

CEUC General Assembly Thursday 8th of June 2017, Kings College, University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Minutes of the 2017 CEUC General Assembly.

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair of the CEUC Board (Anette Brandt) welcomed members of the Assembly and introduced the members of the 2016-17 Board.

The Agenda was approved.

Jasja Nottelman informed the Assembly of the death of Elisabeth Fricker, a member of CEUC who had been serving the chaplaincy in Eindhoven. The Assembly expressed its sympathy to her family and colleagues and observed a time of silent remembrance.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous general assembly

The minutes of the General Assembly held in Bendigo, Australia on 14 July, 2016 were presented and APPROVED as correct.

3. Election of Minute Secretary of the General Assembly

Anette Brandt proposed Allan Smith to act as minute Secretary for the General Assembly. This was AGREED.

4. Election of ballot-counters

Petra Kai Kormendy and Philip McKinly were appointed as Ballot Counters.

5. Election of Chair of the General Assembly

Anette Brandt proposed Karin Borg as Chair of the General Assembly. This was AGREED.

6. Approval of the report by the Chair of the Board

Anette Brand presented her report as Chair of the Board.

6.1. Membership of the Board

The 2016-17 Board has consisted of:

Anette Brandt, Sweden – Chair

Andrew Willson, United Kingdom – Vice Chair

Günther Sturms, Netherlands – Secretary

Risto Korhonen, Finland – Treasurer

Janning Hoenen, Germany – member

Inge Hoyland, Norway – member

Dániel Püski, Hungary – member

6.2. Board Meetings

The Board met, using Skype, on 7 occasions during the year and in person over two days in Aberdeen in November 2016. The Board has begun working in small groups, each of which has prepared papers for discussion at Board meetings.

6.3. Finance

CEUC currently uses the facilities of the National Association of University Chaplains in Finland, with a separate account. The Finnish association has kindly agreed to keep this solution within their system, as long as necessary.

6.4. Facebook Group

The CEUC Facebook group has 225 members (5 June 2017). It is a place for sharing information about our conferences but also about events and concerns at our local chaplaincies.

6.5. IACHE

The International Association for Chaplains in Higher Education' is our global association. . The IACHE-board has announced that the next global IACHE-conference will be organized in the UK in June 2020. Likely venues include Sheffield and Liverpool Hope. Jeremy Clines is the leading co-ordinator.

The report was APPROVED.

7. Financial Report

The Financial Report for 2016-17 was presented by Risto Korhonen, the CEUC Treasurer. The financial year is from 1 May to 30 April. There was a net surplus for the year 2733.91€ resulting in a closing balance of 10175.48€.

The Auditors, Renske Oldenboom and Markus Anker, along with Ari Savuoja were invited to comment on the Financial situation and confirmed that we are in good financial state.

The report was APPROVED.

8. 2017-18 Budget

The Treasurer presented the budget for 2017-18. This included a budget deficit of 695€. The Budget was APPROVED.

9. Proposals and discussions from the Board

9.1. Interfaith

Andrew Wilson introduced the discussion, noting that the question of whether CEUC should become an interfaith organisation has been raised over a number of years, and at the 2016 AGM the Board was asked to consider such a move. Andrew noted that our oral tradition is strong that members of all faiths/philosophical traditions are welcome – this would formalize the tradition. Members were invited to consider the questions raised in the discussion paper with their neighbour and indicate their thoughts, using post-it notes provided, for the Board to consider as they take the matter further.

A number of questions and concerns were raised from the floor. David Hutchison asked for clarification on the question we were being asked – was it on becoming an interfaith organization or on becoming a more constitutionally open organisation. Hanne Dahl raised a question on whether the Board clear on what it wants, which was echoed by another member who observed that he was finding it hard to write down a comment without having idea of where this is going. Another speaker noted that the drive towards becoming an interfaith organisation seemed to primarily reflect the situation in the UK and wondered whether this was representative of the situation in the rest of Europe. A further concern was raised regarding which model we would use, for example would we be an interfaith or multi faith organisation?

On behalf of the Board Anette Brandt indicated that this was a consultative process and one of the important aspects was to discern whether there was support for the proposal and in what direction the membership felt it was appropriate to move.

9.2. Constitution

Janning Hoenen introduced a discussion on possible changes to the constitution. Sally Rush suggested that many of the changes in the constitution were dependent on a decision regarding becoming a multi faith organisation and so should be delayed. In response to other concerns, Anette Brandt, on behalf of the Board confirmed that we currently only discussing changes, and none were proposed for this Assembly. The Board indicated that they will seek to find way of discussing the issues electronically before the next conference.

10. Proposals received

10.1. CEUC 2018

The Board commended the proposal to hold the 2018 conference in Dublin from 4th to 8th June, 2018 and invited Scott Evans to make a presentation to Assembly. Scott responded by giving an outline of the proposal. It is planned to use a number of venues across and around Dublin with a theme exploring the question of how can the faith of our past shape the faith of our future. The accommodation for the conference will be in University College Dublin, and excursions will include the Jamieson Distillery. One of the areas to be explored will be, of course, Celtic spirituality. The conference website is planned to be ready for September.

10.2. CEUC 2019

Janning Hoenen was invited to present the proposal for the 2019 conference. It is proposed to hold the conference in Neuendettelsau, Nuremburg in Germany from 3rd to 7th June, 2019.

11. Presentation of the Board

Following the meeting of the Regional Groups the members of the CEUC Board for 2017-18 would be:

UK & Ireland – David Hutchison

Netherlands & Belgium – Gunter Sturms

Germany & Austria – Janning Hoenen

Denmark, Norway & Iceland – Inge Hoyland

Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – Anette Brandt

Hungary - tbc

12. Membership dues for the next financial year

Risto Korhonen proposed continuing the CEUC membership fee at 30€ per annum, this was AGREED.

13. Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Board

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, proposed that Anette Brandt be re-elected as Chair of the Board, and David Hutchison elected as Vice Chair of the Board. This was AGREED.

14. Election of auditors

The Chair proposed Renske Oldenboom and Markus Anker be re-appointed as auditors. This was AGREED.

15. Other business

Dániel Püski noted that this was his last conference and gave thanks for the support he has received through CEUC during his membership.

Anette Brandt, on behalf of the Assembly, gave thanks to those stepping down from the board.

Günther Sturms noted that the Global Conference will be held in the UK in 2020, and that IACHE is looking for members of a local organising committee.

Karin Borg, as Chair of the General Assembly thanked the members of the Board for their work

The meeting closed at 15:21