

**Draft Minutes of the twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Church in India
held on Saturday 6th October 2018 at Indian YMCA, Fitzroy Square, London**

The twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Church in India was held at 2.00pm on Saturday 6th October 2018 at YMCA Indian Student Hostel, 41 Fitzroy Square, London, with approximately 50 members of FCI attending and eligible to vote.

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Revd Jessie Anand, welcomed everyone. The Secretary informed that apologies were received from: Margaret Baker, Bishop Jeremy Ashton, Geoffrey Barraclough, Alistair Cutting, Margaret Addicott, Eleanor Jackson, Margaret Marshall and Mark Woodrow. Betty Robinson brought greetings from the Fellowship of St Thomas.

2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017

These were approved as recommended by the Management Committee and signed by the Chair.

3 The Report of the Secretary

Revd Adrian Watkins presented his report for 2017 which incorporated an update from the Membership Secretary ([attached to these Minutes](#)). The Chair thanked the Secretary for his report.

4. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Audited Accounts and Independent Examiner's Report for 2017 were distributed to the members. The Secretary made one or two observations on behalf of the Treasurer and noted that the overall financial position is stable and that the excess of expenditure over income can be attributed to the additional costs for the FCI Silver Jubilee Celebration. Daleep Mukarji proposed that the Accounts be accepted, and the members all approved. The Chair expressed appreciation of the Treasurer for producing this clear statement of accounts.

5. Subscriptions.

The Secretary informed the members that the management committee has proposed that subscriptions increase from January 2019 as follows: Individual subscription from £12 to £15; Couple subscription from £18 to £20; Corporate subscription from £30 to £35. It was noted that there had not been an increase for some years that production of Pilgrim is a major cost that is increasingly difficult to cover. Following some discussion, Martin Heath proposed that the proposed increase be accepted and this was approved by the members present with one abstention.

6. Elections to the Committee of Management.

- a. **Election of the Chair.** The current chair has completed two terms as chair at this AGM. The committee at its last meeting nominated Revd Adrian Watkins to be the new Chair. Since no other nominations had been received Revd Adrian Watkins was duly elected to serve as Chair.
- b. **Election of Secretary.** Due to the current Secretary having been elected as Chair, a vacancy arose for the post of Secretary. The management committee at its last meeting nominated

Mrs Margaret Marshall to this post and she has accepted the nomination. Since no other nominations had been received Mrs Margaret Marshall was duly elected to serve as Secretary.

- c. **Election of Treasurer.** Revd Mark Woodrow had recently informed that due to additional responsibilities in his diocese he is now unable to stand for a second term. A nomination has been received. Revd Sekar Anand, Revd Chellaian Lawrence and Mrs Malar Lawrence have nominated Revd Jessie Anand for this post. Since no other nominations have been received Revd Jessie Anand was duly elected to serve as Treasurer.
- d. **Election of two FCI Member Representatives.** Nominations have been received for the two FCI member representative vacancies. Mr Manoharan Samraj (a.k.a. Athsar Jacob) was nominated by Mr Jerciline Sunder, Mrs Kiruba Jerciline and Mrs Sutha Manoharan. Mr Sumanth Bommarthu was nominated by Revd Sekar Anand, Mrs Denita Anand and Canon Chrispal Anand. There being no other nominations received Mrs Manoharan Samraj and Mr Sumanth Bommarthi were duly elected to the management committee.

7. **Remarks from the Chair**

Revd Jessie Anand thanked the Committee of Management and FCI members for their support over the two terms she has served as chair. She especially thanked the various office-bearers she has worked closely with over many years. She observed there has been an improving relationship with the Indian churches in recent years and she also noted the development of wider friendships, as for example, through participation in the South Asian ecumenical forum meetings and the 2014 Living Partnership Day. Jessie also shared her desire for FCI to engage more effectively in the areas of education, prayer, partnership and ecumenical dialogue.

8 **Date and Venue of 2019 AGM**

This will be held on Saturday 5th October 2019 at the YMCA Indian Student Hostel, Fitzroy Square, London.

9. **Any Other Business**

- a. Israel Selvanayagam suggested that the FCI Constitution be revisited especially with a view to making more explicit the need to share the Indian church experience of organic unity in the West.
 - b. Andrew Wingate raised the question of how FCI can maintain and develop European links and Julie Lipp-Nathaniel noted the wider European connections in the origin of FCI.
 - c. The new chair said that both the above matters can be taken on the Agenda of the FCI management committee.
10. **Close.** The meeting closed at 2.30pm.

Adrian Watkins
25th October 2018