

## **Minutes of Bentley Baptist Church AGM held on: Tuesday 27th February 2018**

**Chair:** Graham Simpson  
**Secretary:** Andrew Thompsett

**Present:** David and Ruth Bellerby, Jim Clifton, Gill Beams, Sue Whitmore, Phil and Serena Stevenson, Annette Morris, Jenny Stephenson, Sally Plant, Colin and Denise Russell, Val McMahon, Amy Lanelly, Bernard Goulding, David and Moira Miller, Sue and Steve Parker, Lena Parker, Mary Simpson, Len Smith, Michael Cassell, Alistair Crane, John and Christine Daniels, Viki Harrison, Lynn Foltyn, Catherine Wilson, Pauline Fuller, Lorraine Jackson, Alison Whiteley, Ronnie Bussey, Farrel Clifton and Ian Simpson.

### **Total Members Present 37**

Andrew opened the meeting by seeking permission for Graham to chair the meetings in the absence of a minister.

Approved

### **Devotions**

Graham opened by asking 'Why do I come to this church?', 'Why am I a member of this church?', 'What is church all about?', all rhetorical questions.

'Sometimes churches have lots of different denominations, because people come together because they all agree on something, and then they disagree and go off so we end up with many different churches, but we are all one church, the church of Jesus Christ. All we can look at is what is in God's heart. We are family which covenants together to have a relationship, where we stay together and we work out our differences. We will have differences, because we all do things slightly differently, have different ideas and thoughts' Graham then read from Romans 12:9-12. (TPT) 'Its being devoted, being covenanted, being committed to one another, being committed to His body, the church here, to being in a covenant relationship. We are members of God's family. I know all families don't get on all of the time, and you are probably well aware of that in your own families, but we are a different family, a family that is on the move with God. It says honour one another. How do we honour one another? Well, with our words, our attitudes, our actions. We don't seek to put one another down, we don't seek to criticise, we don't seek to undermine one another. It says "have healthy competition in respect and honour for one another". Lets see if we can outdo one another in outdoing our brothers and sisters. Lets compete at it, not in other ways which make us look good in the worlds eyes. We don't always agree with each other, but its how we disagree that sets us apart. Its how we disagree that shows how I respect your point of view or you respect mine or an others. It is that which is important, which sets us out. How do our different views advance the kingdom of God and the vision of this church? As we share different viewpoints, sometimes in church meetings and sometimes as one to one as we have different discussions. If my view is wrong in terms of the kingdom of God, then I am to put that down and honour your view, and if your view doesn't advance the kingdom of God or the vision of the church, then you have to put that down and honour the view of whoever you are in discussion with.

When we hurt one another with harsh or careless words, or with thoughtless actions, how will we reach out with tender love? How will we reach out with forgiveness to each other? These are the things that set us apart so that we are not just like the social club down the road. Let us make the main thing, the main thing. As the passage says, “be enthusiastic to serve the Lord’. In that we serve one another. In that we serve the community. In that we put ourselves out, make our selves inconvenienced for the sake of the lost, for the sake of one another, for the sake of our children, for the sake of our young people, be enthusiastic. Its not what matters to me, its what matters to the kingdom of God. Lets make the main thing the main thing. Serve the Lord. Lets be a covenant people, a devoted people, serving the Lord and honouring one another for the sake of the Lord and the advancement of His kingdom. Thats the reason we are here. Why do I come to this church? Because God has called me. Because I have made a commitment to serve Him here and in serving Him here I serve the community out there. Why am I a member? To discern the will of God for this church so that God’s kingdom can be advanced. What is church all about for me? Maybe you need to decide that? Verse 12 finishes off “Let this hope burst forth within you, releasing a continual joy.” We get that first part and in covenant love we work that through. May we have continual joy released. It continues “Don’t give up in times of trouble” Persevere. See it through, work it out. If you have got something against someone, go and talk to them and sort it out. Don’t go off in a huff. “commune with God at all times” and that way we will truly be a people of God in His church. There is a challenge and an encouragement there for each one of us to think about how we conduct ourselves’.

There then followed a time of prayer.

**Apologies:**

Judith Smith, Chris Butler, Melanie C Butler, Jessie Spencer, David H Walker, Lee Jackson, Cyril and Joan Jackson, Tim Wilson, Dianne Clifton, Glenys and Colin Harrop, Anne Gosling, Linda Williams and Linda Williamson

**Secretary’s Report – Andrew Thompsett**

Report attached.

**Acceptance of Report Proposed by:** Dave Miller

**Seconded by:** Jenny Stephenson

**Elders Report - Graham Simpson**

Report attached

**Acceptance of Report Proposed by:** David Bellerby

**Seconded by:** Serena Stevenson

**Budget Proposal 2018 – David Bellerby**

The Finance Report was presented by David Bellerby and is available on request from the Treasurer or Secretary.

**Acceptance of Report:** Alison Whiteley  
**Seconded by:** Amy Lanelly

**Affirmation of Elder appointment - Graham**

Graham reminded everyone of the fact that Dave Miller had been nominated by the leadership for a position as Elder.  
An affirmation by a show of hands then took place with the result being:  
For - 35    Against - 0    Abstained - 2  
Dave Miller was duly elected as an Elder

**Appointment of Tellers**

Alistair Crane and Serena Stevenson were approved unanimously as tellers

**Appointment of Deacons**

Voting papers were circulated to all present to vote on the below nominations  
Finance Deacon – David Bellerby  
Admin (Secretary) Deacon – Andrew Thompsett  
Fabric Deacon - Colin Russell

Whilst the votes were counted there was a short break in proceedings

**Result**

The tellers confirmed and it was announced by Graham that all three Deacons had been elected.

There then followed a time of prayer for the newly elected Deacons and Elder  
The AGM closed at 20.42

Signed: .....  
(Graham Simpson - Elder)

Date: May 15th May 2018