

Annual General Meeting 2016

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Amesbury Baptist Church on 2 November 2016

PRESENT: 92 Delegates and 32 Visitors from SCBA churches and organisations
5 Staff and 5 Trustees from SCBA

- 1. Opening Devotions:** The Regional Team Leader, The Revd Grenville Overton welcomed everyone to the meeting and spoke of his excitement about the work that the European Baptist Federation is involved in at present, particularly with regard to the situation in war torn Syria. He urged those present that we, like the EBF, should want to be in the place (spiritually) where we should be.
- 2. Welcome and introductory remarks:** The moderator, Geoff Coop, formally opened the meeting, welcoming everybody and thanking them for their support during his time as Moderator. Geoff also thanked the Regional Ministry team and the support staff on behalf of the association. He then read from Ephesians chapter 1 and prayed for the ongoing work of Southern Counties at this, his last meeting as Moderator.

At this point in the meeting Geoff asked all voting delegates to complete their voting slips and said that the trustees wished to commend Mike Mortimer as their candidate to be the new Moderator. The Revd Matthew Scott and Mrs Anne Lane were appointed as scrutineers.

- 3. Apologies for absence:** 18 apologies had been received.
- 4. Minutes:** The minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting, held on 3 November 2015, had been circulated. These were accepted as a correct record.
- 5. Election of the Moderator:** The election of Mike Mortimer as the new Moderator of the trustees of the Southern Counties Baptist Association was overwhelmingly approved. Geoff Coop formally welcomed Mike to his new role.
- 6. Annual Report of the Directors/Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2015:** Geoff Coop explained that the Association Treasurer, John Greenwood, was attending a national meeting of the treasurers of the BUGB associations; a meeting that, for a variety of reasons, had to take precedence over the Southern Counties AGM. If there were questions about the accounts, which were included in the delegates' pack, John would be happy to respond to these individually by email.

Geoff Coop expressed his thanks to John Greenwood for all his hard work on behalf of the Association.

7. Application to join the Association: Wantage Christian Fellowship was formally welcomed into membership of the Southern Counties Baptist Association. The Revd Grenville Overton prayed for the church.

8. Other matters:

8.1 Trustees: It was reported that this year there were no new nominations for the position of Trustee. Delegates were invited to prayerfully consider if there were suitable people within their fellowships who might be willing to serve the Association in this way.

Geoff Coop explained that there are a number of sub committees, each of which is headed up by a trustee, and onto which others with relevant experience could be co-opted. The five sub-committees are:

Staff, Finance & Admin
Leadership & Ministerial Development
Children, Young People & Families
Mission Enabling
Safeguarding

People with specialist knowledge in particular areas are always sought after and the Association is very keen to recruit suitable candidates to serve the Association both through these committees and in other capacities.

8.2 Church of the Year 2016: Shinfield Baptist Church has been this year's Church of the Year. The minister of Shinfield, The Revd Nathan Hunt, conveyed his huge thanks to the Association for all the support the church had received this year.

8.3 Church of the Year 2017: The question was raised as to why no announcement had been made about the Church of the Year for next year. Delegates were encouraged to offer nominations for consideration.

8.4 Official thanks to Geoff Coop: The Revd Grenville Overton expressed his gratitude to God for the way in which Geoff had served the Association, and for the working relationship he and Geoff had enjoyed over the past six years. Grenville commended Geoff as a man of integrity and great wisdom whose gifts and leadership skills have been so very much appreciated. The gift of a bible was made to Geoff and prayers offered for Geoff and his wife for the future.

Grenville also took the opportunity to express his gratitude to God for the way in which the search for a new Moderator had come about and voiced his certainty that Mike Mortimer is the person to take on this role. He thanked Mike for making himself available and prayed for him as he takes on this role .

The AGM finished in worship and prayer.