

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE FRIENDS IN INDIA

HELD ON SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2019, AT INDIAN YMCA, FITZROY SQUARE, LONDON

The twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Friends in India was held at 2pm on Saturday 5th October 2019, at YMCA Indian Student Hostel, 41 Fitzroy Square, London, with approximately 30 members of FCI attending and eligible to vote.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Revd Adrian Watkins, welcomed everyone. The Secretary informed members that apologies had been received from: Mr Beeson, Sarah Miller, Ajay Moire, Daleep and Azra Mukarji, Angela and Andrew Wingate.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2018

These were approved as recommended by the Management Committee and signed by the Chair.

3. The Report of the Secretary

Margaret Marshall presented his Report for 2018 which included an update from the Membership (attached to these Minutes). The Chair thanked the Secretary for her Report. **The Report was accepted.**

4. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Audited Accounts and Independent Examiner's Report for 2018 were distributed to the members. Revd Jessie Anand stated that these had been prepared by the previous Treasurer.

There will be no further increases this year for the Subscriptions.

The Treasurer informed members that the Management Committee had agreed that any Legacies that are received should be put into the Deposit Account, with the option to withdraw in the event of any emergencies. The Treasurer expressed her thanks to the Chair and the Membership Secretary for their guidance. The Chair expressed thanks to the Treasurer. **The Financial Statement was accepted.**

5. Constitutional Amendments

Members had copies of the current wording contained in the Constitution and proposed amendments (attached to these Minutes). The following comments were made:

SECTION 6

- **Has a member of the Church of Wales been invited? Enquiries to be made if they have any links with India. The Management to consider and then any recommendations to be brought to the AGM.**
- **This led to the question of possible representation from the Church of Scotland, as the Fellowship of St Thomas will be ceasing in 2020 and from the Methodist Church in Ireland.**

- **The Management Committee will consider these possible additional representations.**
- **The Charity Commission will need to approve any amendments to the Constitution.**

William Allberry proposed and Chellaian Lawrence seconded and members agreed to the proposed wording and recommendations with 1 Abstention.

SECTION 8

William Allberry proposed that the amendments and their wording be approved and Malar Lawrence seconded the proposal and the members voted in favour.

6. Management Committee – FCI Representative Vacancy

The Chair apologised to members that they had not been informed prior to the meeting that there is a vacancy on the Management Committee – Gordon Shaw does not wish to be re-elected. He indicated that there could be the following options in this situation:

- **A nomination could be brought to this meeting**
- **A nomination to be deferred for one year**
- **The Management Committee at its meeting in November consider any nominations**

It was suggested from the floor that nominations and the election should be held in abeyance for one year and this was approved by the members.

7. Chairman’s Remarks

Revd Adrian Watkins expressed his thanks to the members of the Management Committee for their work and support.

He reflected that we are here today because of our close personal bonds with India, and our personal past and present connections to Indian churches and our common Christian faith. He also encouraged us to celebrate our friendship with the churches in India as a whole and to remember the many current challenges they face, both internal and external. He also noted that one of the objectives of FCI is to function *‘In close cooperation with the appropriate denominational and ecumenical agencies of FCI member churches in the UK.’* He noted that is the basis for our participation with the South Asia Forum which includes the former CSI-CNI Relations Committee. He observed that since FCI is a small organisation with limited capacity the most effective way to both engage with the larger current issues of the churches in India and to contribute to the ecumenical movement in UK is through such wider ecumenical engagement.

Looking to the future, the Chair affirmed FCI should keep FCI Day and Pilgrim as the flagship activities. However, we can also encourage local and regional initiatives such as the CSI/CNI Thanksgiving Services held in Leicester last weekend, regional educational seminars and lectures. He also noted the possibilities of working with others on shared initiatives such as another Partnership Day or a side meeting at the Lambeth Conference next year. There could be more scope for sharing prayer news from India as well. FCI could continue to also explore possible ways of broadening and widening its membership base. The Chair concluded by requesting prayer for the Management Committee as it looks to the future.

8. Date and Venue of 2020 FCI AGM

It was agreed that the 2020 FCI Day will be held on SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2020 AT THE INDIAN YMCA, FITZROY SQUARE, LONDON.

The date of the 2021 FCI Day could be the last Saturday in September, and this option will be discussed by the Management Committee.

As there was no further business the Chair closed the meeting.