



- Drawings for new office refurbishment will be presented at Council's February meeting
- Worship and Education Ministry Team will develop a bursary program from a portion of the Pat Castle Bequest. The bursary is for the training and development of church members involved in leadership
- Roslyn Rd Manse has been let
- 96% of pledges to planned giving have been fulfilled in the last quarter - a very good result.
- The next 3 months will be a time of review, reflection and planning for Council and ministry teams as we consider our mission and ministry for 2018 and plan corresponding activities and budgets. A time to consider what should be let go, what should be planted, and what should be nurtured. Please give this your prayerful consideration.
- The preparation of the 2018 Budget has begun.
- Council began the process of implementing the new Keeping Children Safe Policy.
- "St Lukes Uniting Church Highton is committed to providing safe places where people are cared for, nurtured and sustained. We have today adopted the **Keeping Children Safe Statement of Commitment** as attached. Through it, we commit ourselves to the care, protection and safety of all people, particularly those who are vulnerable."
- The **Statement of Commitment** and the following documents will be posted on our noticeboards and available for download on our website.

- Council endorsed the **Keeping Children Safe Code of Conduct** for all volunteers and employees of the congregation
- Council endorsed the **Statement of Commitment to Induction and Training** for all volunteers and employees of the congregation
- Council resolved to ask Robyn Hodge, Sue Anderson, Noel McMillan and Linda Salamy to form a working group to oversee the practical implementation of the Keeping Children Safe Policy, reporting back to the next Council meeting in February
- Council seeks 2 representatives to Presbytery now that Ian Pooley is resigning as Treasurer. St Lukes has benefited from the advice and support of members of Presbytery and it is important that we play our role in the wider church. See Ian Pooley, Lloyd Walker or Robyn Hodge if you would like to know more about what is involved.
- Council has resolved to commence processes for purchasing Solar Panels for the Church
- Rev Paul Stephens induction will take place on the 11th of February and his first service of worship will be Sunday the 18th of February.
- St Lukes email address is changing from stlukes_highton@iinet.net.au to info@stlukesuca.org.au - the old address will cease to operate at the end of February
- Production of the church information booklet will be taken on by the Communications Team. Please send any updates to the information book to info@stlukesuca.org.au
- Council will implement new protocols around the management of personal information held in church records. Volunteers accessing and managing this information will be required to have a current police check, as per best practice for governance in community managed organisations. Security measures are being put in place to protect the personal information of people connected to St Lukes.
- Council resolves to approach other Uniting Church Congregations in Geelong to see whether there is an appetite for co-operation in

areas of administration, communication and compliance where a combining of resources would deliver a more effective outcome for the congregations involved and maximise our dwindling pool of skilled volunteers and leaders in these areas.

- Council acknowledged the work of the Pastoral connections team and particularly Pam Seller her assistance with two funerals held at St Lukes in the past month. Pam has provided a caring, efficient presence on behalf of St Lukes and we thank you for your service Pam.
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This is a statement of our commitment to keeping children safe

We are committed to implementing the Keeping Children Safe Policy of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria.

All children who are involved in any of the Uniting Church's activities, services, events or programs have a right to feel and be safe.

We are committed to providing safe environments where children are cared for, respected, nurtured and sustained.

We have zero tolerance of all forms of child abuse and will do all in our power to safeguard children from abuse.

We are committed to creating and maintaining a child-safe culture to ensure the care, protection and safety of all children engaging with the Church in any of its entities.

Abuse thrives on secrecy. To prevent child abuse across the Church, we are committed to providing clear leadership and open and transparent governance to combat secrecy.

We clearly affirm the Church's commitment to upholding the law. This includes the requirement to report abuse to the appropriate authorities.

We commit to the following actions, as appropriate in our situation, to keep children safe:

- Promote strong leadership and governance and a culture of child safety
- Promote access, equity and diversity
- Promote appropriate behaviour amongst adults and children
- Recruit, train and supervise workers well
- Manage risk, promote safety and respond to concerns
- Promote child, family and community participation



**Keeping
Children
Safe**