

# THE SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Sunday 17 May 2009 at the Dutch Church, 7 Austin Friars, London E.C.2

Present (as per signed register)

Ursula Jost (President/Chair), Geoff Fisher, Valérie Lehmann, Ruth Luka, Philip Maillardet Cécile Mistry and Michael van Haarlem (Consistoire Members) Nathalie Dürmüller (Minister), Renée Beck, Albert Bertin, Elena Bertin, Andrew & Pamela Bertschinger, Philip Carraro, Dora Cookey-Gam, Christopher & Erika Dyke, Erika Fernandes, Marianne Fisher-Hertig, Klara Grimaldi, Hermann & Jeannette Gruninger, Maria Kitsis, Trudi Lazaro, Martin Lehmann, Malou Matthews, Vreni Parker, Heidi Rego, Ursula Talary, Erika Tan, Yvon & Susanne Tse, Frank Witham and Hedy Zdankowicz,  
Rose-Marie Breitenstein (Company Secretary) minutes

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

*Ursula Jost*, President opened the Annual General Meeting at 5.15 p.m. extending a warm welcome to members and friends present. She gave apologies for absence received from Bruno Boesch, Consistoire member and some 13 members and friends. The minister, *Nathalie Dürmüller*, said a short prayer.

### 2. MINUTES OF LAST AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 4 May 2008 were unanimously accepted on the proposal of *Geoff Fisher*, seconded by *Elena Bertin* and signed by the President.

### 3. FORMAL BUSINESS

#### 3.1 Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2008

*Nathalie Dürmüller* gave a short overview and mentioned a few highlights of her activities since taking office some eight months ago.

The Treasurer, *Michael van Haarlem* presented the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2008. He explained that the funds collected for the renovation building fund were not included in the present accounts as they are held in a foundation in Switzerland. They are due to be transferred and will be shown in next year's accounts. He thanked the individual donors and institutions for their contributions.

Proposed by *Frank Witham* and seconded by *Andrew Bertschinger* the Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2008 were unanimously accepted.

#### 3.2 Election of Consistoire Members/Trustees

- Resignations

The AGM received the resignations of *Klara Grimaldi* and *Bruno Boesch*. *Klara* had been a member since 2003 supporting the treasurer and looking after the catering for many events. *Bruno Boesch* who had joined the Consistoire in 2004 played a vital role on the fundraising committee for the restoration project and had assisted the President with legal advice. He will continue to assist on the cultural part of the opening ceremony and future events. *Ursula Jost* thanked the two outgoing members for the valuable contribution they had made.

- Election of new members

The four members, *Michael van Haarlem*, *Geoff Fisher*, *Cécile Mistry* and *Philippe Maillardet*, who had been co-opted to the Consistoire during the past few months,

introduced themselves briefly to the AGM participants. *Michael van Haarlem*, from the Romand part of Switzerland and employed by UBS in London, has taken on the position of Treasurer vacated by *Rainer Amacker*. *Geoff Fisher* who is English, married to a Swiss, with his professional background of chartered surveyor has already given valuable professional advice to the Consistoire. *Cécile Mistry*, a long standing parishioner and church warden, has taken on the position of Catering Manager. *Philip Maillardet*, also English with Swiss ancestry, has been appointed church archivist and historian in succession to *Emel Rochat* who will continue to collaborate on some projects.

- **Re-election**

The Company Secretary, *Rose-Marie Breitenstein* who had retired by rotation under Art 41 offered herself for re-election.

Proposed by *Albert Bertin* and seconded by *Phil Carraro* it was unanimously agreed to elect en bloc *Michael van Haarlem*, *Geoff Fisher*, *Cécile Mistry* and *Philip Maillardet* and re-elect *Rose-Marie Breitenstein* to the Consistoire.

### 3.3 **Appointment of reporting accountants for the ensuing year**

The President explained that with the increased funds it would be necessary to have an audit made and proposed to reappoint *hayesmacintyre* who are familiar with the affairs of the Swiss Church. The motion was seconded by *Marianne Fisher*.

### 3.4 **Any other business**

- **Sale of vicarage**

*Ursula Jost* reported that the proposed sale had to be put on hold as it was not possible to find a suitable alternative property.

- **Swiss Benevolent Society**

The President explained that under the present agreement the Swiss Benevolent Society are paying rent for a desk space. Due to staff reductions they will no longer provide a part time secretary.

- **Parish and Youth Worker**

*Ursula Jost* reported that interviews had taken place and that it is hoped to make an appointment shortly.

- **Thanks and appreciation**

The President expressed thanks to

- *Rev. David Leuenberger, Juliette Pfaff and Dominik Elmiger* for their dedicated work.
- *Rev. Nathalie Dürmüller* who took over the Ministry at a time of great change.
- Members of the Consistoire for their support.
- *Hillary Davan Wetton*, our organist, for the music and advice.
- Members, friends and volunteers for their help and donations.
- Dutch and Baptist churches for their kind welcome
- Swiss Benevolent Society, Federation of Protestant Churches for their subsidies.

In return *Albert Bertin* and *Nathalie Dürmüller* expressed thanks to *Ursula Jost* and *Rose-Marie Breitenstein* added a warm tribute to her for her untiring work and dedication in running the church affairs, restoration project and the planning for the future of the Swiss Church.

The President closed the formal part of the AGM at 6.00 p.m. and proceeded to the presentation of an illustrated update on the architectural plans and the progress of the building work.