

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 30th March 2019

1.00pm

Gate Church International, 158 Perth Road, Dundee DD1 4JS

1. Welcome

Mary Sweetland welcomed attendees as charity chairman and introduced trustee Mark Kirkbride and manager Stephen Curran alongside her in presenting the Annual Report.

Trustees present:

Mary Sweetland (Chair), Elizabeth South (Deputy Chair), Mark Kirkbride, Sally Foster-Fulton, Richard Murray, Len Gregory, Fintan Hurley

Attendance register signed by Full Members with voting rights and other attendees observing.

2. Apologies for absence

Eco-Congregation Scotland trustees: Alan Kennedy, John Seenan and Malcolm Rooney.

Full Members:

Robin Green, Wellington Church Glasgow;	Wendy Duncan, St Ninian's Cathedral Perth;
Patricia Chapman, St Ninian's Craigmailen, Linlithgow;	Barbara Richerby, Belhaven Parish Church;
Malcolm Rooney, Glens and Kirriemuir Old Parish;	Iona Fisher, Yoker Parish Church;
Marion Hughes, Glasgow St Paul's Church, Provanmill;	Jean Hodgson, Ardrishaig Parish Church;
Glenda Robertson, East and Old Parish Church, Forfar;	David Atkinson, St Mary's Inverurie;
Katy Owen, St Mary's Parish Church, Kirkintilloch;	Anne Woolverton, Carlops Parish Church;
Mark Seymour, St Mary's Episcopal Church, Aberfoyle;	Nathan McConnell, Downfield Mains Church;
Alan Werritty, St Andrew's Episcopal Church, St Andrews;	
Janet Jardine, Glassary, Kilmartin and Ford Church l/w North Knapdale.	

3. Approval of minutes from 2018 AGM

Moved Mark Kirkbride and seconded Margaret Warnock as tabled.

4. Chairman's Report on the activities of Eco-Congregation Scotland

Mary Sweetland spoke on the rising interest in environmental issues following our last AGM and thanked funders - the Scottish Government, Church of Scotland, Scottish Episcopal Church, Christian Aid, SCIAF - and Local Networks and Member Congregations for their support of the charity's work. She welcomed the continuing support of the United Reformed Church through the special category ministry of Rev David Coleman as Environmental Chaplain for five years following his induction on 12 September 2018. Mary thanked the previous Chaplain Rev Trevor Jamison for his five years as David's predecessor.

Mary expressed appreciation for the previous seven years when Gordon Hudson had developed the work of the charity as manager, introducing the new manager Stephen Curran who had now been in post for six months, adding that Stephen's links with churches in the west of Scotland was already encouraging new interest. On further changes to staffing, Mary noted that we had recently appointed a Membership and Office Administrator, Ruth Livingstone, which would help support more churches and Local Networks to grow further. Mary further thanked the wider Eco-Congregation Scotland staff team for a successful year and Church of Scotland staff for continuing support of the charity's work.

Reference was made to the importance of growing partnerships. The European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) had presented a Roman Juriga Award for innovation, recognising the Cowal Church Energy Project's success, improving energy efficiency in Argyll church buildings through installation of air source heating pumps. Mary also noted the progress in delivering agreed outcomes with the Scottish Government, including a growth in registrations and training sessions to help reduce carbon emissions across the country.

447 church congregations were now registered as eco-congregations and taking part in our programme, an increase of 7% over the previous year. Local Networks had remained very active over the past year, supported by our programme coordinators through a wide range of activities and projects. It was vital to encourage more registered congregations to upgrade their involvement as Full Members, as this funding directly enabled those Coordinator roles to be resourced. Mary added that David Bethune would be retiring as one of our Programme Co-ordinators after today and we would thank him in a special way with a presentation at the end of the Annual Gathering.

5. Annual Accounts and Financial Report

Mark Kirkbride referred to the previously circulated and finalised [2018 Annual Accounts](#) that would be submitted to the charity regulator OSCR. Alan Kennedy's work as treasurer over the past eight years was thanked in ensuring the Board of Trustees continued to be well-informed in exercising their responsibility for the charity's finances. The recent March Board meeting saw Alan presented with the first trees planted in Eco-Congregation Scotland's [Trees for Life](#) grove in special recognition of his contribution to the charity. Stephen Curran circulated a draft budget for the coming year, which anticipated additional expenditure but that would be reliant on additional funding for specific projects. The accounts and financial update were noted, as was Mark's interest in being appointed to the treasurer's role following conclusion of the AGM business.

6. Appointment of Auditors

Mary Sweetland proposed Hollis Accounting continue in their role as external auditors for independent examination of the charity's accounts for the coming year. This was seconded by Sheena Wurthmann.

7. Election/re-election of Trustees

One third of trustees must formally retire every year.

Resigning and not standing for re-election - Alan Kennedy and Malcolm Rooney

Trustees co-opted during the year who need to be elected at the AGM – Fintan Hurley, proposed by Mary Sweetland and seconded by Anne Bethune.

There were no further nominations and Fintan Hurley was elected unanimously.

8. Any other competent business

There was no other business that had been notified in advance and no other matters were raised by attendees.

9. Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 1.30pm.

Office Bearers stood down at the end of this meeting and subsequently agreed to re-appoint Mary Sweetland as Chairman and Elizabeth South as Depute Chair, and to appoint Mark Kirkbride as Treasurer from among their number.