

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

ANDRE PARKER



Dear fellow members,

2019 Overview

You'll note from the various reports contained in this booklet that our faithful God blessed Somerset West United way beyond our expectations for 2019 – He rightly deserves our heartfelt thanks and hallelujahs!

There was much to like during 2019, including the following:

- Our new minister, George Marchinkowski and his family have settled in our midst so seemingly effortlessly, and he and Bevan Sylvester (our “Mr Reliable”) have gelled into a winning team.
- Also, the fact that George has brought with him loads of energy and many fresh perspectives, augurs well for Somerset West United under his leadership – we cannot afford not to adapt (sensibly, of course) in order to keep the Church relevant in an extremely dynamic environment.
- There is a sense that unity has been restored amongst our members, and it's been great to see familiar and much loved faces return to regular Sunday worship and activities of the Church.
- Talking of which, our fundraising activities were raised to a new level this year: from Bevan's musical productions to the F,F & F Fair (not a political party), we had loads of fun and enjoyment, as well as feeding the Church coffers.
- As a result of the above, coupled to your ongoing faithfulness when it comes to tithes, offerings and bequests, our finances are in good shape, in fact, better than budget. Johan will expand in more detail in his separate report.
- And finally, on that fateful day when the fire struck, the provision of our faithful God was sufficient to protect us from injury or loss of life. Together with the diligence of our staff during mop-up operations, and the fact that we were well-insured, means that no losses were suffered, and moreover, that we have the opportunity to upgrade the oldest section of our campus into a more user-friendly space.

Governance

The following members served on the Church Council during the past year:

George Marchinkowski, Eric Rose-Innes, Henry Truebody, Gillian Arendse, Anthony Wait, Dave Russell (Admin Committee Chair), Johan Pretorius (Treasurer), Antoinette Beck (Secretary) and Andre' Parker (Council Chair).

Meetings were held monthly and the minutes duly signed off and recorded in the Minute Book that was examined and approved by Presbytery.

The year ahead

2020 will no doubt bring its share of challenges and opportunities, but I am confident that we are well placed to meet these – we have a bunch of committed congregants, terrific facilities and are led by 2 wonderful pastors. I need not tell you that the key is to stay in God's will, and to continually seek His wisdom and guidance on the way ahead that He has plotted for Somerset West United. Here endeth the lesson!

At our annual planning meeting, Council identified the priorities for 2020 as follows:

- Key initiatives to include: building the youth and children's ministry: discern and tackle a missional project; establish a forum for community involvement; grow the music ministry; increase volunteerism.
- Improve our financial capacity and diversify the income streams.
- Refresh the administrative processes, communication media and brand logo.
- Re-imagine and rebuild the fire damaged area, and ensure that the entire complex is safe and compliant with all relevant regulations.

As I'll be standing down as chair of Council at this year's ACM, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all members, including staff and councillors, for your goodwill and support during my term in office – it was an honour and a pleasure.

Oh, and less we forget, hats off to Siya and his heroes for showing us all just what can be done when South Africans get their act together. Go Bokke (and United!)



Over and out, Andre'