Melbourne Church of Christ

ACN 111 933 325

Annual Report 2026 to Members

Including Financial Statements

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The Statutory Reports and Financial Statements as reviewed by Saward Dawson are uploaded to https://www.melbournecoc.org/resources.html.

From the Directors

The directors of the Melbourne Christ are grateful for the opportunity to report to members for the 2026 period commencing 1 Apr 2025 and ending 31 Mar 2026.

Melbourne Church of Christ incorporated in 2004 and is part of the Not-for-Profit sector, regulated by ACNC. We are legally required to provide members and the regulator with a set of auditor reviewed statutory reports and financials statements. This document more than meets that obligation in a more consumable operational format.

We have had a great year with many people making Jesus their Lord. It is exciting to see this happen and to be able to be involved with helping others to know God and to continue in that relationship with God as his church. We want to present this report to you as an encouragement to continue your commitment to supporting the important work that our church is doing. In particular, we would like to encourage ourselves to grow in the grace of giving.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to serve you as a director together with my highly capable and hardworking fellow directors, Hannah Casihan and Tom Friesen and Simba Chikanya. Thank you for being great people to work together with. I wish to also thank our church administrator Shona Kohler and children's ministry administrator Rebecca Friesen for their continued support and faithful service. We also thank the various volunteers who partner with us as needed. We, the Directors are grateful for the privilege of being able to volunteer our service to the church.

At the end of this AGM, Hannah Casihan will be relinquishing her role as director. I would like thank Hannah for her great work and appreciate the insights and expertise that he has brought to the team over her tenure.

Tom, Simba and I have the further pleasure of continuing to serve as the board of directors as appointed by our board of governance.

Your brother in Christ

Ray Cheng on behalf of the Board of Directors

Staff Report

It has been a privilege to serve the Church as members of the Melbourne Staff. We're grateful to be afforded the opportunity to do what we love to do - bringing God's word to the people of Melbourne.

In FY 2026 to date, God has continued to work powerfully in the city of Melbourne. We would like to welcome those who have been added into our Church family through baptism since 1 April 2025: Thomas Hunyh, Georgi Trenkov, Claire Blonski, Emmerson Huff, Celine Lee, Jaz Mangat, Ali Desah, Tommy Tran, Armi, Lawrence, Alex Santos, Andres, Ali, Mona, Roman Pritenang, Jocelyn Lin, Chong Yu, Sam, Roshan.

We would also like to welcome the following people who have moved in from other churches: Lucy Perrot, Maggie Yang, Michael Yang, Nadine Winata, Raymond Johnsen, Dylan Luhur, Wehyah Porcalla.

As a family we rejoice in new beginnings. In particular, this year we celebrated the marriages of Tysen and Jasmin Nguyen and JB and Wehyah Porcalla. Likewise, the church was delighted to celebrate the birth of Jireh Eustaquio.

FY 2026 to date, saw changes in the Melbourne church staff. We were excited to see Abigail Merry begin her journey in a part time capacity serving the campus. It is pleasing to see Joel Timlin and Abbie Conroy-Welby continue their ministry journeys in increased part time and full time capacities respectively, serving the campus and YoPro ministries. We thank them all for their hard work and love for the ministry.

Into the near future, we are excited to have Rob and Kati Mulhearn join our staff in the role of Lead Evangelist and Women's Ministry Leader at the end of 2026. Caron and I will continue on as senior ministry staff as we support the transition to the new leadership. We are ably supported by our Eldership and Deacons as part of the MCOC Leadership team.

The Staff would also like to sincerely thank the hard work and dedication of the administrative staff and also the children's ministry volunteers. We'd particularly like to mention Bec Friesen, who oversee Kid's Kingdom (ably supported by Tom) and Shona Kohler as our Administrator and then Assistant Accountant from April 2026. We are continually grateful to those who serve here and in other specialised ministries.

Our thanks to the Directors who ensure that the church is meets its legal and regulatory responsibilities. They work conscientiously behind the scenes and the Staff is thankful for the sacrifices they make.

