

Introduction

Our commitment as members of the RSCC is to love God and love others. We desire to do both of these things as well as we can. The work we undertake as the board of RSCC Inc is done with this in mind. Today I would like to acquaint you with five broad areas we have been working on so far this year. To be clear, this is an Inc update and not an elders update. There may be some questions you have that are best put to them rather than RSCC Inc. If that is the case, then in the question time at the end, I will say so.

Update Items

- Facebook posts
- Investigation into historic complaint
- Governance Review Committee work
- Culture Review
- Finances

Facebook Posts

If you haven't seen them, there have been two posts purporting to be from the police, one on Cambridge Grapevine and one on Waipa Grapevine. They are advising that between 1987 and 2002 there were cases of sexual abuse at one of Cambridge's biggest youth groups and asked for anyone with information to come forward. The second post on Waipa Grapevine named our youth group. We reached out to the police to offer our cooperation. They told us the post was not put up by them, indeed, they knew nothing about it till we told them. The police have so far been able to get the Cambridge Grapevine post taken down. We don't know anything more about who has put those up or why, or if there is any more action being taken by the police.

Investigation into historic complaint.

Just over five weeks ago we started an investigation into a complaint that we received about six weeks ago. We have engaged people to carry out the work and it is still ongoing. There isn't much we can say while it is still being carried out and we ask your continued cooperation and patience in order to carry it out with the seriousness and robustness it needs. The process has been hampered by illness on the part of some of those tasked with doing the work. We can't give a timeline for completion yet but we have been urging upon all involved that we need the work done well and we need it done quickly.

Governance Review Committee work

Matt Brown has been doing an excellent job of chairing a committee doing a key piece of work arising from the Brosnan Report recommendations. That is looking at the structure

of this church. I am speaking as chair of one part of the current structure, the Incorporated Society. The other significant structural parts are the elders and Bethany Trust, who manage the assets. The governance review committee is undertaking two main workstreams.

The first is to make sure we are still legally compliant with incoming legislation. The deadline for submitting the paperwork is December, in order to have the re-registration complete by the following April. This workstream is deliberately light touch, that is, seeking to make as little change as possible while remaining legal. In light of this, you can expect to see a draft new constitution in about a month, followed two weeks later with an SGM to approve those changes. Because the first workstream has a deadline that, if we miss it, has serious ramifications for the ongoing viability of this organisation, that has been the priority so far. If you see the new constitution and are surprised that it seems to make no significant changes, that is on purpose because of the second work stream.

In the second work stream, the committee is investigating the governance structure options. That includes looking retaining at the current structure but also investigating other potential options, too. The committee has started to turn its attention to this second, potentially more fundamental set of changes beginning this coming week by meeting with Jan de Lange from CCCNZ. Jan has both pastoral and governance experience at a high level and is an excellent starting point for this conversation. Although this second workstream does not have the same urgency as the first, the committee is nonetheless hoping to be ready to engage in consultation on the options, before making its recommendations by the end of the year. The step after that will be to design a transition plan.

Matt Brown is happy for anyone to get in touch with him if they have any questions or comments to make.

Culture Review

At times in the life of a church, there can be a particular need to take stock of how we are progressing in our mission – to take an honest look at our challenges, and to get clear on our opportunities going forward.

In the context of a church, a Culture Review is a process which assesses what it is like to be a part of our church. This process is designed to help us understand what people's experiences are as members of this faith community. Especially, a Culture Review helps understand if there is a gap between how we want people to feel and behave as part of our church, and the reality of what is occurring.

This Culture Review will be undertaken by Pathfinding, led by Charlotte Cummings. We have selected Pathfinding after a robust Request for Proposals process. Charlotte has

extensive experience in supporting churches to listen well to their congregation, address issues, and plan a way forward. By background, Charlotte is a qualified counsellor, moving into work as a Licensed Private Investigator and consultant over the last decade. She has worked with a wide variety of churches and denominations and comes highly recommended for her professionalism, care, the constructive manner with which she works. She is herself a person of strong personal faith.

Preparation for the Culture Review has commenced, and the process will officially launch over the coming weeks. The process will include a survey which we invite people to complete if they are currently or have previously been part of the RSCC. There will also be a number of interviews conducted with people who are currently part of the RSCC, with the interview participants selected by Pathfinding. From this, Pathfinding will formulate reports detailing the main findings, as well as recommendations for the RSCC going forward.

This is an important time for our church. It is a time for honest views to be shared, and for us to reflect on our hopes for the future.

We strongly encourage all members of RSCC to contribute to this process. Each person's voice is important to us, and we want to hear from you.

This process stands to support us in how we progress our mission as the RSCC.

Finances

As an organisation we have had some challenges over the last few years getting our accounts audited. The first challenge was a large backlog of auditing coming out of covid. Those of you in positions of governance likely experienced this regardless of the size of your organisation. The second was a mistake made by an auditor. The result is we have three sets of accounts from 2023, 24 and 25 to work through. The good news is that 2023 is complete and 24 is underway. The later accounts cannot be done until the earlier accounts are completed. We will hold a two-for-one AGM once 2024 is complete. This will mean just one date for two AGMs. Once 2025 is complete, we will hold an AGM for that as well.

While speaking of finances, we are seeking a new treasurer. If you know someone – or are someone – with the skills for this, please let us know. Alistair has served faithfully well beyond his capacity and he needs to step away as soon as he can. The position can be split or job-shared in some way if that is helpful to you or the person you know.

Conclusion

We ask you to continue to pray with us that the Lord uses all of these things to build the health and effectiveness of our church.

Any questions?