

Swedish Church Australia Ltd
ACN 671 381 025
21 St Georges Rd, Toorak, Vic 3142

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held at 1pm on Sunday March 30, 2025**

1. **The Annual General Meeting 2025 was opened** by Mats Marklund, Church Council Chairperson.

2. **The following persons were elected to officiate the meeting:**

Bernard Jonson	Chair, Annual General Meeting
Sissel Clunas	Minute Secretary
Ken Sayers	Adjuster
Martin Reftel	Adjuster

3. Bernard Jonson stated that the **Annual General Meeting has been duly announced in the monthly newsletter and on the website at least four weeks in advance and that updated membership register is voting list.**

4. **The Agenda for the AGM was accepted.**

5. Minutes from the AGM 2024 were read by Sissel Clunas and accepted.

6. Report from the Church Council for 2024 was given by the Secretary Tina Zenou.

- The water leak has stopped. SKUT hopes that these repairs will be completed by the end of the year.
- Some new furniture has been purchased.
- The priest position for Sydney has been approved.
- Lucia celebrations were held at St. John's Anglican Church, as it is larger than our venue.
- People were invited to watch the Eurovision Song Contest.
- Church services in Swedish or Danish where organist Staffan Thuringer plays.
- Our Church welcomes about 62,000 visitors annually whereas 798 attend children's gatherings.
- Vicar Katja Lin also held Church services in Auckland, New Zealand and in Sydney, Perth and Canberra.
- Our Victorian Governor was welcomed to our Church, Toorak House which was the Victorian Government House prior to the present one.

- Paid up memberships are almost back to pre-COVID-levels. Memberships are due from January 1 every year.
- Our Church has most opening hours compared to other Swedish Churches around the world.
- Every year the Secretary of the Church Council will give a report at the Annual General Meeting.

Overview of parish activities 2024 was presented by Katja Lin:

Our Church strives to be more sustainable which is not easy in a heritage-listed building. We compost and strive to work under fair conditions regarding salaries etc. We try to be open for all, to be here for others.

We still have a petrol driven car, rather than exchanging it for a new electric/hybrid one. We go by tram when we can.

The monthly newsletter is delivered digitally rather than printed.

An old building is sustainable.

We do not receive a lot of money from SKUT. SKUT pays for the salaries of the Vicar and the Assistant.

All the volunteers equal four full-time positions.

The Vicar thanked the Church Council and the Board of Directors.

7. Mats Marklund clarified the Financial Report 2024:

Although not obliged to audit every year, we still do yearly audits.

• Total cost of sales	\$111,000
• Salaries & benefit expenses	\$338,000
• Travel expenses came down by	\$1,200
• Depreciation expenses	\$4,524

We had to pay high legal and professional fees to change to the new incorporated structure of Swedish Church Australia Ltd, \$10,417 in 2023 and \$4,464 in 2024.

Comprehensive income from SKUT for 2024 is \$12,000. Because \$200,000 for 2023 were left over from a COVID grant from SKUT, the 2024 grant was reduced.

8. The Financial Report was approved.

On site cash is still a red flag for our auditors.

Shop sales include Christmas Market. We must note that in 2024 we had no use of the back veranda room. Donations are important to us. This year donations went down.

Cash and cash equivalents in the bank:

- \$549,408 for 2024
- \$946,832 for 2023

Interests from Term Deposits after six months to May earned \$6,000 p.a. which is better than what can be achieved from ordinary bank accounts. If we were to sell our shares, the money would be put into Term Deposit.

We have a comfortable \$1.2m in assets. We keep them in case anything happens to our old buildings. We have made progress into Swedish Church Australia Ltd, and with this new entity in place we are geared up to employ a priest in Sydney.

Our Financial Officer requested that we complete the change-over by end of June 2025.

9. Granting of Discharge from Liability 2024 was announced by the Chair, Bernard Jonson.

10. The AGM agreed to keep the same auditors as last year, Seward Dawson

11. Election of Members and Directors:

The Nomination Election committee made the following suggestions for the Church Council:

(a) Roger Kalla resigns after many years of service including as Chair. Kjell-Arne Andersson resigns as well as the secretary, Tina Zenou.

(b) The Chair, Mats Marklund was re-elected for another year.

Three new members of the Church Council presented themselves and were approved, namely Therese Lundgren May, Lovisa Odelstierna and Martin Reftel.

(c) Tina Zenou was elected to the *Nomination of Election Committee*.

(d) Anna Örnebo and Ulrika Harrison were elected to the Swedish Church Australia Ltd Board.

Church Council Members

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| • Mats Marklund, Chair | March 25-26 |
| • Ella Barlow | March 24-26 |
| • Marie Kudnig | March 24-26 |
| • Marie-Susanne Kretschmer | March 24-26 |

- Debbie Sayers March 24-26
- Martin Reftel March 25-27
- Lovisa Odelstierna March 25-27
- Therese Lundgren May March 25-27
- Ulrika Harrison March 24-26
- Katja Lin Ex officio
- Pia Bengtsen - Denmark Honorary member
- Tomm Paulsen - Norway Honorary member

Nomination of Election Committee Members:

- Berit Öström March 25-27
- Tina Zenou March 25-27

The Swedish Church Australia Ltd Board Members:

- Mats Marklund
- Tina Zenou
- Maria Morén
- Berit Öström
- Anna Örnebo
- Ulrika Harrison

The AGM approved the Election committee suggestions.

12. Mats Marklund informed us that the Church Council and Board proposed increased membership fees for 2026, but the fees remain unchanged.

13. The registration of the Swedish Church Australia Ltd with ASIC and ACNC is finalised.

Swedish Church Australia Ltd has signed a cooperation agreement and a financial grant with SKUT.

Our Vicar will always be a part of Swedish Church Australia Ltd. SKUT pays for the salaries of the Vicar and the assistant.

SKUT has only two employees in Sweden and is asking the rest of the world to step up and be more independent. They do not wish to close Churches, but there are only 10 countries left so the numbers are going down. The Board will do their best from the beginning to ensure our Church activities continue. SKUT knows things will get harder. So far SKUT has been open about upcoming changes. In the future, employees will be working for Swedish Church Australia Ltd with a grant from Sweden.

14. Mats Marklund explained the structure of Swedish Church Australia Ltd as mentioned above:

Clarification of the new organisation:

All foreign churches belong to Visby Stift in Gotland, Sweden. All properties abroad are held in a Trust.

The Swedish Church Australia Ltd Board is responsible for all legal matters, financial matters, as well as employees. The Council is responsible for the congregation and the running of all operations. The congregations of Brisbane and Sydney report to the congregation in Melbourne.

SKUT has approved a new priest position for Sydney.

Credit cards must be changed by end of June 2025. From now on two Board members will approve and sign for larger amounts. This will increase checks and balances, and by law a director must authorise for instance the Vicar or the Assistant to handle financial matters above a certain threshold.

15. No motions.

16. Mats Marklund thanked Roger Kalla, Kjell Andersson and Tina Zenou for their time and great efforts on the Church Council.

Discussions about our future ensued:

SKUT's policy is to not own any churches abroad. Our future is yet undecided. Several scenarios and options were discussed. The vicar encouraged everyone to pay their membership fees, be active in the congregation and enjoy the church in its current state.

Bernard Jonson, AGM Chair, thanked us all for coming and declared the meeting closed.

Sissel Clunas
Minute Secretary



Ken Sayers



Adjusterør

Martin Reftel
Adjusterør

