

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 30th September 7:00pm

Present: Roisin Sherrington, Sue Hua, Marianne Lane, Mark Davoren, Julia Cunningham, Barbara Meaney, Janette Turner, Andrew Capone, Stephen D'Arcy, Alison Berwick, Philip Gray, Matthew Dell, Matthew Maguire, Marie-Therese Weston, Andy Lewis, Judith Russi, Anthony Manafa, Laura Pettett, Jennine Oldis, Sharon Docherty, Peter Hornak, Richard Smith, Nancy Conoboy, Kath Wilson, Helen Bridges, Laura Pettett, Marcela Foong, David Bayne, Marie Mulcrow, Dave Legrand,

Apologies: none received.

Agenda

1. Prayer and Welcome - led by Helen Bridges, General Secretary
2. Chair's Report - Matthew Dell, Chair
3. Membership Report - Andy Lewis, Communications Officer
4. Conference Report - Nancy Conoboy, Vice Chair
5. Presentation of Accounts - Dave Legrand, Treasurer
6. Vote on Executive Committee
7. Vote on Constitution

1. Prayer and Welcome

Helen led everyone in prayer at the start of the meeting

2. Chair's Report

The minutes from the previous AGM were approved as an accurate representation of events, with 18 votes and no matters arising. Matthew then gave a summary of the history of ATCRE, how it started in 2018 and that since then we've established a website, bank of members, social media accounts, set up a bank account and received a grant, become an associate member of NBRIA and established a positive working relationship with NATRE and CREDO. We are also very grateful for the support of Bishop Alan Williams who is our episcopal liaison.

By February 2020, ATCRE hosted its inaugural conference for teachers of Catholic RE at St Mary's University, was providing teaching consultation groups for the CES, had articles published in Networking Magazine and have now organised a second, virtual conference for October.

Matthew explained the need for an extended Executive, due to the fact that everyone has full time jobs alongside their ATCRE work and more people are needed on board. Furthermore, we are keen to expand our representation to include a variety of different sectors (primary, independent, secondary etc), as well as every Province. The hope is that with more people on the Executive Committee, there can be smaller working groups which then report back to the main body throughout the year.

3. Membership Report

Andy explained that we use mailchimp and now have over 1000 contacts who receive our email communication. 32-38% of these people open and read the emails, which whilst it seems like a low statistic is around 10% higher than the average. We resend the email once to those who haven't previously opened it, and a lot of work has gone into trying to ensure communication goes out at an opportune time.

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Our social media accounts have received a lot of interest in recent weeks particularly, with over 7000 seeing posts from ATCRE. Andy mentioned that whilst we do our best to maintain this, since everyone on the Exec has full time jobs, it can sometimes be a struggle and we are looking to expand our social media team. In regard to Twitter, we had particularly high interaction with tweets which shared clips from our conference of Mary Myatt and Michael Merrick. We are hoping for the same level of interaction after our virtual conference next week.

4. Conference Report

Nancy talked through how the conference ran in February 2020, with over 150 delegates present and held at St Mary's University. It was an overall success, in which we had 15 seminars catering to a variety of different RE teachers, and keynote speeches from Bishop Williams, Philip Robinson and others.

We learnt several things from running our first conference, including how to cater more efficiently and ensure the next conference runs even more smoothly. The majority of delegates responded with positive feedback (95%), and a few mentioned the need for more streamlined catering. However, all delegates responded saying they would be interested in attending another ATCRE conference.

5. Presentation of Accounts

Dave explained how the majority of our funding has come from the Assumption Legacy Fund, for which we are extremely grateful. We have an additional and unexpected profit of around £2000 from our first conference which will be put towards a future conference, post-Covid. The fund has predominantly been spent in setting up the Association and promoting it, for example by funding the new website.

6. Vote on Executive Committee

The rationale for extending the executive was explained by Matthew as ATCRE are both keen to represent more Provinces and school sectors across the country, and need more people to successfully continue. Barbara Meaney asked if middle schools or ecumenical school representatives would be considered, and Matthew said we were definitely open to considering these options. Furthermore, applications for the Executive Committee have been openly available on the website for 18 months, with anybody able to apply. We are not currently at capacity, and anyone who is still interested should follow the information on the website.

Those in favour - 27

Those against - 0

Those who abstained - 0

7. Vote on Constitution

The constitution had been updated to predominantly include more logistical matters.

Those in favour - 27 votes

Those against - 0

Those who abstained – 0

Meeting ended at 7.40pm