Club**
The Falcon Lions Club has asked the LT if they can use the SMUC hall and facilities for a trial meeting on the 15th March. If the trial is considered to be a success the Lions Club will be using the building for their twice monthly meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. Use has been granted and the club will pay a fee to use the facilities.

- 5) **Break-ins**
The members were advised the church was broken into twice last year and some losses and damage were sustained. An insurance claim has been submitted to UCA and approval received. The LT has decided to fit a roller shutter to the external store room doors and two security screens to the church front door. The overall security has been reviewed and found to be appropriate.

- 6) **New Minister update**

UCA Presbytery has noted that SMUC desires a new minister but it is unlikely a minister will be available until late 2023 because very few are being trained or are available to be called. All the documentation previously requested by the UCA Presbytery has been supplied and new requests for information are being addressed.

In the meantime, the LT are exploring various options on behalf of the congregation. These options include, but are not limited to, our “in house” speakers continuing to deliver the message, use of visiting speakers, employing a supply minister, and utilising recorded messages or live video links with another UCA church.

The LT is also exploring the option of using the services of a lay pastor. There is the possibility of a lay pastor being available from the Billabong UC Church.

7) Wooden Steps

Lindsay Dunning was thanked for making the additional wooden steps for access to the stage area and for producing the Lenten crosses.

Questions from the floor

- 1) Judy Law moved a vote of thanks to the Leadership Team, especially Raelyn Punch, for all the work done in 2021. Carried by consensus and applause.
- 2) Web page – Robyn Speyers would like some backup support with the web page. The chairperson encouraged everyone to offer our support in back up roles for Robyn.
- 3) Rev. Mike Fawcett asked the LT to regularly monitor the membership list and ensure it is kept current as in his experience churches did not keep correct membership records
- 4) Rev. Mike Fawcett suggested the LT consider the idea of a simple mid-week communion service being run, possibly monthly for those who cannot get to the Sunday communion. Rev. Mike said he was happy to continue offering communion in the homes of those who cannot attend the Sunday service due to health or mobility issues.

The meeting was closed in prayer at 11.45am by Rev Mike Fawcett, and was followed by a shared lunch in the Fellowship Room.



The report for the South Mandurah Uniting Church 2023 Annual General Meeting was compiled and edited by Dr Peter Punch at the request of the Leadership Team of SMUC.

Please direct any enquiries to Peter at E: prpunch@lasar.net.au

**South Mandurah Uniting Church thanks
Mr Andrew Hastie MP
and his staff at the Mandurah electoral office
for printing the 2023 Annual Report booklet.**