

THE SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Sunday 5 June 2016 at the Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, London WC2H 4DY

Present (as per signed register)

Johannes Reich, Margrit Lyster, Marianne Fisher-Hertig, Geoff Fisher, Trudi Sandeman, Yolande Birch, Lisa Hall-Zeller, Heidi Rego, Jon Driscoll, Colin McIntyre, Niccolò Aliano, Ramon Cadusch, Lotti Terroni, Helene Alexandrou, Ruth Luka, Cecile Mistry, Fernande Kunz, Elena Bertin, Dora Cooney-Gam, Margrit Rahman, Trudy Lazaro, Erika Tan, Vreni Parker, Maria Kitsis, Philip Maillardet, David Hume, Carla Maurer, Lilian Jost

Apologies

Rosemarie Breitenstein Suzanne Singh, Andrea Vedolin, Ursula Talary, Yvon Tse

1. WELCOME

Johannes Reich, Vice-President, opened the Annual General Meeting at 12.30 p.m. He introduced members of the Consistoire, Minister and staff, and welcomed the members and friends. He introduced new members Ramon Cadusch, Sabina and Raoul Dias with Helena, Helen and Jonathan Driscoll, Alessandra Liguori and Thomas Cenci, Fernande Kunz, Elisa Nury and Anurag Mangla, and Blandina Steinhauslin (friend).

He started the meeting with a few words on the current state of the Swiss Church London (SCL). The introduction was concluded with hopeful and positive words whilst reminding the assembly that the main challenges remain to secure further funding and find more people to get actively involved in the church's leadership.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The Minutes of the last AGM held at the SCL on 14 June 2015 were unanimously accepted.

Proposer: *Margrit Lyster*; seconded by *David Hume*.

3. TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

Johannes Reich asked the members to receive and approve the Trustees Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2015. Before doing so he invited Rev. Carla Maurer to give a brief report on the highlights and activities in 2015 and a look forward to 2016. She thanked the team for taking on extra work and for being very committed.

All members of the team received training and external coaching. Anina Smith has successfully completed an accounting course. Matt Stone is going to become a minister. She is pleased that the relationship between the team and the Consistoire is based on trust and mutual understanding.

A few highlights of the year 2015 were highlighted, amongst others:

- The parish trip to Paris in spring 2015. The SCL has received tremendous support from parish churches in Switzerland over the past year.
- In 2015 there have been 3 baptisms, 2 confirmations and a wedding blessing.
- The community activities for homeless people such as Breakfast on the Steps and Holy Soup are very successful.
- Lately there has been a lot of media attention both from the British and the Swiss media.
- The Swiss Connection music series will be stopped due to low attendance and bad acoustics.

There will be changes in the team:

- Matt Stone is leaving the SCL on 22 July 2016. His farewell service will be on 17 July.
- Anina Smith is expecting her first child. She will be on maternity leave from December 2016.

Carla was being thanked for her work as a minister.

Company secretary Yvon Tse was unfortunately unable to be present at the AGM due to another engagement. His apology and the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2015 was presented by *David Hume*.

It is considered that the financial situation of the church is still good at the moment, but the main challenge for the years to come will be to replace the revenue provided by the SEK as detailed in the Business Concept Plan.

Revenues for 2015: The result for 2015 is a rather pleasing one ending with a small surplus of £10,000. It is remarkable considering the reduction of £13,000 in SEK support compared to 2014. Lettings and SEK support remain the two main sources of income although the support from SEK will be further reduced in 2016 and 2017 until it is totally withdrawn in 2018. This means that the funding gaps are £13,000, £26,000, £40,000 and £79,000 in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 onwards which will need to be addressed.

In 2015 the efforts in Fund Raising intensified to a certain extent in for example initiatives like the Mosiman Dinner, the sponsored Miles walk and donations from several cantonal

churches in Switzerland. However it is obvious that it is not going to be enough. The income from lettings is being limited because of the acoustics and glare issues which will require investments, the money for which will need to be raised.

Challenges ahead: In a nutshell, £79,000 needs to be found to secure the viability of the SCL over the coming years before the Reserves are eroded as a lot of the costs are fixed.

To meet the challenges there are plans in place in 2016 with the help of an expert to try and find new innovative ways of fundraising including Grant applications.

On the proposal of Margrit Lyster and David Hume the Trustees Report and Financial Statement were unanimously accepted (22 in favour of the motion, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

4. ELECTION OF CONSISTOIRE MEMBERS/TRUSTEES

4.1 Resignations:

- *Suzanne Egloff* joined the Consistoire in 2013 and gave notice to resign her position. She played a pivotal role in drafting towards complete financial independence. Her professionalism and expertise will be greatly missed.
- *Geoff Fisher* has been an active member of the SCL for three decades. Despite his resignation, he will remain an active member of the SCL. He joined the Consistoire in 2008. He was in charge of building maintenance. He was given a farewell present and said a few words of thank.

4.2 Elections:

- *David Hume* introduced himself. He was elected as a board member of the Consistoire. 26 votes in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions. His main fields are finance and resources.
- *Andrea Vedolin*, unable to attend the AGM, was introduced by Johannes Reich. She is an Assistant Professor of Finance at the LSE. She was elected as a board member of the Consistoire. 26 votes in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

4.3 Re-elections:

David Hume led the re-elections.

- *Philip Maillardet* was re-elected with 26 votes in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.
- *Johannes Reich* was re-elected with 26 votes in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

5. RE-APPOINTMENT OF REPORTING ACCOUNTANTS

The Consistoire asked the AGM to re-appoint Morlai Kargbo, Moracle Chartered Certified Accountants, for the incorporated charity to hold office from the conclusion of this meeting until the conclusion of the next AGM and to authorise the Consistoire to determine their remuneration.

The proposal was unanimously accepted. 26 votes in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other items were mentioned by the president.

- Elena Bertin repeated her brothers Albert Bertin's apologies that he will no longer be able to do his work at the SCL.
- Margrit Lyster stated that the membership of the SCL is geographically very broad and wishes to spread the documents of the AGM more easily, especially online. They need to be more easily accessible.
- Margrit Lyster expressed her thank for Cécile and her catering team.
- The issue of the acoustics in the church was raised.

Johannes Reich thanked everybody for attending the AGM 2016. He then closed the AGM at 1.15 p.m. and invited everyone to enjoy refreshments at the back of the Church.