



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 18 March 2023 at 10.00 a.m.
Meeting held in person and via Zoom**

PRESENT:

Revd Mary Taylor (Trustee/Chair)
Revd Andy Williams (Director)
Revd Joanna Williams (Director)
Pam Smith (Trustee)
Revd Dr Richard Kidd (Trustee/Treasurer) via zoom
Andrew Taylor (Trustee)
Hugh Donald (Trustee) via zoom
Professor Paul Weller (Trustee) via zoom
Samina Ali (Trustee)

In addition 8 members and friends were in attendance in person with a further 3 via zoom

Minute Secretary: Desley Taylor

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Trevor Wilson, Jude Hall, Sue Clough, Warren Elf and Graham Ensor

All agreed to the recording of the meeting for future reference.

1 Welcome and Introduction

Revd Mary Taylor (Chair) warmly welcomed all to the first in person AGM, previous meetings being held via zoom during the Covid pandemic. She opened the meeting with scripture and prayer.

2 Minutes of the AGM held on 12 March 2022

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2022 had been circulated prior to the meeting and comments were invited. The Minutes were accepted and signed as a true and accurate record.

3 Annual Report

The Annual Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Presented by Revd Andy Williams and Revd Jo Williams the objectives of the Centre were highlighted:

(1) To advance education for the benefit of the public in the promotion of reconciliation and peace, religious and racial harmony and equality and diversity, in particular by the provision of facilities and retreat opportunities for Christians and people of all religions and beliefs and to advance religion and in particular the Christian religion in such activity.

(2) The provision of independent mediation services for individuals, organisations and groups experiencing or threatened by dispute or conflict, such as, but not limited to, neighbour nuisance, anti-social behaviour, harassment, bullying, family or community conflict with a view to the preservation of public order and for the preservation and protection of the well-being of such individuals, organisations and groups.

Revd Jo Williams spoke to her section of the report concerning Peace and Reconciliation work, she explained that this work falls into three distinct categories:

- Training
- Mediations and Facilitations
- Coaching and Supportive Services and Retreat

Training

Work has continued with Smile Mediation working with Centrica, Spurgeons College, South Wales Baptist College, Northern Baptist College, St Hild's and the Luther King Centre. Training has also been delivered direct from the Blackley Centre with development and delivery of Let's Talk and Let's Talk 2. Approximately 275 people had experienced training generating an income of approx £14,000 for the Centre.

Mediations and Facilitations

Due to the confidential nature of these meetings it was not possible to provide details. However, in summary she mentioned working with couples with marital tensions, individuals within churches struggling with relationships and clergy teams. Around 80 people had received mediation/facilitation generating an income of approx £4,000 for the Centre.

Coaching and Supportive Services and Retreat

Peace and Quiet days have continued, however some were cancelled due to lack of bookings. The Gilmore Fraleigh style profiling process continued throughout the year. Work with the YBA on a partnership handling conflict in churches was been put on hold due to a low number of applications to be part of the Healthy Church listening team. 70 people have completed their Gilmore Fraleigh profiles and approximately 20 have attended the Centre for retreat or coaching sessions.

Revd Andy Williams spoke to his section of the report concerning Inter Faith work.

An Inter Faith programme was offered during the year which included a conference on Climate Change at Halifax Minster and a visit to the Guru Nanak Gurdwara and the Holocaust Education Centre in Huddersfield. A grant from the Community Fund enabled the Centre to employ Peter Whitworth as a part time administrator for 12 months, however, no further funding was available for the current year.

Continuing to be active through inter faith networks locally, regionally and nationally the Centre marked Inter Faith Week with two events.

- The Inter Faith Dialogue on 'Faith Action on the Climate Crisis'
- Amateur Radio link up making links around the country as well as internationally.

The programme concluded with a networking morning on Zoom in June

A team building residential took place at Wydale Hall Retreat Centre. The final session included all making contributions with words for the Blackley Prayer.

Both Directors took a sabbatical during the month of August 2022

Revd Andy Williams ended by thanking Chris Allcock the Centre Manager who oversees the use of the Centre, Pauline Barnard who sends out the invoices and the hospitality team.

Comments/questions were invited.

Revd Mary Taylor thanked Revd Andy Williams and Revd Jo Williams for their report and their hard work.

Resolved: That the report be received

4 Annual Accounts Year Ending 30 September 2022

The annual accounts were circulated prior to the meeting and showed an opening balance of £25,618. The balance sheet for the year showed:

Brought Forward (1/10/21)	£25,618
Income (to 30/09/22)	£47,137
Expenditure (to 30/09/22)	£47,581
Surplus to date on the year	- £ 444
Balance at 30/09/22	£25,174

Revd Dr Richard Kidd reported that the Examiner Mr Stephen Williams had agreed and signed the accounts. He commented that three years into the life of the Centre the current level of viability is testament to the hard work carried out.

