

Registered Charity no.  249726

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 17th March 2021**

**Via Zoom**

**Present**:  There were 41 members present

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Linda** **welcomed** everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting with a prayer and the Kagera version of the Lords Prayer (Video) |  |
| **2.** | **Apologies**: Margaret Goldstone, Rachel Jolly, Margaret Lowe, Rev’d Helen Davy, Lisa Cole, Rev’d Catherine Forsdike, Rev Canon Ian Wilson, Win Sutton, Rev’d Elizabeth Corker, Jean Haste, Margaret Rollins, Pat Sheppard, Jean Cobb, Jane Drew, Mildenhall MU, Ann Wright, Sue Button, |  |
| **3.** | **Minutes of AGM, 10th March 2020**. These were proposed correct by Christine Ward, seconded by Anna Vessey, and agreed by all. Signed by Linda Ginn |  |
| **4.** | **Matters Arising –** There were no matters arising |  |
| **5** | **Conflict of Interest -** None |  |
| **6** | **Safeguarding Statement –** This was read to the meeting by Clare Thomas our Safeguarding Officer. |  |
| **7.** | **P President’s Report –** Linda had sent areport prior to the meeting Linda thanked Branch Leaders for sending the information regarding contacting their members during the Pandemic. She received 2/3 replies, and said we have 714 members and 41 branches, 1 in 7 don’t do Zoom and ¼ do not have a PC. It seems that any postage of items to members without PC’s is being met by the branch leaders or their branches. Linda thanked the branch leaders for their contributions. 1/3 of members do not seem to be engaging in Church Services etc. at the moment. Linda said that in 1989 we had 2430 members in 109 branches and 90 Young wife groups, In 2016 the membership dropped to 960 and in 2020 there were 714 members in 41 branches. She said it is the general trend over the country to see a loss of 5% each year.  2 B 2 Branches have closed over 2020 with members either becoming Diocesan members or some joining over branches.  Lin Linda told the meeting that the Diocesan Strategy A.B.C will be continuing over the next Triennium. Hopefully in the next few months AFIA will be able to help families with days out etc. As part of befriending this will be looking at Condolences, encouraging the use of the Books of Comfort and the Prayer Book complied by the Rushmere St Andrew branch.  Cle Clewer will continue to be part of the Strategy with Christine Ward willing to oversea this and reporting back to Trustees. We are also hoping to do some work with Prisons in the Diocese. The Diocese has started working on NZC (Net Zero Carbon) and climate change. We will be hoping to help with this in some way. Linda said that other DP’s are hoping to put together a pack to give to new Clergy.  The new MU magazine Connected will be sent to all members in mid-April. The diocesan Newsletter will be a bi-monthly issue and Linda asked branches to let Beryl have any items they think others in the Diocese would be interested in reading, for inclusion in the Newsletter. Both Linda and Jeanette are willing to visit branches via Zoom at present then in person (when allowed to) to talk to the members. Linda gave the meeting her new email address. This is because the DP’s and some trustees are using the Microsoft Teams set up by MSH. Linda’s address is [lindaginn@mothersunion.org](mailto:lindaginn@mothersunion.org) if things are sent to the old Gmail account they will automatically be forwarded to the new address. Linda will be moving to a new house in the near future and will inform Beryl so she can let others know what the address and phone is. |  |
| **8.** | **Treasurer’s Report** –Keith explained the annual accounts to the meeting. There were slides on the screen. Branches had also received a copy of the accounts by email prior to the meeting. Mary Addington has examined the 2020 accounts, and this was approved by the meeting. The acceptance of the accounts was proposedby Janice Brett, seconded by Audreen Lillistone, and agreed by those present. Keith thanked Mary for her time again this year and said that all being well Mary is happy to examine the account next year. She was proposed by Christine Ward, seconded by Jeanette Appleton and agreed by the meeting. Keith also thanked Ann Wright for her help throughout the year.  Keith thanked members for their generosity particularly the MSH Crisis Appeal we were able to send £15,600.00 to them. Jeanette said in total reached half a million pounds and MSH were thankful to the members for their support.  Diocesan members made Christmas Cards for the Prisons as normal although they were not able to meet up in one house, the cost was covered by donations from Diocesan members. Keith said that some branch treasurers had difficulty having their account examined last year due shielding etc. Keith was happy that they always produced good accounts so gave them permission to ask their branch leaders to sign them as correct. Keith praised the branch treasurers for doing a great job.  Linda then thanked Keith for being a good treasurer for yet another year. |  |
