

# **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2009**

**Ruiton Congregational Church  
Saturday 2nd May 2009**

## **Welcome**

The welcome and opening greetings were given by Rev. Neil Stewart, EFCC Committee Chairman.

## **Opening Devotional Address**

Rev. Victor Neill, Minister Bangor Congregational Church, gave the opening devotional address from Matthew ch 5.

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2008**

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 2nd and 3rd May 2008 at Libanus Congregational Church were proposed by Rev. Peter Beale (Bulkington Congregational Church), seconded by Rev. David Williams (Cannon Park Congregational Church, Middlesbrough) and agreed.

## **General Secretary's Report**

This report was given by Rev. Mike Plant, EFCC General Secretary.

Rev. Mike Plant thanked Rev. Neil Stewart for his support during the year as chairman of the Committee.

Rev. Plant shared that he is conscious of the need for time allocation particular in relation to the time he spends on Committees. Encouraged how the gospel is shared through Independent churches, shared that he sees his role to support and encourage these churches. As churches pass through difficult times it makes a big difference to have encouragement/support/relationship from outside. Encouraged churches to have closer relations.

Rev. Plant thanked Rev. Peter Beale for his help and support with the Model Constitution.

Rev. Plant referred to his report, one of the highlights of the year was the WECF Conference in Velingrad, also shared with the meeting some of the church situations including the situation in N. Ireland. It was joy to be involved with Leigh-on-Sea with the opening of the new church building.

Rev. Plant thanked Rev. Neville Rees as he retires from his service to the Lord through his involvement with EFCC.

Prayer support was requested for the forthcoming General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

## **Trust Corporation Report**

The report was given by Rev. Gwynne Evans (Chairman).

It was noted that Mr Andrew Lord has had to resign from the Trust Board on health grounds but will still be involved in sub-committees.

Rev. Evans reported that there are financial concerns due to the market conditions.

Leigh-on-Sea, Rev. Evans shared how remarkable it was to be involved in opening a new church building. It was shared with the meeting that the Trust Board are in the process of buying a house in Leigh-on-Sea.

Rev. Evans highlighted for prayer the fellowship at Woolwich, still involved in a building project and are currently having to meet in a school.

Rev. Evans referred to the Retired Ministers' Housing Payments, gifts have reduced over the years due to an increase in those receiving the gift – indebted to those who have left legacies.

Rev. Evans shared the need for a Trustee with legal experience.

## **Regional Secretaries' Reports**

Report given by Rev. Cyril Aston (Southern England and South Wales), sharing particular prayer support required for a number of people with health issues. Prayer followed.

Rev. Bob Cotton (South-East England, East Anglia and London) sent his apologies, unable to be with us as he was in Kenya on behalf of MERF.

Rev. Mike Plant (Northern England, Midlands and North Wales and Northern Ireland) reported in his General Secretaries report.

Thanks were recorded to Anthony Harrison and John Glover for their work in the office.

## **Financial Report 2008**

The chairman introduced Mr Jeremy Allison (Smailes Goldie – Auditors for EFCC) to the meeting.

Mr Allison went through the accounts for 2008, also covering the on-going work he is doing to restructure to release the restricted funds and also in moving funds from the General Purpose account to the Trust Corporation account

A number of queries were raised and generally were dealt with.

Praise God for the resources that we have.

It was proposed by Dr Digby James (Quinta Independent Evangelical Church, Weston Rhyn) seconded by Rev. Stanley Haskew (Canewdon Congregational Church) that the accounts should be accepted. The meeting agreed.

## **Appointment of Auditors**

It was proposed by Mr Steve Webster (Bulford Chapel), seconded by Rev. Bill Calder (St John's Congregational Church, Thornton Heath) that Smailes Goldie should be re-appointed as auditors for the forthcoming year.

## **Welcome of New Ministers**

No one present to be welcomed.

Noted that the new Ministers are Revs G Hanson (Sawbridgeworth Evangelical Congregational Church), Rev. P Sutton (Westerham Evangelical Congregational Church), Rev. P MacKenzie (Bulkington Congregational Church), and Rev. M Ladds (West Cliff Congregational Church, Whitby).

## **Ministerial Training**

The report was given by Rev. Bill Dyer (Training Officer)

EFCC have set up a support group – Revs Bill Dyer/Mike Plant/Peter Robinson/Neil Stewart.

