

Minutes of Zoom SEN AGM meeting Wednesday 11th August 2021

Present: Nick (chair), with 32 people attending in total

Apologies: These were read by Janet

The meeting was opened with a time of prayer led by Michael

Minutes of the last meeting August 2018: These were approved and accepted with no amendments.

Matters arising: All on the agenda.

Chair's Report: Nick expanded on his written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He talked about the Covid effect with the committee needing to be more discerning as time went on. This was easier to do with the more frequent meetings on Zoom. There has been a strong sense of the Spirit guiding the decisions and keeping to the objectives of SEN. He looked at the Spiritual, then the Exercises then the Networking and presented hopefulness about SEN and hope for SEN. He also spoke of his resignation from the committee including his role as chair after the next committee meeting. He thanked the present committee for all their work. His report was unanimously accepted.

Accounts: The accounts have been prepared then signed off by Champleys Accountants for the period 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2019. This covers the two-year period between conferences. As the Conference due in 2020 was delayed until 2021 a balance sheet showed the finances since that time although does not include some of the repayments made to those who paid a deposit for the cancelled conference in 2020. The next signed accounts will work on a 3 year cycle this time. There is a small surplus of cash at this point in time.

Discussion / Discernment: Sen beyond the Zoom Boom! Zooming into the future?

In 6 break out rooms, each with 4 or 5 people, discussions of our dreams for the future of SEN took place with each group coming back with 3 suggestions.

Summary of the Ideas from these groups

Network groups meeting with other spiritual directors. Providing CPD for directors. Helping churches to listen to God. Extending and broadening the Exx. Open door retreats with parishes. Providing broader conversations with churches. Co-ordinating roles and being ecumenical. Working more with young people. Broadening the work on the margins such as in prisons and covering a wider age group. Providing ongoing resources and CPD for directors. Having swap meetings for resources. Podcasts and helping with communication. Making the Exx more accessible to youth and more diverse people. Having localised and smaller groups. Encourage the Exx in life. Book clubs for those wanting to discuss available books on the Exx. Having the big conference alternating with Zoom meetings. Diving deeper into the Exx. Providing retreat days. Widening the work of SEN to Europe and other countries.

These ideas will be looked at by the committee to see where the energy is and discerning the way forward.

Election of the new Committee

The constitution of SEN has a limited number of people who could be elected which was less than the people volunteering their services to SEN.

Nick proposed from the chair that this constitutional limit be suspended for this election, for two reasons. Firstly, the sense that a new phase of SEN needed new/more participation, and secondly, travel costs were one reason for limiting numbers, and with zoom meetings this is no longer an issue. There were no objections to this. The only person on the committee who did not need to be elected was Judy O'Brien with Janet Bone and Sue Wilson needing to be re-elected. Sarah Young is appointed to the committee by the Jesuits. Nick Helm and Michael O'Halloran are both resigning.

The following people volunteered to stand for election, including 2 already on the committee

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Janet Bone	Nick Helm	Sue Wilson
Sue Wilson	Nick Helm	Janet Bone
Suzanne Carlson	Nick Helm	Michael O'Halloran
Natalie Baxter Strange	Sheila Jones	Michael O'Halloran
Julia Sheffield	Judy O'Brien	Sue Wilson
Sheila Jones	Cameron Abernethy	Natalie Baxter-Strange
Glen Graham	Nick Helm	Judy O'Brien
Charmaine Saunders	Sarah Young	Sue Wilson
Cameron Abernethy	Nick Helm	Sheila Jones

Those new to the committee spoke very movingly of their desire for this work. All were elected unanimously.

Judy O'Brien's term on the committee ends at the next conference.

Janet closed the AGM with an Examen prayer

Date of Next AGM: During the next Conference in August 2023