



**Sabeel-Kairos**  
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## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**19<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**On Zoom**

**12.30pm – 1.30pm**

### **1. Welcome**

Mark Battison, Chair, welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked the Board and Conference Speakers for a successful Zoom Conference Day. Mark reiterated that all the information and links to papers relating to the AGM had been posted on the website for members to peruse prior to this AGM.

### **Present**

64 participants from the ZOOM Conference were present, including Board members and Charlotte Marshall

### **2. Apologies for absence**

None.

### **3. Minutes of the last AGM, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Mark shared last year's Minutes on the screen. Everyone agreed they were a true record of the meeting on 29/06/19. The Minutes of the 2019 AGM were accepted and will be signed by Mark.

### **4. Matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Advocacy Report 2019**

Charlotte Marshall shared the Advocacy Report on the screen. Charlotte confirmed it was on the website and will be sent out with the AGM papers. Phoebe has recently

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returned from maternity leave and is working with Charlotte; both of whom work on a part-time basis.

### Key points:

- i) Investing for Peace Campaign – the 4 denominational groups support us with this work: **Methodists** who have focused on re-submitting memorials at their Conference and these have been referred to the Methodist Council which is a very positive step forward.  
**United Reformed Group** are working tirelessly to raise awareness, particularly focusing on URC Commitment for Life Programme, in partnership with Christian Aid. We have had positive conversations about the 2021 youth conference, whereby young people can put forward a resolution for peace.  
**Church of England** group has grown during lockdown. They have been actively letter writing and campaigning not just for Investment but also for Cry for Hope. In particular, writing and liaising with Justin Welby's office, meeting with his interfaith adviser which we hope means they are on board with the idea of a conversation with Palestinian Clergy about Cry for Hope. The Group are still trying to meet with the Ethical Advisory Body.  
**Catholic Church Group** had a break over the Summer. They have all the expertise and contacts within the Church and are a key partner in this campaign, ably led by Pat Christi. We have a small core group of campaigners who meet regularly, working at a Diocesan level with the finance officers, on a national level with the Bishops conference and with the Justice and Peace Commission groups.
- ii) Promoting and supporting messages from our Palestinian partners – we are involved with the Kumi Now online initiative by Jerusalem; we have worked within the Global Kairos for Justice Coalition on Cry for Hope.
- iii) Working very hard with our inter-agency cooperation by releasing two joint statements, one on the threat of annexation by Israel, whereby we signed a letter with 14 other major development and humanitarian organisations; and one on the peace plan and the threat towards Palestinian self-determination. Finally, one other statement this last week which came from the Palestine Solidarity – an initiative looking at calling upon Public Bodies to ensure that

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they do not either invest in, or procure from, companies profiting from the occupation.

As an organisation, we continually communicate with all our members, sending out newsletters and information. We will be running more online seminars. We are very impressed with our community groups who have embraced this new way of life, putting on own prayer meetings events etc. Phoebe, a Palestinian cook, will be launching some online Palestinian cookery sessions which our regional groups can take up and use as fundraisers.

Our Theology Group, under the leadership of Brian Brown, has been looking at the key issues around anti-Semitism, Christian Zionism and the theology of startis confessionanus and Cry for Hope. They next meet on 23.09.2020 and have invited Don Wagner a prominent theologian from the US. Email Charlotte if you wish to join the seminar.

Mark thanked Charlotte for all her hard work and commitment on behalf of the AGM members. He asked members for any questions.

John Logan asking whether Phoebe's cooking with be in conjunction with Zytoon. Charlotte said Phoebe would automatically use Fairtrade products. Another member asked if there is a co-operation ongoing with Living Stone Holy Land Trust? Mark confirmed there is regular conversations between the group and the Trust. Brian Brown interjected and confirmed that the link is very active. He also reiterated that if anyone wishes to join the Theology Group to get in touch with Charlotte or himself. In the revised advocacy Report Chapter 8, Brian's email address is listed, a copy of which was shared on the screen by Mark.

Another member asked for clarification on the Global Kairos for Justice Coalition. Charlotte confirmed this came out of a meeting in Bethlehem in 2018; it is a list of individuals and organisations who support the Kairos Palestine movement which has, within it, groups that take on a particular remit including Campaigns, Theology, BDS and Communications. She also advised that the Campaigns group next meeting will take place on 29.09.20. It is a Global Seminar on Divestment in Churches -members to email to Charlotte if they wish to attend.

Hilary also mentioned the URC Action group – if anyone wishes to join, let Charlotte know and she will put you in touch with Hilary.

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## **6. Annual Accounts 2019**

Mark introduced the new Treasurer, Peter Woodall. Mark shared the Income and Expenditure Account as at 31.12.19 on the screen. Peter said he was very grateful to Jennifer Morton, the previous Treasurer, for all her hard work in the first half of 2019 and her support when Peter started in July 2019.

### Key Points:

Along with Mark's thanks, Peter is very grateful for generous donations from fundraising last year.

On the Income side, there were lots of sales of books in 2018 so this shows a reduction in 2019.

Expenditure in 2018 shows payment for one advocacy worker whereas there were 2 workers in 2019. Conversely, there has been a reduction in the administration costs for 2019.

The Board sent a lot of money to Sabeel Jerusalem, part of which was a very generous donation.

Peter re-iterated calls for funds to support our advocacy workers. Even under COVID conditions, our regular supporters and givers have continued with subscriptions and donations; but opportunities for us to raise additional funds have not been forthcoming. No questions were asked so Mark thanked Peter for all his hard work. Peter acted as Proposer to adopt these Accounts. Unfortunately, independent examination is not finished yet so these Accounts are subject to any changes with that process.

## **7. Appointment of an Independent Inspector for the 2019 and 2020 accounts**

Kevin Francois is no longer the Independent Inspector and a new Independent Inspector is to be appointed. We therefore seek approval for Sandesh Jesrani from Sharman Fielding based in Leicester who is known to Mark. There are two proposals therefore:

Proposer by Peter Woodall to accept accounts in an unexamined format; seconded by Enid Gordon; no abstentions; unanimously agreed.

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Proposer by Peter Woodall to approve Sandesh Jesrani as Independent Inspector;  
seconded by Warren Bardsley, no abstentions; unanimously agreed.

#### **8. Election and Resignation of Board Members**

Mark advised the members that Jeremy Tear has decided to step down as Trustee. Mark thanked him for his tremendous contribution to Sabeel-Kairos and Jeremy said he would continue to support Sabeel-Kairos, albeit from the sidelines.

##### Re-election for Trustee for 1-year period:

Warren Bardsley: No objections or abstentions; unanimously agreed.

##### Election of Trustee for 2-year period:

Kate Aspinall: No objections or abstentions; unanimously agreed.

##### Nomination for new Trustee for 3-year period:

Mark shared the nomination form for Stephen Sizer for members to read before voting.  
Proposer: Miranda Pinch; Seconder: Warren Bardsley; No objections; Abstentions: Jeremy Tear, Jenny and Geoff Richardson.

We do have vacancies for Trustees and can co-opt you; please let Mark, Charlotte or the office know if you are interested.

Peter Woodall requested Stephen sent him an email to update our records.

#### **Any Other Business**

Jeremy Tear personally thanked Mark for chairing the Board this last year and for his steadfastness during a challenging time.