| **9.** | **Unit Reports –** These had been sent to branches before the meeting by email, Linda had asked Beryl to contact the Trustees prior to the meeting to ask if they had anything to add to their reports. There was nothing to add. |  |
| **10** | **Secretary’s Report**  Throughout 2020 I have kept in touch with branches, more so when the country was in lockdown, as I was aware that some members were on their own and would maybe be grateful for a friendly contact occasionally.  There were 714 members at the end of 2020. We held one face to face Trustee meeting and 5 via Zoom.  There was one face to face Council meeting AGM last March and we held 2 further meetings during the year via Zoom.  I have sent out the monthly Peculiar Times newsletter to Branch Leader, Deanery Leaders, Trustees and Life Vice Presidents (posting 4 that are not on email.)  Recently Linda asked me to survey branches to see how they had been coping throughout the pandemic and not meeting face to face. Most branch leaders have contacted most of their members, either by email, phone calls or post.  The Diocesan Diary has not been added to as we are still uncertain when we will be able to meet face to face (depends on the Roadmap!) We hope that by the Autumn it will be possible to hold the Council meeting in November in person, but this has to wait until we are certain it is possible.  I recently asked Branch Leaders if there were any members willing to be nominated as Trustees in the next triennium. To date I have received no names. The post of trustee is changing over the next 3 years as we develop the Communities of Interest. This means that Trustees will not have titles or be fully responsible for sections eg. Faith & Policy, AFIA etc. These jobs can be done by any member with an interest in the subject. They will then report back to the Trustees regularly. There may be one trustee that is willing to be the contact for that section, therefore that will be the person to report back to!  Please ask around your members to see if there is anyone willing to be nominated to be a trustee. Nomination forms can be found on the Suffolk MU website with instructions how to nominate someone.  **There was then a 10 minute coffee break** |  |
| **11.** | **Approval of the new Constitution. -**Linda thanked Cathie, Clare, Anna and Jeanette for their time and hard work they had put into preparing the latest Constitution. The meeting was then given the opportunity to ask questions. Christine Christian asked about 7.2 . Clare answered the question saying the how it appeared in the constitution is a legal phrase. Acceptance of the Constitution was proposed by Sandra Griffiths, seconded by Alison Crockett agreed by everyone. There were no Abstentions and no-one against. |  |
| **12.** | **Approval from the meeting for the nomination for Diocesan President in the next Triennium and acceptance for the retiring trustees.**  Beryl had received a proposal for Linda Ginn to be President in the next triennium. She asked the meeting if they had any objections or any other nominations. There were no more, and all were happy to have Linda as the next Diocesan President. Proposed by Sandra Griffiths, seconded Beryl Mee, agreed by the whole meeting.  Beryl then asked the meeting to accept the resignation of the trustees that had completed their 6 years. These were Clare Thomas, Anna Vessey, Cathie McGregor this will take place from January 2022. Beryl also asked the meeting to think about proposing nominations for trustees for the next triennium. These must be in a sealed envelope and sent to Beryl by 31st May 2021. |  |
| **13.** | **Break Out Rooms –** The meeting was then put into break out rooms to discuss three questions and report back. They were given 15 minutes for this.  Question 1 What are your concerns about ‘real’ meetings?  Question 2 What might a meeting together look like?  Question 3 Is this a time to think about a new approach – and if so, how might we encourage this?  The written feedback is attached to these minutes. |  |
| **14** | **Linda** had spoken to all branch leaders over the last 3 months.  **Rachel Parsons** is hoping to start online hymn singing via Zoom, this will be available to all members to join.  **Jeanette** is wanting to put together a booklet to give to couples planning to marry. It will be called For Better, For Worse. She would appreciate input from members. This can be advice on marriage, pitfalls and how to overcome them, She would like contributions sent to her by email.  **Mental Health –** It was suggested that so many people are now suffering from some type of Mental Health and do not talk about it. It would be good if members could start a conversation, this may encourage others to open up. |  |

Jeanette led Mid-day prayers followed by the closing prayer. Linda then thanked all for attending and their input.

The meeting closed at 12.05

Date of next meeting – Trustee Meeting 24th May 2021 via Zoom

* Council Meeting 21st July 2021 10.00am Venue TBA/Zoom

Signed:………………………………………………………………Date ………………………………………….…