Rev. Dyer shared that he is contacting Bible Colleges to make them aware of EFCC and the training initiative.

Encouraged the churches to be prayerfully involved, praying that the Lord of the Harvest would raise up men who love the Lord, love the Word, love the Gospel, to be active in identifying/developing potential leaders who may be called to the ministry or to serve overseas. Encouraged local churches to meet, to be involved in Rallies, to promote fellowship and cooperation and means for training and evangelism, partners together in calling a Minister.

Rev. Dyer shared that the members of the Training Board are available to the churches or to meet with men who sense a call.

## **Congregational Concern Report**

As presented by Rev. Peter Beale, Editor of *Congregational Concern in the Report Book*.

## **Prayer Concern Report**

This report was presented by Rev. Andrew Leach, Editor of *Prayer Concern*.

Rev. Leach gave a word of thanks to the fellowship for their support in supplying prayer needs and encouraged more churches to be involved in this, thanks also to Mr Russell Taylor for his work and support.

## **Missionary Advisory Council Report**

This report was presented by Rev. Peter Taylor, *M.A.C. Chairman*

Rev. Taylor shared that it was encouraging to hear what is happening overseas, he encouraged the fellowship to make use of the M.A.C. Prayer booklet.

Albania responsibility – looking for someone to take over from Ray Nye.

Rev. Taylor informed that meeting that Jay Smith, works with Muslims, will be speaking at the Ministers' Prayer Conference.

## **World Evangelical Congregational Fellowship Report**

This report was given by Rev. David Saunders, WECF Member-at-Large.

Rev. Saunders gave an overview on the work taking place.

Updates given on Brazil, India, Macedonia, Micronesia.

The dates for the Triennial Conference due to take place in Brazil in 2010 not finalised.

Rev. Saunders, as he closed, encouraged us to keep on praying.

### **Church Reports**

The reports were introduced by Rev. Mike Plant

**Rev. Bill Harrow, Marden Congregational Church** – shared about the work with Gypsies, school work in conjunction with the local Anglican Church at lunchtimes and assemblies. He is getting known within the village. Starting a meeting on a Friday.

Focused on the need for prayer support.

**Rev. Chris McKinven, Dagenham Congregational Church** – small church with some growth, Praise God.

Focusing on praying as a church, developing prayer partners, preparation and connecting with non-church people.

**Mr Steve Webster, Bulford Chapel** – prayer support requested as the church looks to appoint a Minister and also for the youth club work.

**Mr John Thornton, Old Hall/Crescent Road Congregational Churches, Dukinfield** - challenging times amalgamating two churches into one and requested prayer support as to the way forward with the amalgamation.

**Mr Ken Foot, Keswick Congregational Church** – small fellowship with a number of visitors particularly during the summer. Opportunities for individuals to witness in the town.

Prayer followed.

### **Greetings from Visitors/ Greetings from EFCC Churches and Associated Organisations**

Greetings received from The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (Rev. R Underwood), WECF (Rev. B Jones), CCCC, USA (Rev. S Gammon), FCC, Australia (Rev. A Best).

Rev. Victor Neill brought greetings from the Congregational Union of Ireland and reported that 26 churches are affiliated (24 N. Ireland, 2 Irish Republic).

### ***Committee Election Results***

Rev. Neil Stewart informed the meeting of the results of the Committee Election. Those elected to the Committee were: Rev. Gwynne Evans (Hayes Town Chapel), Dr Digby James (Quinta Independent Evangelical Church, Weston Rhyn), Rev. Andrew Leach (Rochford Congregational Church) and Rev. Peter Robinson (Honiton Congregational Church).

Prayer followed.

## **Welcome of new Committee Chairman**

Rev. David Williams (Cannon Park Congregational Church, Middlesbrough) was formally welcomed as the new Committee Chairman by Rev. Neil Stewart (Latimer Memorial Congregational Church, Beverley), retiring Chairman.

Rev. Neil Stewart thanked the fellowship for their support over the past three years.

Rev. Neville Rees prayed as Rev. David Williams took over the role as chairman.

## **Closing Devotional Address**

Rev. David Williams (Cannon Park Congregational Church, Middlesbrough) gave the closing devotional address from Colossians ch 1.

***Please note that full copies of the reports given can be found in the 2009 Annual General Meeting Report Book which was sent to all ministers and churches within the Fellowship.***