On behalf of the Staff,

Mike Vassallo

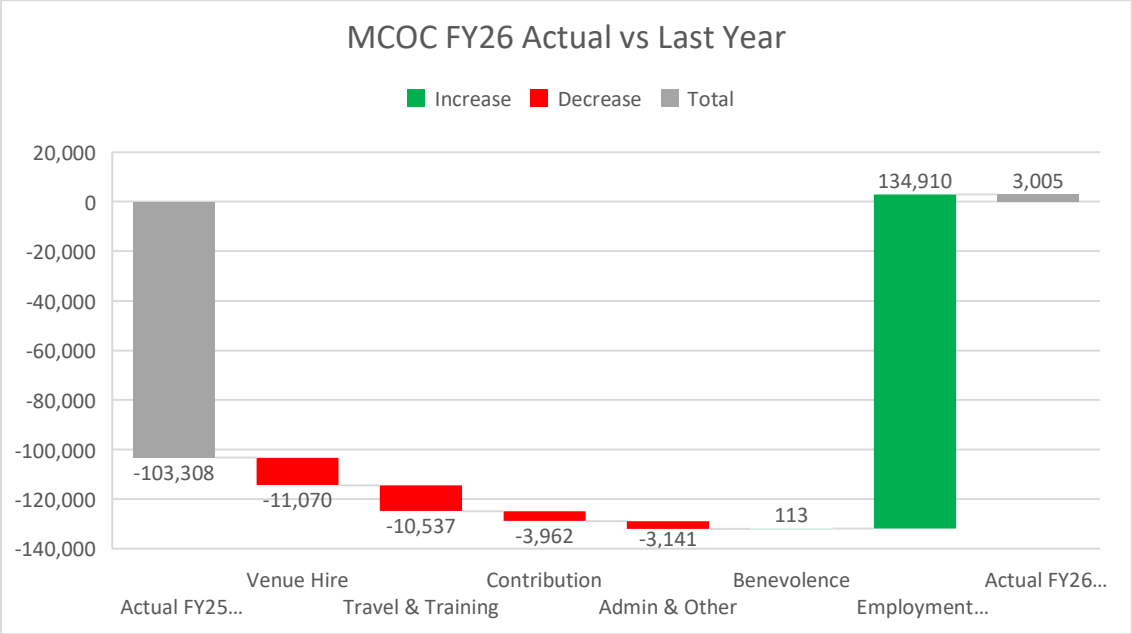
Financial Analysis

Statement – Actual vs Last Year & FY27 Forecast

Melbourne Church of Christ
Informal Income and Expenses Statement vs Last Year
(incl Next Year Forecast)

	Actual FY26 $	Actual FY25 $	Variance $	FC 2027 $
Contribution	**654,302**	664,354	-10,052	595,050
Benevolence	**7,337**	6,098	1,239	7,318
Interest	**27,313**	22,463	4,850	22,561
Other Income	**0**	0	0	0
Total Income	**688,953**	692,915	-3,962	624,929
Salaries	**464,457**	589,523	125,066	389,571
Superannuation	**54,019**	63,864	9,845	44,321
Administration	**5,700**	5,700	0	5,700
Relocation	**0**	0	0	7,500
Auditor review & Statements	**5,901**	5,751	-150	5,901
Insurance	**3,031**	1,303	-1,728	3,090
Travel & Training	**25,148**	14,611	-10,537	26,494
Venue Hire	**88,937**	77,867	-11,070	97,790
Events	**7,771**	3,348	-4,423	6,891
Communication	**5,531**	9,338	3,807	3,877
Postage	**0**	0	0	0
Office Expenses	**4,600**	5,592	992	4,976
Fees	**3,678**	2,987	-691	3,128
Gifts	**3,757**	657	-3,100	2,563
Kids Kingdom	**51**	81	30	82
Benevolence cost	**11,856**	11,969	113	8,567
Repairs	**0**	0	0	0
Depreciation	**0**	0	0	0
Other	**1,506**	3,629	2,123	2,484
Total Expenses	**685,945**	796,222	110,277	612,935
Surplus / - Deficit	**3,008**	-103,308	106,316	11,994

Analysis – Actual FY26 vs Actual FY25



This analysis is the comparison between FY26 activity against the prior year FY25.

The movement between the two years' financial results of +$106k was driven substantially by the following.

Venue costs were higher than last year and were indicative of the change in the mix of venues hired. We will continue to monitor and work with our providers to maintain access to our venues at reasonable rates.

