

Progressive Christianity Network Britain

Draft Minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting held at 1pm on Saturday 9th May 2015, at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, London

Members Present: Alker, A; Avis, C; Barnett, J&I; Bartlett, J&A; Baxter, K; Bick, M; Burge, A; Cadman, R; Coleman, M; Collins, G; Craig, J; Dawes, H; Dawson, P; Everett, T; Foxall, C&M; Fuller, P; Godfrey, M; Graham, V; Griffiths, S; Grove, J; Hack, J&P; Harris, R&A; Harrison, G; Harvey, R; Hell, M; Henson, J; Jacobs, J; Jones, N; Lambourne, A&P; Martin, P; McMahon, M; McMichael, H; Onslow, P; Palfrey, C; Pollard, D&M; Pope, N; Race, A; Rees, G; Reidy, E; Rock, H; Rutherford, J&M; Sandham, J; Smith, A; Stebles, M; Story, R; Stribblehill, J&P; Taylor, A; Tetlow, R; Vivian, A; Walton, M&A; Westland, J; Williamson D&H

1. Appointment of a chair for the Annual General Meeting

The Hon Sec, P. Onslow, greeted those present. He introduced those trustees who were present in the room. He nominated trustee, A. Alker, to chair the meeting, which was agreed by general ascent. AA, welcomed everyone and noted that the meeting was quorate.

3. Apologies

The following list of apologies was read out.: Carrick, T; Churcher, D&J; Coaker, D; Cornish, R; Gladwell, J; Griffiths, P; Harrison, L; Hinds, T; Hollyman, J&J; Jones, A; Lynds, M&J; Marshall, P&C; Phelan, N; Reddaway, D; Rees, M; Simmonds, J&C; Skinner, J; Stein, J; Story, J; Williams, H&V, Wilson, B&S

4. Minutes of the 11th Annual General Meeting held on 17th May 2014 at The Priory Rooms, Birmingham

The minutes had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. AA invited comment on the minutes from the floor. Nothing was raised. Acceptance of the minutes for the 2014 AGM was proposed by S. Griffiths, seconded by M. Hell and agreed by a show of hands.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

6. The Annual Report of PCN – Britain 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014

A. Smith, chair, invited questions arising from her written report. Responding to a question from R. Harvey, AS affirmed the adoption of the revised 8 points by the committee in February. Responding to a question from R. Tetlow, AA said that her vision for PCN was of more growth among PCN's grass roots, more groups and more ambitious programmes at the local and regional level. The acceptance of the chair's report was proposed by M. Bick and seconded by M. Foxall and carried by an overwhelming show of hands. AS went on to thank all the trustees for their valued contribution to PCN, mentioning individually the two retiring trustees, A Burrell, treasurer, and A Race. AS announced that she had decided to stand down as a trustee at the next AGM. Given that A. Vivian was retiring from the post of Administrator around the same time, she had decided to relinquish the post of chair a year earlier in order to allow for AV to overlap with a new chair during the coming year. It had been a privilege to serve PCN as trustee and chair and she thanked her colleagues, the office staff and the membership for their support and encouragement. Before moving on, AA paid tribute to the work of AS as chair and thanked her

7. The Financial Statements of PCN – Britain 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014

In the absence of A.Burrell to present the annual accounts the chair took the accounts as read and asked for questions. N. Jones noted that some events had made a sizable loss but encouraged the trustees not to be put off. It was better to risk more losses and appeal to members for extra funds than not to be adventurous. AA agreed it had been an expensive year and mentioned that there had been one particular donor who had made good much of the loss incurred by PCN's loss making conferences. He felt events should aim to break even and encouraged groups and the national organisation to try to make ends meet. C. Foxall thought PCN might save money by choosing less expensive venues. AA agreed that London and Birmingham venues were expensive. He said venues were chosen for their good transport links and the availability of lunch provisions. Even churches make substantial charges. AV reminded members that PCN carries a large reserve of £12,000 as an insurance policy against heavy losses in its conference programme. The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by J. Barnett and seconded by D. Williamson and carried overwhelmingly.

8. Confirmation of the four candidates nominated for the Management Committee

The candidates were Pat Fuller (first term), proposer S. Griffiths, seconder A. Smith; Richard Gray, (first term) proposer R. Cornish, seconder P. Onslow, G. Rees, (first term) proposer J. Henson, seconder R. Charnley and Maureen Foxall (first term) proposer R. Tetlow, seconder C. Foxall. All the appointments were affirmed by an overwhelming show of hands.

AA announced that P. Dawson had agreed to take on the duties of treasurer from September 2015 and would in due course be co-opted by the committee. On behalf of the membership, AA thanked AV and Sarah Guilfoyle, in the office, Dave Coaker, the editor of Progressive Voices and Jess lee, the DVD librarian for their work on behalf of PCN.

The meeting ended at 1.45pm