

Minutes of the Twenty second Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Church in India held on Saturday 4 October 2014

The Twenty second Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Church in India was held on Saturday 4 October 2014 at YMCA Indian Student Hostel, 41 Fitzroy Square, London, with approximately 50 members of FCI attending and eligible to vote.

1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair, Revd Jessie Anand, welcomed everyone and conveyed greetings from the members of FOST (Fellowship of St Thomas). Apologies had been received from: Revd Murdoch and Mrs Anne Mackenzie, Miss Margaret Addicott, Dr Leslie Robinson, Mr Antony and Mrs Dilys Thomas, Mrs Mavis McManus, Revd Solomon Joseph, Miss Eva Arrowsmith, Miss Elizabeth Frater, Miss O. G. Wimble, Dr E J Marsh, Mrs Ann Witchalls, Revd Bob and Mrs Isabel Burn.

2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2013

These were approved for signature, as recommended by the Management Committee and signed by the Chair. A copy had been posted on the website.

3 The Secretary's report

Mrs Angela Wingate presented her report for 2014 (Appendix 1) Jessie thanked the secretary for her report and wished her all the best.

4 Confirmation of the treasurer's appointment

Jessie reported on the difficulties faced by the Management Committee when the last treasurer, Revd Suresh Kumar, resigned suddenly. The vacancy for treasurer was advertised on the website and Mr James Duthie agreed to be treasurer for one year. He was therefore nominated by the management committee and began the work of the treasurer. Confirmation of this appointment, by FCI members at the AGM, was requested and all were in favour.

5 The Treasurer's report

Dr Duthie, the new treasurer, introduced himself. He presented the financial report for the year January - December 2013 and copies were distributed to members. After a short discussion, it was proposed by Alistair Cutting and seconded by Mary Paterson that the accounts be accepted. All were in favour.

6 Election of one FCI representative

This vacancy was advertised on the website but the only nomination was from the management committee for the re-election of Antony Thomas. A vote was taken and all were in favour of Antony Thomas's re-election.

7 Election of Secretary

The only nomination for the post of secretary was Revd Adrian Watkins, who was unexpectedly unable to attend the meeting. He was elected with a unanimous vote.

8 The future of FCI

The Chair, Jessie, introduced the topic and distributed copies of members' replies to the letter sent out earlier in the year, requesting suggestions on the way forward for FCI. Jessie thanked members for their time and effort in replying. She outlined the suggestions sent and members were asked to add other comments or ideas.

Dr William Cutting, who is involved with Friends of Vellore, an organisation similar to FCI in which members have worked in or visited Vellore, reported that many of the new alumni, doctors trained in Vellore and now working in the UK, have been encouraged to meet with FOV for the last two years. Dr Cutting felt this could be a model for FCI as many Christians in UK have roots in India and concern for India. The purpose would be to have prayer and fellowship with Christian communities in India. The second speaker, Rajesh Duthie was disturbed at the talk of closure and felt there are many young people who could be encouraged to join. Canon Andrew Wingate wanted to support Revd Murdoch Mackenzie's suggestion that possible links with ICO be investigated. Julie Lipp Nathaniel thought that there were admirable opportunities and suggestions on the paper distributed. She would like to see more reciprocity between those in the relationships.

As time was short, Jessie said she would take all the ideas to the Management Committee for further discussion and then to the next AGM. All agreed to this plan.

9 Date and venue of next AGM

Saturday 3 October 2015 at the YMCA Indian Student Hostel, Fitzroy Square, London

10 Any other business

Revd William Allberry introduced himself as the new membership secretary and encouraged any members who had not yet paid their subscription to do so but his main request was for prayers and support from FCI for Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary and a letter to be written to the Moderator of CSI to take whatever action he can to preserve TTS. William, having returned in May from working in the seminary, explained about the present upheaval and how university accreditation for the seminary will be withdrawn if demands from the Senate of Serampore are not met by their deadline, 16 October. Along with William Allberry, other FCI members with close links to TTS are Revd C Lawrence and Canon Andrew Wingate. It was proposed by William and seconded by Jessie that a letter be sent to the Moderator and board members. This proposal was carried with no objections.

The meeting closed at 3pm

Angela Wingate

21 October 2014