

Election of Board Members

Nick Jones finishes his term on the Board as does Greg Obong-Oshotse at this year's AGM. This left us with two elected vacancies to be filled which we communicated to members earlier this year. The good news is that Greg is willing to serve for another term. We had no other nominations from the membership. So that means Greg has been duly elected for a further term of five years.

Chairman's Report

As we move from the Summer Meeting into the AGM, let me again welcome both our members and all those joining us this afternoon, whether in person or online.

My name is Vicky Widdows, and I am the Deputy Chair of Trustees. I am a part of Grace Church Dulwich in South East London and work as the administrator for ReNew.

Our Chairman, Tim Houghton, is unfortunately unable to be with us in person today. Having been taken unwell last week, he has been advised not to travel. However, he is joining us online, and we all hope and pray for a swift recovery, Tim.

The first item of business is the approval of the minutes from last year's AGM, held on 24 June. These were circulated to members in advance by email, and copies were also available as you arrived today.

The minutes seem straightforward, but may I ask whether there are any corrections or amendments anyone would like to suggest?

If not, may I have a proposer for the adoption of the minutes? Thank you. And a seconder? Thank you. All those in favour?

Thank you. Let us now move to the Chairman's Report on behalf of Tim Houghton.

The Board is deeply grateful to God for the continued progress Crosslinks is making in gospel proclamation around the world. We have already heard some encouraging reports from mission partners this afternoon, and we will hear more from John shortly.

A regular feature of our Board meetings is hearing from and praying for mission partners and project partners. It is always a great encouragement to hear directly about what the Lord is doing through their ministries. It also helps us better understand the opportunities they are pursuing and the challenges they face, enabling us to pray more effectively and ensuring that the Office Team is well equipped to provide the support they need.

The Board met five times during the past year, including our annual residential meeting. Alongside the regular business of reviewing finances, policies, mission partner appointments, personnel matters and church engagement across the UK, we also considered a number of significant issues.

These included securing new premises for the Ireland Team and determining the future of the former premises at 251 Lewisham Way, together with the archives stored there. We also reviewed the annual staff survey and were pleased to find that staff in both London and Belfast remain positive, motivated and well supported in their work.

Although there was no particular incident that prompted it, the Board felt it was right to undertake a comprehensive safeguarding review. This has helped identify areas where our processes and policies can be strengthened, and we look forward to implementing those recommendations over the coming year.

At our residential meeting last November, we were delighted to host a lunch attended by Archbishop Stephen Than, Archbishop of Myanmar, together with others involved in gospel ministry there. Crosslinks has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with the Province, and it was a privilege to hear first-hand about both the encouragements and the challenges facing the church and its ministry at this time.

Turning to Board membership, we are very grateful to Mark Walkington, whose term as a co-opted Board member has come to an end, and to Nick Jones, whose term as an elected Board member concluded this afternoon. Mark's wisdom and legal expertise have been of great value, while Nick has been a highly respected Board member who has brought an especially important perspective from Ireland. We are conscious that there is currently no Irish representation on the Board and hope to address that during the coming year.

I would also like to thank Gabriel Chiu for his excellent service as our General Synod Representative over the past five years. Gabriel is not standing for re-election to General Synod, and we will therefore be seeking someone to take on that role.

With Greg's re-election earlier this afternoon, we now have one elected vacancy and two co-opted vacancies on the Board.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Senior Leadership Team—John, Beth, Mark and Rupert—for their hard work, leadership and gospel faithfulness. We are equally grateful to the teams in both London and Belfast. It is a constant encouragement to see such a clear commitment to the central task of taking God's Word to the world, while also ensuring that Crosslinks maintains the highest standards in areas such as finance, safeguarding, personnel and recruitment.

I will now hand over to our Treasurer, Nick Winther, who will present the accounts and seek your approval for the reappointment of our auditors.

Vicky Widdows

Deputy Chair of Trustees