Revd Andy Williams commented that income was slightly less than the previous year as there had been no award from Awards For All and the YBA funding was tapering off. Expenditure was higher than the previous year but with a balance of -£444 he felt it had been a good financial year. He highlighted the heading Funds of the Charity (page 4 of accounts) which detailed £9,700 as restricted funds and £15,473 as unrestricted funds. Going forward it was suggested a discussion should take place with Trustees whether funds should be restricted for what is core work.

Comments/questions were invited.

Thanks were expressed to Revd Dr Richard Kidd for his report and his hard work.

Resolved: That the report be received

5 Appointment of Independent Examiner

Revd Mary Taylor informed the meeting it was a requirement of the CIO that the Centre's accounts should be independently examined. Mr Stephen Williams, a retired accountant and member of the Church has agreed to continue to act as Independent Examiner for the Centre.

A vote on Mr Williams's appointment was taken by a show of hands and was unanimously carried.

Resolved: That Mr Stephen Williams be appointed to continue as the Centre's Independent Examiner
That the accounts will be examined for the year ending 30 September 2023.

6 Election of Trustees

The constitution allows for 9 Trustees, 7 by election and 2 by nomination by Blackley Baptist Church as the founding organisation. Two of the current 5 elected trustees have come to the end of their term of office and are eligible for re-election for 3 years. Hugh Donald has agreed to stand for re-election; however, Professor Paul Weller has given notice that he will not. Professor Weller commented that having relocated to Germany he felt it was the right time to end his Trusteeship. He was thankful for being involved with the Centre from its inception and wished it well in the future. He was thanked for all his work as a founding Trustee and for his expertise and wisdom which had been valuable in setting up the Centre.

As well as being a Trustee the Revd Dr Richard Kidd has also served as the Hon. Treasurer, he has given notice that he will conclude his work as the Treasurer at the end of the current financial year on 30 September and that at that time he will step down as a Trustee.

A proposal for election of a new Trustee was tabled. It was reported that Karen Ainsworth had attended two Trustee meetings as a guest and had agreed to put herself forward as a Trustee. Hugh Donald was delighted to propose her as a Trustee and the proposal was seconded by the Revd Mary Taylor.

Proposal:

Duration of Term	Name
Three years	Hugh Donald
Three years	Karen Ainsworth

A vote on the appointments of Hugh Donald and Karen Ainsworth was taken by a show of hands and the appointments were approved unanimously.

Resolved: Hugh Donald and Karen Ainsworth be appointed for three years

7 Chairperson's Report

Revd Mary Taylor as current Chairperson of the Blackly Centre gave her report. She was delighted to be chairing the first face to face AGM and was very happy with the steady progress the Centre was making. She referred to the work undertaken at the team building event creating a timeline of the life of the Centre. She recognised the sense of struggle and uncertainty there is since the Covid pandemic, not only in the life of the Centre but also economically and politically and commented that the Centre is no different to other organisations in their uncertainty of what the future holds. In times of change it is encouraging that the Directors are looking at growth and expansion.

She gave recognition and thanks to Revd Andy Williams and Revd Jo Williams as both Ministers and Directors in their efforts looking at ways of building and developing the Centre. She recognised there had been disappointments along the way but commended them for carrying on and encouraged them to continue. One example that typifies the Centre is the David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors project.

In conclusion she offered her thanks to the Directors and the Trustees for all their work.

Resolved: That the Chairperson's report be received

8 Safeguarding Policies

Revd Andy Williams reported that it is a requirement that the Safeguarding Policies are reviewed prior to the meeting. This had been carried out at the last Trustees meeting. All were reminded they have responsibility for safeguarding.

It was proposed the Policies be adopted and signed for a further 12 months.

A vote was taken by a show of hands and it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Policies

Resolved: That the Policies be adopted for a further 12 months

9 Looking Forward

Revd Andy Williams and Revd Jo Williams gave a brief summary of work going forward including:

- A key part of the Centre's work going forward will be the David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors project. This project began in 2021 with planning and obtaining funding and work has started delivering in three local primary schools. By June 2023 it is envisaged that 30 students will be trained as Young Peace Ambassadors with a commissioning

celebration taking place at the Church/Centre open day on 16 September 2023.
Additional funding is being sought to enable the project to be rolled out further.

- Work is continuing with the YBA exploring ways of obtaining further funding from them when the grant funding ends in June 2023
- Work continues with key partners, Smile, Resolve, Bridge Builders, Reconcillers Together, Calderdale Interfaith Network and the Baptist Interfaith Working Group.
- Peace and Quiet days will continue to be offered, days of retreat which are open to everyone
- With the ending of YBA funding there are challenges around obtaining funding from other sources. Currently work is taking place on an application to the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for a significant amount.
- Attendees were encouraged to talk to family and friends about the Centre. The Centre is looking to increase its membership and have the regular income that standing orders would provide.

The Chair thanked the Directors for their continuing work and vision and invited comments/questions.

10 Date of next Annual General Meeting

The date of the AGM for 2024 was set for 10.00 a.m. Saturday 16 March 2024.

With all the business concluded members and friends were thanked for their attendance and Revd Dr Richard Kidd was asked to close the meeting with the Blackley Prayer.

Signed

Revd Mary Taylor (Chair)

Dated