PRESENT: The minister, the Rev Tony Robinson (in the chair), and 50 members of the congregation. The meeting was quorate.

APOLOGIES: Joy and Tom Blok, Lola Nichols, Nompumelelo and Mzwabantu Bixa, Karin and Mike Burns, Karin Colwell and Lola Nichols, Audrey and Ray Falconer

Minutes taken by Elaine Ridge

1. THE FINANCIAL REPORT 2016/2017 (ADDENDUM A)

Deborah Flannery (Treasurer) presented the report.

The report from the auditors was unqualified. A clear indication of the health of the financial position was that as in 2017, there was a healthy reserve, albeit down from R710 000 in 2017. It was now R506 000.

Charl Cilliers proposed that the financial report be approved. This was seconded by Brian Shepherd.

The audited financial report was unanimously adopted.

[Should we not have reappointed the auditors??]

2. BUDGET FOR 2018 (ADDENDUM B)

The Treasurer’s report, using slides, was exceptionally clear. It is to be sent out to members by email. The following points of special interest were discussed during the meeting:

• A donation of R580,000 had been received (see graph). This skewed the picture of the income received somewhat. The Financial Committee had included some drawing on this to budget for more extensive work in the community.

• There was a R454 000 budgeted surplus for 2018.

• A challenging target had been set. Last year, the bazaar had brought in R48 000. Another form of fundraising would have to be tackled because a bazaar would not be held in 2018. The Finance Committee had yet to decide on the form the fundraising would take. One possibility was another organ recital.
• There was a healthy sum invested in a fixed deposit.

• Currently, 78% of the offerings come in electronically and 22% in cash (offering bag).

• The largest item in the budget is salaries. Although there was an increase of 5% to meet inflation, the amount had actually decreased because we no longer have a Youth Minister.

• All expenses were now reflected in the trial balance; the ABSA account that had formerly been used to cover certain pastoral care expenditure had been closed.

• A number of projects were planned. These include: the ongoing fundraising for a proper church building in Kayamandi (the fund currently stands at R480 000; new chairs at the Chapel; new wendy house; upgrading of the sound system; possible baby room.

Margie Hingle proposed that the budget be accepted. This was seconded by Neill Retief. The motion was passed unanimously.

The congregation were invited to ask questions or to make comments. The following points were raised:

• Is there provision for repairs to the floor?

• Does the budget reflect our intention to spend more on community outreach?

The Treasurer assured the congregation that these matters were in hand.

**The budget approved by the Council was unanimously accepted by the meeting.**

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the 2017 AGM would be emailed to all members and approved at a later stage.

4. REPORT BY THE SECRETARY OF COUNCIL

Malibongwe Gwele, Assistant Council of Secretary had been unable to finish these in time for the meeting because he had needed to go to the Eastern Cape for the funeral of one of the members of Stellenbosch United Church. In his absence, Tony Robinson highlighted some of the special features of Church life during the year.
• Expansion of Bible Study – Wednesday morning group, Sunday evening Bible Study instead of worship, the Alpha Course in addition to Bible Study groups that had run successfully for some years

• Special services like Tenebrae, the Easter Communion service at Kayamandi and at the Starke’s farm, Harvest Festival, preaching series.

• Church Picnic (thanks to Gill and Philip Myburgh), Golf Day (thanks to Don Philp and Brian Shepherd) and Quiz night (thanks to Brian, Meg, Luke and Jessica and the staff at The Table)

• The beautiful flower arrangements and Bonzai displays

• The weekly insert written by Tony Robinson, Malibongwe Gwele, Monty Maritz and Elaine Ridge

• The excellent model of service provided by the elders in Kayamandi and the many social outreach projects such as the food distributed monthly to some Kayamandi families and weekly at the trauma centre; the support to the creche in Kayamandi, crafts for Christ and the clothing distribution to new mothers for their babies; the clothing donated to Love to Give, paying for transport to funerals and the work of the two Education Trusts. The Council is committed to increasing the outreach work of the Church.

The Secretary of Council Report would be distributed as soon as Malibongwe Gwele had had time to complete it.

5. GENERAL

Tony Robinson added a personal tribute to Stanley Ridge, who was called home on 30 January 2018. His contribution to the life and work in this community was immeasurable. He was a preacher, a teacher, a pastoral elder and an enthusiastic and totally committed member. He played a particularly important role in the transition period between ministers and in the early months of his (TR’s) ministry here at Stellenbosch United Church.

Members were given an opportunity to express their appreciation for particular aspects. The following were mentioned:

• Wednesday morning Bible Study

• Sunday school teachers and those who do creche duty

• Vibrant teenage group that was the fruit of Andrew’s work

• Audrey Falconer
• Malibongwe Gwele’s guidance and leadership role within the whole Stellenbosch United Church

• Occasions for fun and fundraising like the Quizes and Golf Days.

• Our minister Tony Robinson.

Mfusi Mjonono used the opportunity to ask the members who attend the services at van Riebeeck Street to join in the major November fundraising effort when two team at the Kayamandi Chapel vie with each other to see who can contribute most. Tony Robinson also mentioned that elders would be paired so that they could get to know each other better. This could also be extended to families.

Estelle Reynolds, our organist, expressed her thanks for the ongoing support and love that she had received since she became our organist. The change of format meant that she would no longer be playing in the evening. This meant that her salary would be halved. She was extremely grateful to the Council for continuing to pay her full salary until the end of the year.

6. CLOSE

The business was concluded at 12.00. Tony closed the meeting with a benediction.

Signed as a true record: Minister Secretary Date