

# SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Sunday 1 July 2007 at the Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, London WC2

Present: (as per signed register)

Ursula Jost (President/Chair), David Leuenberger (Minister) Juliette Pfaff (Youth and Parish worker) Klara Grimaldi, Valerie Lehmann, Ruth Luka, Rosmarie Sabir, Ursula Talary, Erika Tan (Consistoire members).

A. Allen, Pierre-Michel Béguin, Albert Bertin, Andrew Bertschinger, Pamela Bertschinger, Phil Carraro, Dora Cookey-Gam, Edith Crack, Hilary Davan Wetton, Marianne Fisher-Hertig, Margrit Goddard, Renato Grimaldi, Trudy Lazaro, Martin Lehmann, Margrit Lyster, Philip Maillardet, Vreni Parker, Margrit Rahman, Anne Tew, Meike Walcha, Meieli Webb 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 present.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Elena Bertin, Marlies Davis, Geoff Fisher, Antony Plowman, Ulrich and Christine Sigwart, Susanne Singh and Vreni Smith.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 2 July 2007 were unanimously accepted and signed by the President on the proposal of *Margrit Lyster*, seconded by *Andrew Bertschinger*.

### 4. FORMAL BUSINESS

#### 4.1 Presentation and approval of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2006

*Rev. David Leuenberger* gave a summary of church and parish activities during the year under review and referred in particular to the plans for the future and the achievements, changes and progress resulting from the weekend workshop led by Hans Strub in January. He highlighted the progress in respect of the renovation project under the new architects, Christ & Gantenbein, and the efforts made in improving the publicity with a new website and design of the Swiss Church News. New events, such as the live Swiss transmission of the World Cup matches featuring the Swiss national team and the screening of Swiss films had attracted a large audience.

He paid thanks to Beatrice Wälti, the energetic youth and parish worker who had left in November for organising many successful and enjoyable activities for the parishioners and the youth section as detailed in the Annual Report.

*Rainer Amacker*, Hon. Treasurer, in presenting the financial accounts gave a brief review of the figures, pointing out the surplus made in the church related activities thanks to increased donations, higher rental income and a further legacy payment under the will of the late Miss Alice Hoffmann. The expenses being kept under strict discipline, only slightly deviated from the budget which was due to increased utility, insurance and other costs.

On the proposal of *Emel Rochat*, seconded by *Albert Bertin* the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2006 were accepted unanimously.

#### 4.2 Election of Consistoire Members

Before proceeding to the elections *Ursula Jost* thanked the two retiring Consistoire members, *Emel Rochat* and *Rosmarie Sabir* and paid tribute to their significant

contribution and support. During her 25 years of service *Rosmarie Sabir*, among other duties, had acted as hon. Treasurer and organiser of the Bazaar. *Emel Rochat* who had served for six years made a valuable contribution as historian, archivist and proof reader, tasks for which she has offered her continued help. A presentation was made to the two leaving members.

a) Election of Mrs Ruth Luka

At the invitation of the President *Ruth Luka* gave a brief introduction of herself, and on the proposal of *Ursula Talary*, seconded by *Cécile Mistry*, she was elected unanimously as a member of the Consistoire.

b) Re-election of Consistoire Members

Of the three members, *Ursula Jost*, *Emel Rochat* and *Rosmarie Sabir*, retiring under article 41, *Ursula Jost* offered herself for re-election and was unanimously elected on the proposal of *Rose-Marie Breitenstein*, seconded by *Marianne Fisher*.

c) Appointment of Reporting Accountants

On the proposal of *Margrit Lyster*, seconded by *Philip Carraro* it was resolved by unanimous vote to re-appoint *haysmacintyre* as Reporting Accountants for the incorporated charity.

d) Any other business

Concluding the formal business, *Ursula Jost* expressed thanks to *David Leuenberger* for his leadership, energy and new ideas, *Beatrice Wälti* for her enthusiasm and organising skills as youth and parish worker, and *Juliette Pfaff* for taking on that position, *Sabine Signer* and her successor *Carine Brendel* for their secretarial work, our Organist, *Hilary Davan Wetton* for enhancing the services with a choir and arranging concerts, the members of the Consistoire, the parishioners, friends and groups for helping with cooking, flowers, cleaning, repairs and other tasks, and the City Swiss Club for their sponsorship of the Spring concerts.

5. **UPDATE ON SWISS CHURCH RENOVATION PROJECT**

*Ursula Jost* gave a brief update on the renovation project that was going ahead with a reduced budget of £2 million and the appointment of the architects Christ and Gantenbein. The basic concept had been received favourably by the Consistoire enabling detailed planning to go ahead. She assured the parishioners that the final plans would be presented to them for their comments.

The President then gave some details on the amount of the funds that had been donated and pledged, and pointed out that further fundraising efforts were planned to raise the outstanding amount of £250,000.

Answering some questions she stated that it was hoped to start the restoration work which was expected to take some nine months in early summer and that investigations were carried out by *David Leuenberger* for an alternative venue to hold the services during that period. She thanked him for his contribution and the extra work he had taken on in respect of this project.

In conclusion *Rose-Marie Breitenstein* paid a warm tribute to *Ursula Jost* for her untiring work and the tremendous amount of time and efforts she had been devoting to the smooth running of the church activities and administration.

The President declared the Annual General Meeting closed at 1.15 p.m.