

The Society for Ecumenical Studies

MINUTES

**Of the Annual General Meeting at 5-45 pm on Monday 27 April 2009 at St Vincent's
Centre, Carlisle Place, Victoria, London SW1**

Members Present: David Carter, Martin Conway, Donald Norwood, Clare Murphy, David Murphy, Rosalind Bearcroft, Deolinda Eltrincham, Tom Bruch, Fran Davis, Alan Rainer, Richard Orchard, Douglas Knight, David Cornick, Gylyan Boiella, Julia Skrine, Margaret McMillan, Kate Davson, Bob Fyffe, Jane Leek, Mark Woodruff, Max Lavriotes

Guests Present: Paul Dewsbury, Pat Whitney, Natalya Pack, Dan Bree

1. Opening Prayer

Martin Conway, Chairman and Presiding Officer, opened with prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence

The apologies of Paul Avis, Bill Snelson, Hilary Martin, Ruth Reardon, Mary Tanner, Michael Eltrincham were noted.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 15 May 2008

These were signed as a correct record.

4. Annual Report for 2008

Approved. The British Region of the International Ecumenical Fellowship remains interested in closer collaboration with the Society, possibly even reciprocal membership. This will be kept under review and explored by the Committee.

5. Financial Statement and Accounts to 31 December 2008

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| Expenditure: | £2116.20 |
| Income: | £2225.85 |
| Excess of Income over Expenditure: | £109.65 |
| Opening balance at 1 January 2008: | £887.76 |
| Balance carried forward at 31 December 2008: | £997.41 |

The Financial Statement and Annual Accounts were approved. The careful stewardship of the Society's finance by Hilary Martin was noted with thanks.

6. Membership and Subscriptions

Membership rates for 2009, as agreed at the 2006 AGM, were approved as follows:
£20 Individual Members (£10 for retired, students, religious & unwaged)
£24 Married couples (£12 retired, students and unwaged)

7. Election of Executive Committee for 2009-2010

The following Officers and Committee Members were elected:

- a) Chairman & Presiding Officer: Dr Martin Conway
- b) Secretary: Fr Mark Woodruff
- c) Treasurer: Mrs Hilary Martin
- d) Members of the Committee:
Fr Maximus Lavriotes, David Carter, Dr Paul Avis,
Dr Donald Norwood, Dr Douglas Knight
- e) Honorary Members of the Committee:
Dr Paul McPartlan, Dr Paul Murray

8. Any Other Business

- a) The imminent celebrations to mark the Centenary of the Edinburgh Mission Conference, under the banner of Edinburgh 2010 (www.edinburgh2010.org),

were noted. The Society hopes to reflect on this with an event in London later in 2010.

- b) The International Ecumenical Fellowship's 39th international conference, A New Heaven and a New Earth, will take place in Cluj, Romania, 27 July to 3 August 2009.
- c) A conference to celebrate the Ecumenical Legacy of Johannes Cardinal Willebrands will take place in Utrecht, Netherlands, 2-5 September 2009

9. Must the Ecumenical Movement Change Course for the 21st Century?

Dr Martin Conway, President of the Society, gave a stirring analysis of the grave challenges and rare opportunities facing the Church in a fast changing world in crisis, calling upon all Christian traditions to respond urgently to the vocation to realise visible unity and communion 'that the world may believe'. The paper, with its citations of important commentators from many different fields, will be circulated to members and posted on the Society's website, www.ecumenicalstudies.org.uk .