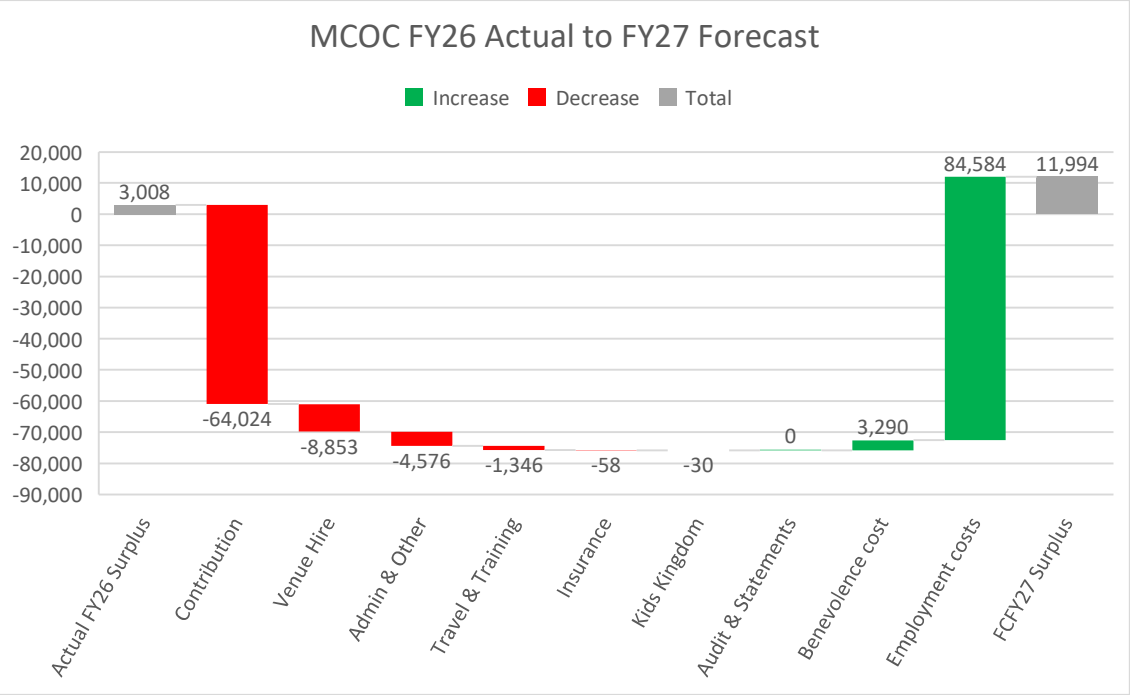
Travel & training compared to last year was higher with attendance at conferences.

The total contribution income received by the church during the financial year 2026 was largely in line with last year by $4k (-1%).

By far the biggest component of change compared to last year is employment costs, with $135k less spent on staffing costs vs last year. This was substantially driven by the timing of changes in staffing during the financial year.

Analysis – Actual FY26 bridged to Forecast FY27

A forecasted view of the income and expense statement has been provided for the year ending March 2027. This is based on 4 months of actuals with 8 months of forecasted values. The board of directors collaborates with the board of governance, to plan for and manage our future financial performance and position.



Although the start and end points are not far apart, the main opposing driving factors making up the movement are made up of:

- Declining contribution offset by,
- Savings from lower staffing levels during the first 8 months of FY27

Note that the forecast factors in the Mulhearns being on staff from 1 December 2026.

Of particular concern is the prospect of the contribution decline persisting. Current estimates for the draft budget for FY28 factor in a full year of staffing cost reflecting the full ministry team.

This is not a sustainable position to remain in. However, the solution is to increase contribution.

We do understand that each disciple's circumstances are different and that recent times have been more difficult with higher cost of living. However, the commitment to support and invest in the future of your church financially should be a firm conviction. We do not monitor what people give, that is a matter for your own conscience. So, we ask that you consider setting aside a regular contribution, if you are not already doing this, and to make it a habit. There is information on how to give towards the end of this report.

Consideration of the Statutory Accounts

The surplus of $3,008 shown in the Non-audited Informal Income and Expenses statement differs from the statutory deficit of $19,031 in the Statutory Accounts due to the inclusion of missions activity. If the church receives more missions monies than spent in a given year, then the practical net effect is to increase the reported surplus of the church and vice versa.

The responsible entity's declaration, directors report and auditors report cover only the statutory reports and financial statements.

