



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
3pm, Wednesday 8th November 2023
at the Bancroft Room, Lambeth Palace Library

1. Opening Prayer

Michael Beasley opened the meeting in prayer

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies are detailed in the attached appendix

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 17th November 2022 and the Special General Meeting on 26th January 2023, for approval and signature

Proposed by: Nigel Challis

Seconded by: Sarah Bailey

Approval of the minutes was passed unanimously

4. Matters Arising not otherwise on the agenda (if any)

None

5. Governing Body membership

(a) Elections: No nominations were received in accordance with Bye-law 9(b) of the Royal Charter. Biographical details of all continuing members of the Governing Body are attached for information.

(b) Re-elections: it is proposed that the following members of the Governing Body be re-elected for a further three-year term: **David Muir; Michael Beasley; Paul Burrage**

Proposed by: John Tattersall

Seconded by: Sue Parks

The re-elections were passed unanimously

(c) Co-options: the Royal Charter permits the Governing Body to co-opt up to six members of the Society or Vice-Presidents for such period as may be determined by the Governing Body. The Governing Body does not currently intend to make any co-options in 2023/4.

(d) Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship of Governing Body: Notification is given that the Governing Body has re-elected **Stephen East** as Chair and **Michael Beasley** as Vice-Chair for the forthcoming year.

6. Report on the Affairs of the Society by the Chief Executive

The Chief Executive Sam Richardson summarised the affairs of the Society for the previous year.

- **There have been positive changes behind the scenes**
 - We have a new office at The Record Hall in Farringdon, with a good location and facilities including an onsite café and workspaces. The costs are considerably cheaper than our old office, but has less square footage.
 - Distribution has been consolidated with Wiley, and all our UK distribution is now under one roof integrating print on demand and no small order surcharge. We do get paid later than previously.
- **We have had some great new titles and awards**
 - New titles in Children include The Lion First Bible, All You Need (Katie Piper) and My Letter From God
 - New titles in IVP include The Best of Friends (Phil Knox), Finding Your Best Identity (Andrew Bunt) and Human (Ros Clarke)
 - New titles in SPCK include Blown Away (Pastor Mick Fleming), Through Thick and Thin (Rosemary Conley), God in Number 10 (Mark Vickers) and A Century of Poetry (Rowan Williams)
 - The Bread of Life continues with positive reviews
 - Shortlisted for Independent Publisher of the Year at 2022 British Book Awards
 - Mark Read shortlisted for Designer of the Year at the 2022 British Book Awards
 - God and Creation Care (John Stott) shortlisted in the 2022 British Book Design and Production Awards
 - The Bible Book by Book (Chris Rogers) Bible Book of the Year 2022
- **Disappointing sales overall impacted financial results**
 - Our second ever highest year of income
 - Publishing loss narrowed but still much too high at £976,000
 - Overall, income exceeded expenditure for the seventh successive year
 - Investment losses drove an overall reduction in funds of £1.4m
 - We end the year below our reserves policy
- **An exciting year ahead**
 - Publishing highlights include How To Talk About Jesus Without Looking Like An Idiot (Andy Bannister), Transforming Friendship (John Wyatt), Consider Him (Catherine Campbell), Against All Odds (Ellie Goldstein), Into The Heart of Romans (Tom Wright), How To Be (Un) Successful (Pete Portal), Majesty (Richard Harries), Sunday (Edward Stourton), Stick With Love (Arun Arora), Tarry Awhile (Selina Stone), God's Promises for Everyone (Shell Perris), What's Up (Joanna Adeyinka-Burford)
 - ESV Catholic edition becomes the Bible used in Catholic liturgy from Advent 2024
 - New US distribution arrangement from summer 2024
 - Around the world there are growing numbers of Christians (35% growth 2010-2050), growing literacy and a growing number of people who can afford books.
- **Member support is more important than ever**
 - Donations have helped keep the Prison Fiction, Home Groups and Assemblies projects running
 - Legacies make a difference

7. Questions and responses

There were no questions following the report

8. Adoption of the Accounts for 2022-23

Proposed by: Sarah Bailey

Seconded by: John Tattersall

The accounts were adopted unanimously

9. Re-appointment of Jacob Cavenagh and Skeet as Auditors

Proposed by: Michael Beasley

Seconded by: Nigel Challis

The auditors were re-appointed unanimously

10. Any other Business

There was no other business

11. Date of next Annual General Meeting

To be advised, but in December 2024 alongside a carol service