



Annual General Meeting 2013

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Newbury Baptist Church on 5th November 2013.

PRESENT: 59 Delegates from SCBA Churches

APOLOGIES for ABSENCE: 9 apologies were received.

1. **Opening Devotions:** The moderator, Geoff Coop, opened the meeting with devotions from 2 Corinthians 4.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting, held on 27th November 2012, had been circulated and were accepted as a correct record.
3. **Farewell to Lynn Green:** Grenville Overton made a presentation to Lynn Green to thank her for her services to SCBA and to offer prayerful best wishes in her new role as General Secretary at BUGB. A further presentation of a collection from the SCBA churches would be made at the Ministers' Conference in 2014.
4. **Election of Members of the Steering & Strategy Group (Council):** Revd Keith Hawton and Frank Boyd were appointed as scrutineers. Nominations had been received for Geoff Coop to serve as Moderator and Rev James Neve (Thornhill) and Andrew North (Kidlington) to serve on the Steering and Strategy Group. All were elected to serve for a term of three years.

The moderator expressed his thanks to Melvina Fawcett, Ray Coates, Jenny Elliott and Robin Urwin who had come to the end of their terms of office, as well as Keith Hawton who had retired from SCBA in December 2012. Amy Allen was introduced as the new Administration Manager for SCBA.

The moderator asked all churches to remember Angela Baker and her husband in their prayers following his concerning recent diagnosis.

5. **Finance:** John Greenwood (Association (Assoc.) Treasurer) presented an overview of the SCBA finances for 2012. 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 Charity Commission website or from the SCBA office. During the presentation the following points were noted:
 - a) The restricted funds and designated funds are a relatively small part of our funds. As an Assoc. we are fortunate to have these reserves, mainly due to us not owning any property. We have also received funds from the sale of redundant churches in 2012.

- b) The income resources in 2013 will change due to the reduction of funding from BUGB.
- c) Expenditure – very little of the total expenditure was for governance costs. The majority was for charitable activities fulfilling the role SCBA are called to do on our churches behalf.
- d) In auditing the expenses of the Regional Ministry Team, it is good to note the number of meetings and consultations which they have carried out in the year.
- e) If there is someone in an SCBA church who wishes to study and the church does not have the capacity to help, please write to the treasurer.
- f) There is a loan fund in excess of £400,000 for churches and church activities and this is a way for the Assoc.'s resources to support churches.
- g) Home Mission Giving – Up to 31/10/13, HM has received £293,200 which is 88% of the target to date. The target for this year is £400,000. Despite this a big thank you to all churches in this difficult financial climate. SCBA would like to ask for you to go back to your church and see if it can make an additional one-off payment to Home Mission (or perhaps through a special event like a coffee morning).
- h) Church of the Year - Freemantle Baptist Church in Southampton has been designated by the SSG for the Church of the Year appeal. £2,600 has already been donated. Please send any further donations to the SCBA Treasurer.

Thanks were expressed from Clive Burnard from Thin Place, Andover to Joth Hunt and Emma Leggett for their HM visit and the generosity of the Assoc. towards mission.

6. **Report from the Regional Minister Team Leader:** Thanks were expressed by Geoff Coop to the Regional Ministry Team for the work that they do within the Assoc.

Grenville Overton introduced Laura Gill from BMS, Mission Resources Co-ordinator in her new role connected to the Assoc.

He then made a verbal report on the work and the future of the Assoc. Thanks were expressed to the trustees and in particular thanks were expressed to Geoff and for his wisdom. Thanks were also expressed to Amy Allen and Keith Hawton.

When going through the changes at BUGB it was decided that the Assoc.s would be encouraged to work together in Partnerships (*P'ship*). SCBA has partnered with SWEBA, WEBA and South Wales (which is hoping for all of Baptists in Wales to come together but will be working with these Assoc. in meantime). What is the benefit of working in a P'ship?

- working towards a mutual accountability
- learning from each other.

The allocation of Home Mission money will ultimately be decided by the P'ships.

We will also be seeking to do Ministerial Recognition in a different way. Instead of an MR in each Assoc. there will be a P'ship MR. If you have questions about this, especially if you have candidates thinking of applying please contact one of the members of the Regional Team.

Grenville spoke about the cultural climate in which we live. What we say has to be cutting edge and meeting the 'people on the street'. It has to be appropriate but edgy. We do need to have something to say which is deeply spiritual and relevant to life today. The 'climate' is going to change the way we behave and how we live. The gospel is powerful in word and deed. We are a fellowship of people who are seeking what is right as God leads us on. The culture in which we operate is changing which means that we have to change as well. There is clearly pastoral work to be done to maintain churches but on a wider level.

Where do we go from here? SCBA decided when Lynn Green left not to employ immediately a new Regional Minister in her place. Rather, it was decided to take time to pray and reflect. There is the financial issue that we are losing money from BUGB so it would be good to hold some money in reserve. If we want to go for another RM, should this appointment be a pastoral appointment? You cannot be pastoral without being missional and you cannot be missional without be pastoral. There is no end of pastoral issues and these can be difficult. However, in this changing climate, perhaps what we need to do is to make an investment in a missional appointment as new start with new ideas.

Suggestions were then welcomed from the floor:

- Clive Burnard, Andover, would support a missional appointment to inspire and break new ground. If we keep doing what we've always done we'll keep getting what we've always had.
- James Grote, John Bunyan, Oxford – Community development workers are needed to work within their communities, which require people who can enable churches in this task.
- David Taylor, Thatcham – The more we can cluster together as pastors and churches the less likely there is a need for a pastoral RM.

Grenville asked for any further emails and comments from other people regarding this subject to be sent to him. These will be discussed at the SSG on 20th November 2013.

The moderator closed the meeting with the Grace at 3.15