Financial Assets and Investments

The directors have endeavoured to invest cash held by the church in low risk manner and to ensure that cash requirements can be met quickly. Most of the investible cash of the church is required to fund operating expenditure, either now or over the next few years. While the church currently has a large amount of surplus funds, it is expected that a significant portion of these retained funds will be spent over the next few years for ministry purposes.

All investible monies are held in term deposits. The church uses a mix of month based term deposits.

Travel and Training

The Travel & Training funding is determined by the annual budget process. The Church understands the importance of remaining inter-dependent with like-minded churches and that recognise that travel is a key enabler. Within these limits and the guidelines below the use of the travel and training funds is at the discretion of the Board of Governance.

Travel includes tolls, staff travel outside of Melbourne, and expenses related to invited ministry visitors, although some invited ministry visitors elect to pay some or all of their expenses.

Training includes course fees for staff training, as well as materials for staff or church related training. Travel and Training funding is dominated by travel expenses, which in turn is dominated by international then domestic airfares. International travel costs are driven by the need to build relationships with other churches throughout the world and Mike Vassallo's position as a delegate in the region to International Leader's Conferences and scheduling tends to be multi-year in nature.

	FY26	FY25
Travel and Training Open	**$ 15.427**	**$ 37**
Travel and Training Budget	**$ 14,611**	**$ 30,001**
Travel Spending	$ 24,567	$ 13,600
Training Spending	$ 581	$ 1,011
Total Travel and Training Spending	**$ 25,148**	**$ 14,611**
Travel and Training Close	**$ 4,890**	**$ 15,427**

In FY26 travel and training spend increased vs last year. The Travel and Training budget is based on prior year actual spend.

Missions

Melbourne Church of Christ takes up Special Contribution for general Missions.

Members can directly deposit into the Missions bank account for general missions:

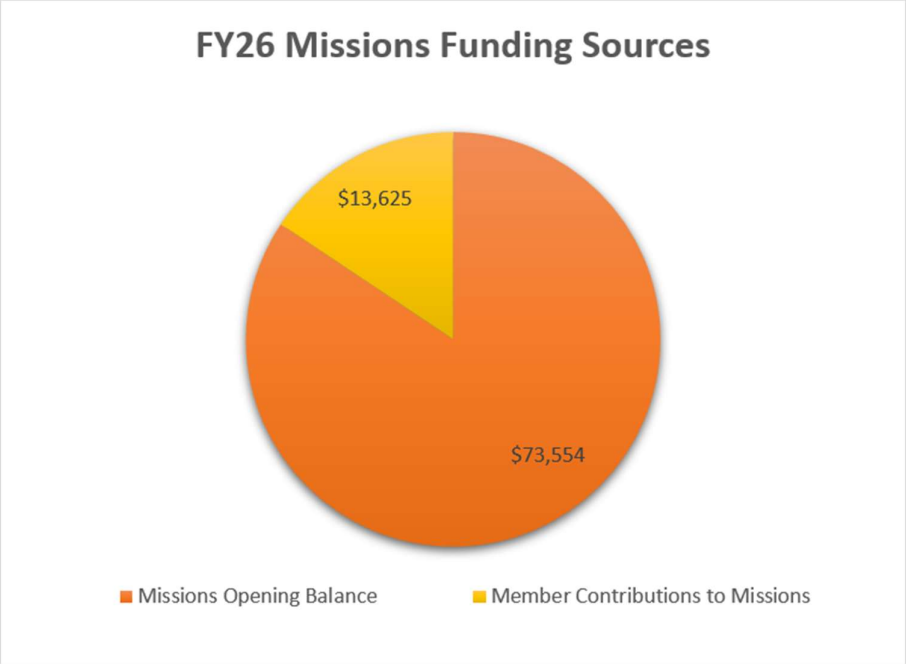
Name: Melbourne Church of Christ Missions
BSB: 633-000
Account No: 146173455
PayID: missions@melbournecoc.org

