

Annual General Meeting 2015

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Amesbury Baptist Church on 3rd November 2015.

PRESENT: 91 Delegates and 20 Visitors from SCBA Churches & Organisations
11 Staff and Trustees from SCBA

1. **Opening Devotions:** The moderator, Geoff Coop, opened the meeting, welcoming everybody and thanking them for their support. Geoff also thanked the Regional Ministry team and the support staff on behalf of the association.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting, held on 6th November 2014 had been circulated. These were accepted as a correct record.
3. **Apologies for Absence:** 21 apologies were received.
4. **Election of Members of the Steering & Strategy Group (Council):** Keith Hawton and Mike Mortimer were appointed as scrutineers. Nominations had been received for Joth Hunt (Eastleigh) and Nigel Cox (Ventnor) to serve on the Steering and Strategy Group. Joth and Nigel were both elected to serve for a term of three years.
5. **Finance:** John Greenwood (Association Treasurer) presented an overview of the SCBA finances for 2014. A summary report had been circulated at the AGM which is also attached to the minutes and a full set of the accounts is available from the SCBA website. During the presentation the following points were noted:
 - a) The finances of SCBA belong to our churches and the members of our association.
 - b) In 2014 our assets improved by just under 1%.
 - c) During the year, there was £393,000 in expenditure and £403,000 in income, resulting in a net surplus of £10,662.
 - d) Investment returns have gone down 34% during 2014.
 - e) Home Mission grants for churches/chaplaincies are now regarded as money that belongs to the association. With regard to this:
 - During 2014, £144,000 was received, of which £120,000 was spent in grants.
 - The balance was carried forward into 2015.
 - Home Mission giving from SCBA churches does go to other associations who receive less from their churches.
 - f) In 2014, £124,000 was designated to establish a Pioneer Mission fund, of which £11,000 has been given out in two grants.
 - g) The Church of the Year gifts totalled £8,800 to Freemantle Baptist Church (2013-14) and £12,000 to Wolvercote Baptist Church (2014-15). The Church of the Year for 2015-16 is Shinfield Baptist Church.
 - h) Following the closure of Shipston on Stour Baptist Church, £19,000 was received which was set up in a trust fund. This is now being returned to Stour Valley Baptist Church (in Shipston on Stour) to fund their new building and now totals £28,000.

- i) £690,000 is currently set aside for loans to churches. Currently, there is £446,000 being used.
- j) According to BU, SCBA churches gave £412,507 in Home Mission giving, though in reality this is closer to £417,000. Currently in 2015 the SCBA churches have given £273,000 so far, which is roughly £17,000 behind this point last year.

Geoff Coop expressed his thanks to John Greenwood for all his hard work.

6. **Regional Ministry Team Report:** This section of the AGM was presented by the Regional Ministry Team and included:
- a) **Witney Baptist Church** – Geoff Coop welcomed Witney Baptist Church into membership with SCBA and presented a certificate to their minister, Nick Harris.
 - b) **Children, Young People and Families** – Jacky Storey presented a background to her work in this area, including the ‘Enable Schools Work’ course and ‘The Changing Face of Ministry’.
 - c) **A Year in the Life** – Amy Allen presented a ‘snapshot’ of A Year in the Life of our Association.
 - d) **Pioneer Mission** – Ali Boulton presented a slideshow of photos taken during the BU Presidential Tour of Jenni Entrican to a selection of churches in our association who are doing church ‘a little differently’, including ‘The Meeting Place’ at Westbourne and ‘The Allotment’ at Fleet Meadow Baptist Church.
 - e) **Our Vision** – Grenville Overton emphasised the vision for our Union: ‘Growing healthy churches in relationship for God’s mission’, and how we develop this culture.

Colin Norris concluded this section in prayer.

7. **Any Other Business** – no items were raised.

The AGM finished in worship and prayer.

Southern Counties Baptist Association

Treasurer's Report on 2014 Accounts to Annual General meeting.

The annual accounts were audited by Wilkins Kennedy LLP and a full set can be found on the Charity Commission's website or in the 'Downloads' page of the SCBA website. I have identified the essential data from the accounts below and I will be happy to answer questions in advance by email or on the day.

- 1 During 2014 the total Funds increased by £15,438 including gains in assets to £1,598,129.
- 2 The total resources expended were £393,149 compared to total incoming resources of £403,771 giving a net surplus of £10,662 compared to a loss of £52,328 in 2014.
- 3 In keeping with the national investment markets and bank interest income from investment was down by 34% to £6,931.
- 4 The national BU grant towards the operation of the association for 2014 was £126,203.
- 5 For the first time the BU Home Mission grants allocation is credited to associations as unrestricted General Income therefore this increased our income for the year by £144,000 of which £120,110 was given as grants to 17 churches, chaplaincies or mission projects. The balance was carried forward to 2015.
- 6 £87,020 was received from the closure of redundant churches, Broughton BC and Mottisfont BC.
- 7 £124,000 was moved from General Funds to create a Designated Pioneer Mission Fund of which £4,000 was a gift from the Newington Court Fund of the Baptist Union designated for association Mission activities.
- 8 The Church of the Year gifts during the year from churches in the SCBA amounted to £8,805. Up to 30th June it was for Freemantle BC and thereafter for Wolvercote BC.
- 9 The Shipston on Stour Restricted Funds were closed for the £28,129 to be transferred to the successor church, Stour Valley BC, for use to purchase land for a church building.
- 10 Loans to churches for buildings total £446,650 of which £190,000 was made during 2014.
- 11 Total income raised by our churches for the National Home Mission Appeal in 2014 was £412,507 as recorded in BU accounts.

Edward John Greenwood, October 2015.

Association Treasurer

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