



## MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting 2025

The 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Church in London whose registered office is at the Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, London WC2H 9DY, took place at the Swiss Church on Sunday, 6 July 2025 at 12.30pm.

### Chair

- Daniel Everett, President of the Consistoire

### Minutes

- Rudi Stassen, Accountant (final version of minutes prepared by the Minister and the Vice-Chair, based on notes taken by Rudi Stassen and input from Philip Maillardet and Rupert Ackroyd)

### Attending

- *Consistoire (in alphabetical order):* Cecile Mistry (Catering); Daniel Everett (President); Fiona Bunn (Arts & Patronage); Philip Maillardet (Archives and Facilities)
- *Ex-officio Observer:* Thomas Wagner (Consul General of the Swiss Embassy, no voting)
- *Accountant:* Rudi Stassen
- *Minister:* Manuel Zimmermann Grey (no voting)
- *Members (in alphabetical order):* A David; Alice Rogers; Annahita Brooks; Colin McIntyre; Erika Tan; Fernande Kunz; Izabella Brooks; Lotti Terroni; Margrit Lyster; Margrit Rahman; Maria Kitsis; Michelle Armstrong; Philip Vasey; Rosemarie Breitenstein; Rupert Ackroyd (Facilities Manager); Susanne Tse; Trudy James; Yolande Birch; Yvon Tse
- *Apologies (in alphabetical order):* Marianne Fisher; Philip Rauber (Consistoire member, Vice-Chair)
- *Proxy Forms Received (in alphabetical order):* Elsbeth Baldeo; Noreen Wray; Terrence C Jolley; Terrence Jolley (Senior)

### 1 Opening Prayer

- The Minister opened the AGM with a short silence and opening prayer

### 2 Welcome by the Chair, introduction of the new Trustees 2025, and apologies received

- Chair thanked everyone for coming and introduced Philip Maillardet, Cecile Mistry, Fiona Bunn and Rudi Stassen; also introduced Thomas Wagner as observer from the Embassy
- Chair noted apologies for absence from: Philip Rauber; Marianne Fisher
- Chair asked to check that people signed the attendance form



## THE SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON

### 3 Minutes of the AGM held in 2024

- Chair invited members to adopt the Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 29 September 2024
- Rosemarie noted that item 4.2 on the 2024 AGM agenda had not been voted on; a discussion followed on whether there had been a vote. It was noted that there was an omission in the agenda: namely, Daniel Everett and Lindsey Wiercioch should have been put on the agenda for election and actually were elected at the 2024 AGM. The minutes of the AGM 2024 were accordingly changed and the error acknowledged
- Rosemarie pointed out omissions in Companies House to be corrected (see item 6 of these minutes for more details)

**Proposer:** Yvon Tse; **Seconded:** Cecile Mistry

*In favour: 20. Against: None. Abstentions: None.*

### 4 Annual Report

- The Consistoire asked the members to receive and approve the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2024. The Chair also noted that the financial statements had been circulated in June 2025 and the Trustees' report had been made accessible on the website. The Chair invited questions to be raised before the vote on the report

#### Questions

- Yvon asked about the income from UK Members donations: was there a significant increase? Could we get a breakdown? Chair explained the income from the legacy from Anna Sharp (£180,000 accrued as income for 2024; but not the entirety of the legacy); the Chair noted that a breakdown would be provided
- Yvon asked about the expenses for cultural events. The Chair explained that this reflected the costs of the Art programme managers and Freelancers
- Rosmarie asked about insurance: what was the reason for the increase? Was it the premium? The Consistoire answered that the provider had not changed and that the premium had increased
- Rosemarie asked about legal and professional fees. Chair explained about the freelance consultant engaged in the year and the costs of legal advice on indemnity and search for a new minister
- Yvon asked about FX gain and loss (£20k) and asked for a breakdown and explanation why this was a loss. A discussion around market rates followed as the gain/loss appeared against what would be expected. Yvon asked that rates and calculations used should be checked
- The Minister pointed out that if it was not for the legacy from Anna Sharp the deficit would be around £230,000 and unbearable and unsustainable. The legacy has made the numbers "look better" and that fundraising is more difficult when you have a large deficit
- The Minister noted that there is a need to be transparent about the Church's financial situation and that there had been an ongoing discussion about the going concern of the Church
- [Person not recorded] notes that the Church has assets and no [larger] liabilities



## THE SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON

- Yvon suggested we remove the wording Auditor from the Annual Report and replace it with Accountant
- Chair noted that clarification of points raised will be followed up by the September 2025 Consistoire meeting
- Chair asks if there are any more questions on annual report? No further questions are recorded
- The Trustees' Report and Financial Statements were put to a vote

