

The Governance Board Meeting 014: 20th December 2022 on Teams

MINUTES

Present:	Apologies
Mr Tony O'Connor (Chair)	Rev David Nixon
General Secretary: Rev Dr Heather Morris (Convener)	Mr Tom Millar
Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu	Ms Laura Griffith
Rev David Turtle	Rev Harold Agnew
Rev David Campton	
Mr Tom Wilson	
Rev Nigel Mackey	
Mr David Best	
Mr John Clarke	
Mr Paul Cummings	
Ms Gillian Kingston	

In attendance: Ms Clíodhna Smyth (Secretary to the Board)
In attendance via Teams to present particular items of business: Ms Nicola Robinson (Head of Finance)

1. Welcome and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

As this is not a regular meeting, the minutes of the previous Board meeting do not apply, and the agenda consists of only one item.

3. Conflicts of Interest

None

4. Signoff of the MCI 2021 accounts

The Audit and Assurance Sub-Committee (AAC) approved the MCI accounts on 14th December and are happy to recommend that they are signed off.

The 2021 MCI accounts and a summary report were presented to the Board by the Head of Finance N Robinson and were approved by the Governance Board, given that a number of minor changes were required to the narrative portion of the accounts.

The President and the General Secretary will now sign off on the 2021 accounts – to be confirmed.

It was noted that

- The Methodist Church in Ireland is in a good financial position.
- The process of gathering financial information is to be investigated to see if there are areas for improvement, as the timeliness of some of the financial reporting needs addressing – **Action D Best**
- The new financial system is working and although some treasurers are still struggling they are in a minority, and training is ongoing.
- Moving bank accounts from Ulster Bank is a complex and lengthy process.
- There were no areas for concern however, it was expressed that some of the summary report did not reflect the up-to-date situation with regards to Trustees.

5. Auditors Report

The auditors Ernst & Young made observations relating to the lack of resources in the administrative and support areas in comparison to other organisations of a similar size and complexity. They were very complimentary regarding the co-operation of the Society and Circuit treasurers as well as that of Ms

Robinson and her team. A management report is due from them to be presented to the Governance Board in early 2023.

6. In closing Mr Tony O'Connor congratulated both Mr Best and Ms Robinson and their teams for the enormous amount of work they had put in, in order to get the 2021 accounts ready for sign-off by end 2022.

Tony O'Connor, Chair
20th December 2022