

SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Sunday 4 May 2008 at the Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, London WC2

Present (as per signed register)

Ursula Jost (President/Chair), Juliette Pfaff (Youth and Parish Worker) Valerie Lehmann, Ruth Luka, Ursula Talary (Consistoire Members)

Renée Beck, Elena Bertin, Philip Carraro, Dora Cookey-Gam, Edith Crack, Hilary Davan Wetton, Erika Fernandes, Geoff Fisher, Marianne Fisher-Hertig, Hermann & Jeannette Gruninger, Lisa Hall, Trudi Lazaro, Martin Lehmann, Margrit Lyster, Philip Maillardet, Cécile Mistry, Vreni Parker, Margrit Rahman, Heidi, Rego, Emel Rochat, Judith Rocke, Rosmarie Sabir, Anne-Marie Suess, Lotti Terroni, Annie Tew, Susanne and Yvon Tse, Frank Witham and Hedy Zdankowicz.

Rose-Marie Breitenstein (Company Secretary) Minutes

1. WELCOME

Ursula Jost, President, opened the AGM at 12.30 p.m. by welcoming all and gave

2. APOLOGIES

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 1 July 2007 were unanimously accepted and signed by the President, proposed by *Rosmarie Sabir* and seconded by *Philip Carraro*.

4. FORMAL BUSINESS

4.1 Presentation and approval of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2007

Rev. David Leuenberger, attending his last AGM, gave a summary of the highlights of the church and parish activities during the year under review during which he had celebrated 25 Sunday services, including an ecumenical and a joint service with the Mandarin Chinese church. He had conducted seven baptisms, a wedding and five funeral/memorial services. He thanked the organist, *Hilary Davan Wetton*, for enhancing the services with a choir and for the well attended Christmas Carol service which he had arranged.

A great variety of youth and parish events which had been arranged by *Juliette Pfaff* was much enjoyed by the participants and gave an opportunity to young people and parishioners to meet and get to know each other. He thanked Juliette for the successful organisation of these events.

Referring to the family activities he thanked *Valérie Lehmann* for her efforts in organising outings and helping to attract young families to the Swiss Church.

David also mentioned some of the cultural and social events, including film shows and the First of August celebration which took place and expressed thanks to *Ursula Jost* and *Ursula Jones* for arranging and the *City Swiss Club* for sponsoring a series of soirées musicales.

The bi-annual bazaar, renamed "Swiss Christmas Fair" which was held over two days had raised some £10,000. He thanked *Lisa Hall*, *Geneviève Higgin*, *Françoise Mistovski* and the many helpers for organising this successful event.

In conclusion he gave thanks to the members of the Consistoire, *Juliette Pfaff*, the parishioners and all the helpers for their support and assistance during his term of office and paid a tribute to *Ursula Jost* for the tremendous amount of work and her dedicated service to the Swiss Church.

Due to the departure of Treasurer, *Rainer Amacker*, in February 2008 *Ursula Jost* presented the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2007. She drew the attention to the good results achieved on the income side thanks to increased rental income, donations and the Christmas Fair. In terms of expenditure this had been kept in line with the budget. Ursula

explained that the building fund and the church activities accounts were kept strictly separate. A foundation for the church restoration had been set up in Switzerland where the major amount of the funds dedicated to the church restoration are kept.

On the proposal of *Emel Rochat*, seconded by *Ursula Talary* the Annual Report and Accounts ended for the year ending 31 December 2007 were accepted unanimously.

4.2 Election of Consistoire Members

(a) The resignations of *Rainer Amacker* and *Erika Tan* were received. In the name of the Consistoire *Ursula Jost* thanked the outgoing members for the contribution they had made, *Rainer Amacker*, as the Treasurer since June 2005, and *Erika Tan* who had looked after general matters since 1992.

(b) *Ursula Talary*, retiring under *Art 41*, was unanimously re-elected on the proposal of *Cécile Mistry*, seconded by *Elena Bertin*.

4.3 Appointment of reporting accountants.

The President proposed that in view of the increased fee charged by the present accountants, *haysmacintyre*, that the AGM authorizes the Consistoire to reappoint *haysmacintyre* as reporting accountants for the incorporated charity unless a more economical and suitable firm could be found.

Proposed by *Margrit Lyster* and seconded by *Geoff Fisher* the motion was unanimously carried.

4.4 Any other business

- The President announced the Consistoire's intention of selling the vicarage at 1 Womersley Road on condition that a good price is obtained and a suitable property closer to the church is found. The reason for selling is the size of the property and garden as well as the ongoing subsidence problem and the need of maintenance.
- The President informed the AGM that Reverends *Ursula Stocker*, *Barbara Brunner*, *Nadia Pfaff* and *André Joly* would each be conducting a Sunday service during June and July.

Concluding the formal part of the AGM *Ursula Jost* expressed thanks to *David Leuenberger* for the pastoral care and his efforts in the renovation programme, *Juliette Pfaff* for her input and initiatives, *Carine Brendel* and *Dominik Elmiger*, her successor as secretary, the organist, *Hilary Davan Wetton*, the members of the Consistoire and the parishioners, friends and supporters of the Swiss church for their contributions.

5. UPDATE ON SWISS CHURCH RENOVATION PROJECT

Ursula Jost gave a brief summary of the developments since the revised plans had been presented by the architects to the parishioners in December 2007. She informed the members of the decision to have a new organ built by a Swiss firm as the present one was too big and costly to renovate. Further fundraising of £365,000 had reached the £2 million target; however the costs had increased to an estimated £2,080,000. Planning permission was expected to be given shortly and it was anticipated that the work would start in September and be completed in 7 to 9 months.

Ursula announced that arrangements had been made with the Dutch Church at 7 Austin Friars for services to be held there at 4 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of the month and for the groups to meet jointly every second Tuesday. Office accommodation had been rented at the Bloomsbury Central Baptist in Shaftesbury Avenue.

The President declared the Annual General Meeting closed at 1.25 p.m.