

# Minutes

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## *Hervey Bay Baptist Church Members Meeting - Sunday 31 August 2025*

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1. **Chairman (Brett Wilson) welcomed and opened in prayer 11.25am**
2. **Welcome to new Members:** Our Senior Pastor welcomed four new people into Membership - Alan and Maria Mower and Keith and Sylvia Bates. He invited each one to share their testimony of how they found Jesus. Then he welcomed them all into fellowship as Church members
3. **Attendees (Attachment 1)**
4. **Call for apologies**  
Attachment 2 apologies;
5. **Chairman reiterated the purpose of the meeting which is to**
  - A. A meeting to adopt proposed changes to Eldership structure – as per previous July 2025 Member's meeting information and discussion – **this item has been delayed due to not achieving a quorum at today's meeting, therefore this matter is put on hold until a further meeting can be called in the not too distant future**
  - B. A brief update about Church capacity investigations of models for enabling growth
  - C. A brief update on Fire Hydrant System
6. **Vote on changes to Eldership- Vote not taken due to lack of quorum**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It Is recommended that

***1. That members approve the 12-month trial of a restructuring of the Elders into two sections, Pastoral and Operational, and that the maximum constitutional limit of 7 Elders is waved for the trial period.***

***2. Elder nominations will cover 11 positions, less the Elders who are mid-term.***

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

### **7. Update on Church Capacity Investigation – Brett**

The Senior Pastor briefed the Members on the preliminary investigation of the two options:

- a. double up on morning service – Elder Deb Blane outlined the and investigation so far
- b. plant a new Church in a different but growing district of Hervey Bay – Senior Pastor Brett outlined the investigation so far

The two report summaries are attached to these minutes (See **Attachment One**).

The Senior Pastor and Elders have called the Church to prayer for the response of our Church to grow the kingdom in Hervey Bay. Brett will be preaching on discerning future direction in the near future.

#### **8. Elder Nominations for upcoming AGM election**

The Senior Pastor opened the Elder nominations process for the coming month of September/November, ready for presenting nominations to the AGM .

There will be 8 positions opened for voting including three of the current Elder positions that are up for re-consideration.

#### **9. Update on Church Fire Hydrant system – Jo**

The project is due to start on the 1 October 2025. We should start to see some action on the ground after that time.

#### **10. Call to prayer**

The Senior Pastor invited Members to join in small groups and pray for the Church and matters discussed at this meeting.

**The Chairman finished the meeting in prayer.**

**Meeting closed at 12:18pm**

Signature of Chairperson, Brett Wilson

Signature: .....  ..... Date 4.9.25 .....

## **ATTACHMENT ONE – Notes on investigation of two options: Option 1. Introduce two services – presented by Deb Blane**

To date our work has been asking questions of some different ministry leaders.

Key themes emerging

- Need to be clear on the vision and purpose for the change.
- Both options presented have merit and challenge.

### **Two services that are the same**

- There would be need for more volunteers and more capacity committed to service planning/logistics
  - There would be need for more detailed review of what additional staff/leadership would be needed for the co-ordination. Currently at a capacity with one service.
  - Question: with more committed to Sunday logistics what might we be sacrificing? Do our staff become more removed from the relational connection?
- Our church is strongly relational
  - Space for new people after the service - this would need to be shorter or keep the length but then the service start times would be a consideration
  - Space for parents to linger and connect in children's areas - these areas take time to clean up and set up and this would interrupt the incidental ministry and making people feel at home
  - Align to mission of discipleship - will adding another service do that?
- Other aspects to consider
  - Our current flow includes more on a Sunday than just the worship service - members meetings, Q&A sessions, training. Further consideration would need to be given to where these fit.

## **Option 2. Plant a new Church in another district – presented by Brett Wilson**

### **CHURCH CAPACITY UPDATE**

#### ***The importance of continuing this discussion***

Already seeing a slowing of regular attendance and corresponding increase in online attendance.  
Projected 35,000 new people coming to Hervey Bay over next 15 -20 years

### ***Update on Church Planting Option***

#### ***Context behind Elders belief that Church planting is the right option***

The elders believe that this capacity discussion was just a prompter to see a wider missional presence in Hervey Bay. That while we are increasing in numbers it might be good opportunity to spread out our witness while we have the people to do it. This is what led the Elders to believe God was prompting us to consider planting another congregation

#### ***Critical issues that cause the most concern***

From our members:

- Cost
- Fragmenting of congregation
- Negative past experience
- Emotional impact of the loss of key people
- Potential thinning of volunteers

From talking to others

- Costly at first. Need to commit to invest
- Slow trickle of people away from the main church and to the new exciting thing
- Attraction of people who are unhappy elsewhere (not always the best people)
- Getting the right pastor who has gifts in church planting but will also be able to stay true to the culture of HBBC discipleship focus

#### ***Some general advice received by experience church planters***

- Choose a growing area
- Start small. Cannot reproduce everything that the main church does
- Ultimately, church planting will grow the church and the kingdom quicker and cheaper than just building larger buildings
- 2 main models – campus and autonomous

Main recommendation - You must pray into this. The whole church needs to be sure this is God's will

#### ***The main concern – costing***

- A Pastor (called for purpose) and leasing - estimate a \$3,000 a week commitment.
- Our staff here can handle admin issues whilst it is still a small concern.
- If the small church plant cannot sustain a \$3,000 commitment, then we would need to subsidise them.

#### ***The area considered***

Probably a south Urangan or Booral location

## **ATTACHMENT TWO**

### **Attendees**

For privacy reasons we do not publish this list- it is held securely electronically

## **ATTACHMENT THREE**

### **Apologies**

For privacy reasons we do not publish – it is held securely electronically