



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 16 March 2024 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)
Andrew Taylor (Trustee)
Rob Quarton (Trustee/Treasurer)
Karen Ainsworth (Trustee)
Samina Ali (Trustee)
Desley Taylor
Revd Ernie Whalley
Mary Whalley
Pauline Barnard
Margaret Shutt
Ray Williams
Chris Williams

No one joined the meeting via Zoom

Acting Minute Secretary: Joanna Williams

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from: Hugh Donald; Paul Weller; Steve Green; Pam Smith; Chris Alcock; Julie Bryan; Jenny Howland and Guy Hirst.

1 Welcome and Introduction

Chair, Revd Mary Taylor, warmly welcomed everyone and to refocus on our foundation she offered a meditation from Henri Nouwen on our unique call from God, with a passage from Matthew's Gospel reminding us of the 'upside down' kingdom of God, that we don't walk to the same tune as the voices around us, before opening the meeting with prayer.

2 Minutes of the AGM held on 18 March 2023

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2023 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. Revd Jo and Revd Andy offered a verbal summary of the written report with photographs on the TV monitor. Appreciation was expressed for the David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors which was inspiring. Mary offered thanks to Andy and Jo for all they do.

It was resolved that the report be received.

4 Annual Accounts Year Ending 30 September 2023

Rob Quarton was welcomed and invited to give his first report as Treasurer and present the Accounts. He began by giving thanks to Richard Kidd for all that he had done to make as smooth a hand over as possible.

The Accounts showed that the year ended with a small surplus of £1,296 and a balance of just over £26,000, which is about 6 months expenditure. Rob offered thanks to Steve Williams as Independent Examiner who had agreed and signed off the accounts, and which the Trustees had approved.

Comments and questions were invited.

Thanks were expressed to Rob for his report and his hard work. It was resolved that the Accounts for 2023/24 be received.

5 Appointment of Independent Examiner

Mr Stephen Williams, a retired accountant was thanked for his work and had agreed to continue to act as Independent Examiner for the Centre. Rob Quarton proposed that he be appointed and Karen Ainsworth seconded. A vote on his appointment was taken by a show of hands and was unanimously carried.

6 Election of Trustees

Robert Quarton was elected as a new Trustee to serve for 3 years and Mary Taylor and Samina Ali were re-elected as Trustees to serve for 3 years by a show of hands.

7 Chairperson's Report

Revd Mary Taylor gave her report as Chair noting the real significance of the Young Peace Ambassadors. The impact that it has had, as well as the potential. The number of people impacted by the Centre in a Kingdom way, is immense. She wanted to acknowledge the change for Jo in moving away from Smile in both the emotional and financial impact. It was a time of critical change, of crisis and opportunity to develop training in the Centre's own right, whilst continuing in partnership with other agencies. She thanked Andy and Jo, the trustees, members and Blackley Baptist Church for its support.

Mary closed with a challenge to expand membership and increase or take out standing orders and to think about friends and colleagues – Is the Centre something that they can be generous towards?

She was aware that things seem precarious, but when it has been like this in the past things have come up.

Ernie Whalley emphasised that the need was greater than ever.

It was resolved to receive the Chair's report.

8 Safeguarding Policies

Revd Andy Williams thanked Calderdale Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Alliance for reviewing our two Safeguarding Policies and recommending some updates which the trustees had adopted. It was agreed that the policies be received and Mary signed them as Chair. Thanks were expressed to Karen for agreeing to continue to be our Acting Safeguarding Trustee.

9 Looking Forward

In looking forward Andy and Jo emphasised the great opportunity of offering mediation skills training in the name of the Blackley Centre which had always been intended. There was a need for advocates for the Centre's work and they looked forward to exploring how to work with the

Baptist Regional Associations and further developing Young Peace Ambassadors. Financially, there was a challenge to secure some core funding and develop the membership and communications, alongside the re-launch of Playing with Peace Parent and Toddlers. They also looked forward to the refurbishment of the Prospect Suite entrance and toilets.

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 2025 was set for 10.00 a.m. Saturday 15 March.

With all the business concluded members and friends were thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed with prayer.

Signed

Revd Mary Taylor (Chair)

Dated