Summary

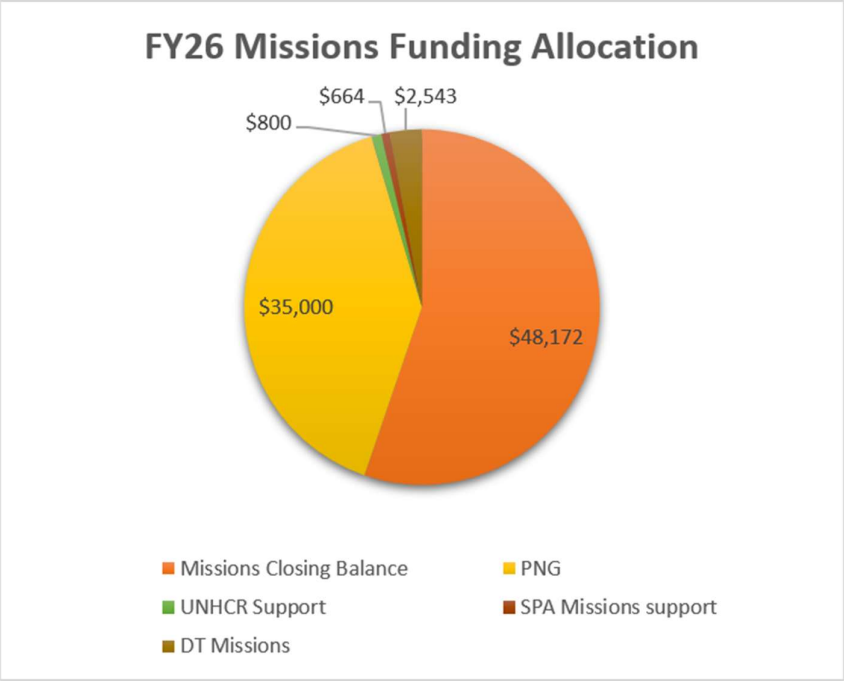
Members contributed to Missions in FY26.
Melbourne contributed $35,000 to PNG missions through Sydney as administrator
Melbourne funded $800 donation to UNHCR support on 28th March 2025 for Ukraine emergency
Melbourne subsidised SPA missions related expenses of $664
Melbourne had Disciples Today missions related expenses of $2,543

Detail

All available FY26 Missions funding totalled $87,179 and comprised of Member Contributions, and the opening balances of Missions accounts.



Member contributions to missions in FY26 totalled $13,625.



The entire FY26 missions closing balance $48,172 is available for future missions use.

SPA Missions

Melbourne supports SPA Missions as follows:

- contributing to support of PNG Missions via Sydney as administrator
- subsidising travel for SPA Region Missions
- contribution to support of future SPA Region plantings

SPA Missions is accounted for on a calendar year basis and is collected each year for use the next year.

SPA Missions 2026 for 2027 Summary

Summary of SPA Mission pledges involving Melbourne as Donor:

Period	Donor	Donee	Administrator	Pledged
2026 for 2027	Melbourne	PNG	Sydney	$35,000
			Total	$35,000

PNG Detail

In FY26 Melbourne made our SPA Missions 2025 for 2026 contribution to PNG via Sydney as administrator, and we have pledged the same amount for FY27.

Period	Donor	Donee	Administrator	Pledged	Contributed
FY25	Melbourne	PNG	Sydney	$35,000	$35,000
FY26	Melbourne	PNG	Sydney	$35,000	$35.000

Benevolence

Benevolence income is normally funded by direct contribution by members to the benevolence bank account and, as necessary, is supplemented by ordinary funds.

Benevolence outgoings supported church members in dire financial need, as identified by church staff and supervised by the Board of Governance.

	FY26	**FY25**
Benevolence Bank Account Opening	$23,672	$29,304
Direct Benevolence Account Contribution	$7,337	$6,118
Ordinary funds Contribution	$211	$0
Total Benevolence Contribution	**$31,221**	**$35,422**
Total Benevolence Distribution	**$11,856**	**$11,750**
Benevolence Bank Account Closing	**$19,364**	**$23,672**

In FY26 the church had surplus Benevolence Contribution which is retained for future needs.

The directors urge all members to excel in benevolence, so the world can see the nature of Christ. Members can directly deposit into the benevolence bank account

Name: Melbourne Church of Christ Benevolence
BSB: 633-000
Account No: 146173471

or

PayID: benevolence@melbournecoc.org

Members are also encouraged to actively support HOPE worldwide (Australia). The church collects for HOPE worldwide (Australia) as part of the regular Sunday envelope collections. HOPE worldwide (Australia) is a separate entity to the church and these items do not appear on the Church accounts.

Melbourne Church of Christ Miscellaneous Trust

Throughout this section Melbourne Church of Christ Miscellaneous Trust will be abbreviated as MCOCMT. The MCOCMT has the Church as its corporate trustee.

