

**MINISTERIAL OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF HARRIS MANCHESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**12:00 Wednesday, 22nd June, 2022**

**Harris Manchester College Oxford**

**President: Rev Kate Dean**

Present: Revs. Alex Bradley, Andi Philips, Ann Peart, Anna Jarvis (guest), Celia Midgeley (guest), Frank Walker, Jeffrey Bowers (guest), Jim Corrigan, John Midgeley (guest), Kate Dean (in the chair), Kate Brady McKenna (minutes), Maud Robinson, Penny Johnson, Peter Godfrey, Peter Hewis, Robin Hanford, Sarah Tinker, Sheena Gabriel.

1. Welcome: The chair welcomed attenders to the meeting, with an exhortation to lifelong learning.
2. Apologies: Ernest and Marion Baker, John Carter, Cody Coyne, Daniel Costley, Winnie Gordon, Jeff Gould, Andrew Hill, Mária Pap, Lewis Rees, Roger Tarbuck, Martin Whittell
3. In memoriam: A moment of silence was held to honour the memory of Rev. Duncan McGuffie, a valued colleague known, amongst other attributes, for his book on "The Hymn Sandwich".
4. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd June, 2021:  
These were approved as an accurate record, with the exception of year dates to be changed in some headings.
5. Matters arising:
  - a) Concerns over the cost of meetings had led to this year's talks being pre-recorded: this had the added advantage of meaning the talks are available to those who were unable to be present. It was hoped that increasing collaboration with HMCO may result in future speakers being sourced from within the college.
  - b) HMCO has several mailing lists, and MOSA members are encouraged to contact Shona Nicholson, Development Officer to be added to these lists. At the most recent Governor's Meeting Ms Nicholson had confirmed that MOSA members are invited to alumni events.
6. Treasurer's Report:  
This had been circulated prior to the meeting.  
MOSA currently does not have a working bank account, and this will be organised in due course: Maud Robinson proposed, and Jim Corrigan seconded, that MOSA officers were authorised signatories on the account: this was passed unanimously.
7. Election of Secretary and Treasurer:  
Kate Dean proposed from the chair that Cody Coyne was co-opted as Secretary, and Andi Philips as Treasurer. The proposals were accepted by acclaim.
8. Greetings to absent members:  
It was agreed that greetings should be sent to Revs. David Steers, John Carter, June Pettitt, Martin Whittell, Roger Tarbuck, and others to be added by the chair. -

#### 9. Report on Faith and Freedom:

A copy of the annual reported had been circulated. The editor and financial manager were thanked (in absentia) for their hard work and dedication.

#### 10. Dates of 2023 conference & review of costs:

The 2023 Conference will take place from 19th-21st June, and details will be circulated nearer the time. Kate Dean and Claire MacDonald will liaise on how best to utilise college resources (and will look into engaging the new Professor of Theology), and Rev Ant Howe and Helen Mason will be approached both in the hopes that the students may be able to attend and for possible involvement in the conference. Kate Dean would appreciate theme suggestions from members.

The UMF Autumn Conference will take place from 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October, and will have as its theme Decentring Whiteness.

Andi Philips reported that UMF funds are currently around £770 which need to be made accessible, by way of a new bank account.

#### 11. Report to the Inquirer:

Robin Hanford has agreed to report on the conference for The Inquirer.

#### 12. In Gratitude:

Thanks were expressed to the MOSA committee (Cody Coyne (secretary), Daniel Costley (outgoing treasurer), and Kate Dean (president)) for their hard work in organising another successful conference.

Kate Dean was commended on having managed the conference single-handed.

Daniel Costley was thanked for his work as treasurer over the past ten years.

Alex Bradley thanked the association for his retirement gift of a book token.

Celia Midgeley thanked the association for welcoming former Unitarian College Manchester students to the gathering.

Peter Godfrey was warmly thanked by Kate Dean for conducting an inspiring Anniversary Service.

#### 13. AOB

a) Jim Corrigan raised the issue of gratuities to catering staff: there had been a suggestion at the last UMF conference that this practice was patronising to the staff, who should be being paid a decent wage, and there were concerns that some ministers may struggle to pay gratuities. Maud Robinson felt that although the money is very welcomed by catering staff, the thanks and recognition which comes with it is also very valued. Robin Hanford raised the issue that HMCO is not in the top half of Oxford Colleges in terms of paying its staff well. Jeffrey Bowes suggested that the practice of collecting gratuities for catering staff continues, but that it is made much clearer that it is an optional offering. This was agreed by acclaim.

b) It was confirmed that at no stage had there been a decision that lay congregational leaders should be invited to MOSA conferences: there seems to have been some confusion with a decision in the past that Lay Pastors on the Roll would be invited where appropriate. There was an overall feeling that there is a strength in the conference itself being limited to ministers and ministry students (and their spouses), with an acknowledgement that outside speakers would be welcomed for the relevant parts, as

would those people who are involved in the Manchester Academy Trust. Peter Hewis explained that the conference receives a significant subsidy from the college as it is focussed on former college students.

At the present time invitations to the conference are sent first to former HMCO students, and then any vacancies are offered to former UCM students: it was decided that all ministers on the roll would be invited at the same time.

It was decided that there would be further discussion by all parties on the value and constitutional and legal possibility of merging HMCO MOSA and PPSU (Unitarian College Manchester Past and Present Students Association): we would need to consider including any remaining Welsh-trained ministers. The position of Unitarian College students in both bodies was also to be discussed further. PPSU is still in existence (with Lynne Readett as president) but is not active: the legal situation is being investigated.

The President thanked everyone for their attendance, and there being no further business, the meeting closed at 1243.