**Proposer:** Yvon Tse; **Seconded:** Rosemarie Breitenstein

*In favour: 20. Against: None. Abstentions: None.*

### **5 Elections and Resignations of Consistoire Members (Trustees in office since the last AGM, in line with Article 41)**

- Yvon pointed out that one third of Trustees need to resign; Daniel explained reasoning to start cycle with transparency and thus re-elect all Trustees
- Thomas Wagner then took on the role of temporary chair
- Thomas thanked the trustees for their work as well as the time and energy invested as it continued to be a difficult time. Applause
- The interim Chair then proceeded to the election:

#### **Resignations**

Philip Maillardet

Cecile Mistry

Daniel Everett

#### **Standing for re-election**

Philip Maillardet

Cecile Mistry

Daniel Everett

**Proposer:** Philip Vasey. **Seconded:** Fernande Kunz

*In favour of all re-elections: 20. Against: None. Abstentions: None.*

Temporary chair is returned from Thomas Wagner back to chair of meeting Daniel Everett.



## 6 Elections and Resignations of Consistoire Members (Trustees appointed by the Consistoire since the last AGM, in line with Article 26)

- It was requested that the date of appointment of the three new Trustees (appointed to the Consistoire since last AGM) be shared. The Consistoire informed as follows:
  - Fiona Bunn – 24 February 2025
  - Philip Rauber – 24 February 2025
  - Paula Bruton – 24 February 2025 (resignation in June 2025 for personal reasons)
- Yvon explained that they are appointed by Trustees and that the dates when they are appointed should be recorded as this AGM covers business of 2024
- Rosemarie pointed out that Cornelius (Rudi) Stassen is still on Companies House. The Chair explained that Rudi joined as Treasurer in November 2024, but stepped down in April 2025
- Rosemarie noted in response that Rudi should be taken off Companies House. The Chair noted that Companies House would be updated as soon as possible (need for authorisation code to be received from Companies House)
- Rosemarie also sought clarification if this was an unpaid role and whether a conflict of interest existed. The Chair clarified that the Trustee was an unpaid, voluntary role. Rudi stepped down as Trustee in April 2025 when his unpaid engagement ended
- The Chair then put to the members the election of:

### Fiona Bunn

- As Trustee for the Arts (appointed by Consistoire on 24 February 2025)
- Fiona introduced herself and her background in fundraising

**Proposer:** Yvon Tse; **Seconder:** Fernande Kunz

*Vote: In favour: 20. Against: None. Abstentions: None.*

### Philip Rauber

- As Vice-Chair (appointed by Consistoire on 24 February 2025)
- No personal introduction as vote took place in his absence (also see apologies)

**Proposer:** Yvon Tse; **Seconder:** Margrit Lyster

*Vote: In favour: 20. Against: None. Abstentions: None.*

## 7 Reporting Accountant

The Chair introduced Rudi Stassen from Inside Accounting as pro bono accountant to perform tasks to prepare accounts for the year. Rudi Stassen stepped down as trustee in April 2025 to perform this role. Ask for approval from members for appointment for year ending 31 December 2025.

*Vote: In favour: 20. Against: None. Abstentions: None.*



## **8 Any Other Business**

Thereafter the floor opened for a general discussion on matters of the Church (summary below):

- The Minister noted that:
  - The focus of the following six months should be the search for more Trustees and fundraising. Recruiting for Trustees had gone well over the past months, but there is still a need for more trustees. The Consistoire was feeling overwhelmed as they are volunteers and have full time jobs.
  - In terms of income, there is a need to focus on venue hires as well as a need to establish a better framework for the Venue Manager; in addition, there is also an opportunity for other income form parishes in Switzerland, EKS and Synod members.
  - Finally, the Minister introduced Rupert Ackroyd, the Church's Facilities manager, and thanked him for his significant contribution. Applause.
- The Chair noted that there is a difference between the contribution from arts patronage and the Church members. There should be a drive for more patronage as we develop and become recognised for the art events. There is also a need for a longer term plan for the building, including fundraising and the gallery room.
- Colin McIntyre pointed out that historically c. £100,000 was raised via donations and c. £100,000 for hires; plus big one offs income items such as fashion world etc.
- Margrit Lyster noted that connections should be used to promote the Church. She noted that the Church needed a minister and asked about such future planning.
- The Minister noted the aging of the congregation and the need for a volunteer to update the website. Annahita put herself forward.
- Fiona announced the Swiss National day event.

***Annual General meeting closed 2:53pm.***

***END***