In accordance with the Trust Deed of the MCOCMT, the activities of the MCOCMT outlined below actively promoted the fellowship of the Christian religion, and the MCOCMT did not employ staff or hold church worship services.

The MCOCMT is not registered for the GST, so does not charge or claim GST.

Events

Church Events run by the MCOCMT are varied and typically consist of women's events, group retreats and the like. Most events are budgeted to break even. The Events account is also used to fundraise to assist SPA disciples (say from PNG or Fiji) to attend such events.

Church events use the "events account" for which the banking details are:

Name: Melbourne Church of Christ Miscellaneous Trust Events
BSB: 633-000
Account No: 146174982
PayID: events@melbournecoc.org

Campus Getaway 2026

Campus Getaway was held February 2026

- FY26 income $ 2,500
- FY26 expenses: $ Nil (venue paid from operating account)
- End FY26 position: $ 2,500 held

Campus Retreat 2026

Campus Retreat was held in July 2025

- FY25 brought forward gain $ 3,180
- FY26 income $ 42,379.92
- FY26 expenses: $ 49,987.40
- End FY26 position: $ 4,427.48 loss

Women's Events 2026

The women held various Women's events during the year

- FY25 brought forward gain $ 951.96
- FY26 income $ 1,795.25
- FY26 expenses: $ 2,310.05
- End FY26 position: $ 437.16 gain

Church

$1,802.50 of Misdirected contribution were redirected to MCOC in FY26,

Hope Worldwide Australia

No misdirected giving occurred.
$ 0 of Misdirected giving was held at 31 Mar 2026.

Position

- The balance of the MCOCMT events account on 1 April 2025 $ 9,220.19
- The balance of the MCOCMT events account on 31 Mar 2026 $ 4,637.91
- Over FY26 the MCOCMT events account decreased by $ 4,582.28

$4,637.91 is available to be used for future church events.

Teens

The MCOCMT teens account is typically used for receiving and dispersing funds for teen retreats. Typically funds received come through parent deposits and teen fundraising, which can include funding SPA teens (say from PNG or Fiji) to attend events

Teen fund-raising is done through a specific Bendigo account:

Name: Melbourne Church of Christ Miscellaneous Trust Teens
BSB: 633-000
Account No: 146174446
PayID: teens@melbournecoc.org

Melb Teen Camp 2026

The SPA Teen was run by Sydney Church of Christ in Jan 2026.

- FY26 income: $ 17,490
- FY26 expenses: $ 17,050
- End FY26 position: $ 440 gain

Position

The balance of the MCOCMT teens account on 1 April 2025 was $ 2,398.94
The balance of the MCOCMT teens account on 31 Mar 2026 was $ 2,838.94
Over FY26, the MCOCMT teens account increased by $ 440.00

$ 2,838.94 of the MCOCMT teens account is available to be used for future activities, an increase of $440 over FY26.

Teens and Events Declaration

There are two divisions of the MCOCMT that operate separate bank accounts that can be operated by Authorised Officers in addition to the directors. These are the Teens and Events. Refer to sections on the previous pages for detail regarding the activities of these divisions.

The Authorised Officers of the MCOCMT in FY26 were:

- Michael Vassallo (Events)
- Michael Vassallo (Teens).

Declaration of the Authorised Officers of the Trust

In accordance with the trust deed of the MCOCMT, the division of the MCOCMT for which I am the responsible Authorised Officer:

- actively promoted the fellowship of the Christian religion, and
- did not employ staff or hold church worship services.

Authorised Officer (Events)

Authorised Officer (Teens)

General Contributions and Cash Collections

The directors wish to make clear the usage of funds given in collections normally taken up on Sundays. During FY22, no cash collections were taken due to COVID restrictions and this will continue until further notice.

In the past,

- Amounts placed in the collection bag, but **not** in an envelope marked Hope are received by the Church for the work of the church
- Amounts placed in the collection bag marked for Hope are banked to the credit of Hope Worldwide and do not pass through the Church's books.

Previously, we trialled providing an EFTPOS terminal at our monthly all-together service, for receiving donations on premises. After 3 months, this was discontinued due to non-participation.

The directors encourage regular giving, many members find it convenient to give electronically.

MCOC Main (General Contribution)
BSB: 633-000
Account No: 146173406
PayID: main@melbournecoc.org