

The Society for Ecumenical Studies

MINUTES

**of the Annual General Meeting to be held at 5pm on Monday 23 February 2004
at the Church of England Council for Christian Unity,
Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster SW1**

Present: Paul Avis, David Carter, Martin Conway (Presiding Officer), Fidelis Daly (Treasurer), Frank Davis, Sylvia Fitzgerald (guest), Sophia Fletcher, Maximos Lavriotes, Hilary Martin, Philip Morgan, Richard Mortimer, Martin Reardon, Ruth Reardon, Mark Woodruff (Secretary)

1. Opening Prayer

The Presiding Officer, Martin Conway, opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Election to the Chair for the Annual General Meeting

Martin Conway was elected to chair the Annual General Meeting.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Teresa Burke, James Cassidy, Nicholas Latham, Iain McIntosh, Paul McPartlan, Alvyn Petterson, Gareth Powell, Mary Tanner and Elizabeth Welch.

4. Minutes of the AGM held on February 12 2003

These were signed as a correct record.

5. Executive Committee's Annual Report

Approved on the proposal of Martin Reardon, seconded by Philip Morgan. The decision of the Committee to apply to become a Body in Association with CTBI (and CTE, ACTS, CYTUN) was ratified. Annual expenditure for the membership fee (approximately £185) was approved. Members were invited to suggest libraries and institutions to which the Society may present copies of the Proceedings of the May 2003 Conference at St Albans.

6. Financial Statement and Accounts for year ended 31st January 2004

The Treasurer tabled final accounts (attached). The year's opening balance had been £1,332-40 and a balance to carry forward of £822-04. The excess of expenditure (£850-36) over income (£340) was attributable to (a) legal fees for becoming a registered charity, (b) the high costs for advertising and venue for the November 2003 conference and (c) the number of members who had failed to pay subscriptions. It was hoped that becoming a Body in Association with CTBI and offering a study forum alongside a network of other organisations would strengthen membership. The accounts were approved on the proposal of Martin Reardon, seconded by Philip Morgan.

7. Membership and Subscriptions

The rates for membership will remain unaltered for 2004-5. For the benefit of those paying their subscription by CAF cheque and for interest, a future Newsletter will indicate the amount of tax recoverable for those paying under Gift Aid.

8. Election of Executive Committee for 2004-5

- a) *Presiding Officer, Secretary and Treasurer*
On the nomination of Philip Morgan, seconded by Martin Reardon, Martin Conway was elected Presiding Officer, Mark Woodruff Secretary, and Hilary Martin Treasurer. Fidelis Daly was thanked for her contribution as Treasurer and her years of support to the Society's work.
- b) *Additional Committee members*
On the nomination of Philip Morgan, seconded by Martin Reardon, David Carter, Maximos Lavriotes, Paul McPartlan and Gareth Powell were elected to the Committee.

9. Future Plans

- a) *Birmingham Meeting on 'Christian Unity at the Ecumenical Margins' - Saturday 15 May: Noted.*
- b) *Proposed Autumn Event - Saturday 30 October: Noted. Suggestions for a theme were invited from members.*
- c) *Training week on Iona for the ecumenical leaders of the future - September 2005: We hope that the leaders will be Dr Alison Elliott, Moderator of the Church of Scotland (who has already accepted), and Cardinal Walter Kasper from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. From the experience of the Church of England's Council for Church Unity and its "Equip to Unite" events, it was judged important to provide both for participants with a scholarly approach and those who were more likely to be "hands on" ecumenists. In order that the week should not fall between these two stools, it should pitch one way and provide an embrace for the other, rather than trying to do both only partially.*
- d) *Other: Bishop Joe Aldred is now CTBI's contact for ethnic minorities within white majority churches (as distinct for majority ethnic churches). He and Stephen Coriette of CARJ (Catholic Association for Racial Justice) have been asked to consider the possibility of a congress of Black and White Christians which St Albans Cathedral would be willing to host in 2006 or 2007.*

10. Other Business

The Society is now affiliated with the international, but mainly European, Societas Oecumenica. It will be holding a conference 23-31 August 2004 at Cibiu, Romania. This was the historic heart of German Lutheran church life in the country, but is now a point of friendly relations between Romanian Lutherans and Orthodox. Members of the Society are welcome to attend.