

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITY (NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their Annual Director's report and independently examined financial statements for the year ending 31st March 2023 which also complies with the requirements for a director's report and accounts under the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and the company's Articles of Association. They comply with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102 applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

Report from the Chair of the Board.

In writing this introduction to the Trustees report, I am very conscious of the deep commitment of Board members to helping us 'think through', - as best we can - a number of complex issues in our society from an explicitly Christian perspective. We believe that it is important to do just this, given that so much public discussion is reduced to a sound bite or short slogan. Life for many is often very demanding and very complicated, and so careful thought and good understanding of any subject is essential if we are to face the challenges of modern life with any confidence.

As a small voluntary organisation, we are extremely indebted to many people for their active help, support and encouragement. They know who they are. Thank you so much!

Looking to the future, we are constantly adjusting how we do our work, and reflecting on exactly where we should put our resources and energies. We are confident that active partnerships with others is important for both them, and ourselves, and we expect to be in such partnerships over the next few years as circumstances allow.

Given the perilous state of so much of political and civic life, high quality Christian thinking can help chart a way through the current distress and deep angst about the future. As the book of Proverbs so clearly puts it: Where there is no vision, the people perish. Clearly, we do not have all the answers nor an all-encompassing vision, but under God we will seek to play our part in building such a vision for the future.

The Trustees are pleased to submit this formal report as required under the relevant legislation.

Objectives and activities

The Purpose of Contemporary Christianity (Northern Ireland) is...*"to promote the Christian religion and in particular (but not exclusively) to bring biblical principles to bear on the outworking of faith in Northern Ireland"*. In planning our activities we keep our Aims and Objectives under review and our stated public benefit as approved in our NI Charities Commission registration.

With its roots in the Evangelical community, Contemporary Christianity (Northern Ireland) Limited works across the Christian traditions to address the challenges of.... living out biblical faith in a changing world. We seek to draw on the lessons learned through nearly 40 years of community conflict, in which a concern for the faithful understanding of the biblical text and an outworking of the mission of God as the reconciliation of all things in Christ, were critical in enabling Christians to challenge their communal loyalties and engage with the work of peace building and community relations.

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITY (NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Contemporary Christianity (Northern Ireland) Limited is committed to help churches and faith-based communities engage with challenges of a rapidly changing society. We work with a range of organisations across the Christian traditions and seek to provide a relevant programme of activities.

The benefits which flow from this purpose include challenging people of faith across Northern Ireland to think about their faith and its implications in their communities. Contemporary Christianity provides a "safe space" for conversations which might be more difficult to organise on a church or denominational basis. Some of this work is done by the organisation and some is done by working in partnership with other organisations. Through this the local Christian Community can be challenged, disturbed and encouraged to reflect theologically on real issues and review their lifestyle and practice.

These benefits are evidenced through opportunities to open up and consider contemporary real life issues which affect how people live out their faith in our divided communities. These benefits are advanced through a range of events, meetings and conversations organised to challenge Christians across our communities.

The beneficiaries of this purpose are primarily those involved in church and community relations across N Ireland who are willing to encourage engagement with these types of issues to enhance their citizenship.

Our STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT.

Organisation. The Board of Directors administers the charity. We were pleased to have Dr Lisa Whitten join the Board in December 2022. During 2022/23, we held four hybrid Board meetings and one Zoom meeting.

We are endeavouring to improve and refresh our website, as a resource to promote engagement on the issues we are working on.

Our Memorandum and Articles of Association were reviewed in November 2009. In October 2014, we registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland – (NIC100585). We have been a member of NICVA since 2016.

We communicate to our database of friends by email, by our website, and by social media. Through these, we have endeavoured to maintain meaningful contact. We appreciated more personal contact this year with the Covid 19 restrictions now well behind us.

ENSURING OUR WORK DELIVERS OUR AIMS.

Vision: We desire to see the Christian community in Ireland nurture a radical biblical faith in God, who in Jesus Christ reconciles the world, restores human relationships and redeems all of life and creation.

Mission: We are committed to develop the knowledge and personal skills needed among Christians and churches to serve their communities at critical points of cultural contention, communal conflict and social change, by becoming a place where they can access biblical resources and practical support.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The Board is so grateful to God for the continued support of a faithful small group of regular donors. We continue to be vigilant in effecting economies and maintaining a reasonable cash flow.

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITY (NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Achievements and performance

We work entirely as a volunteer organisation and we are fortunate to have a highly committed Board. We are profoundly grateful to a small group of faithful supporters who maintain their regular financial support to enable us to carry forward our work and ministry. We keep them informed of the direction of travel as we develop an interim strategy.

We were pleased to restart in person events in October 2022.

We rent an office in the Inter-Church Centre of the Irish Council of Churches and we benefit greatly from being located with the Irish Council of Churches and other organisations.

Conversation

Recognising that our ECONI "roots" were essentially people with passion volunteering to work together to challenge the church, society and also local political leaders, this approach has inspired occasional "conversations" on current and relevant topics. The series we commenced in year is known as "In These Times" events. Three evenings were held in Ulster University new Belfast Campus on York Street. In October 2022, Prof Duncan Morrow presented... A Christian Perspective on the world of Politics from Northern Ireland

In January 2023 three speakers, Jonny Currie, Prof. Ciara Fitzpatrick, and Danielle McElhinney, each involved in challenging Poverty across NI, spoke on...How do Christians respond to the reality of Poverty in their midst?

In February 2023 the subject of ... Nichola Mallon, former MLA for North Belfast and former Minister for Infrastructure in NI Executive explored Poverty Causes and Cures.

Video recordings of these events are available on our website.

Publications of ...PS... blogs was our regular activity for engagement over the year. . Most months we posted two ...PS...blogs. We are grateful to a wide range of writers who make this possible. Each blog was on a topical theme and provided scope for reflection and reaction.

Other Activities: We hosted virtual monthly meetings of the Churches Initiative Group (C.I.G), and welcomed some new members to that group.

Communications: We rely heavily on e-communications as the only cost effective way of informing and dissemination of information and notice of events to our supporters and wider contacts.

Email: info@contemporarychristianity.net

Website: www.contemporarychristianity.net

We have both Facebook and Twitter social media connections.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Financial review

The Board is so grateful to God for the continued support of a faithful small group of regular donors. We continue to be vigilant in effecting economies and maintaining a reasonable cash flow, and are encouraging new supporters to help us with a small monthly donation.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Changes to the Board Directors

Dr Lisa Whitten joined on 14th December 2022

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr S Adams

Ms C Bollaert

Mr J Currie

Mr C Neill

(Resigned 29 June 2022)

Rev Dr M White-Dundas

Rev Dr N Hamilton OBE

Dr J Kyle

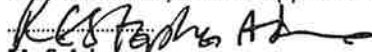
Miss H Taylor

Mr J McGrath

Dr L Whitten


(Appointed 14 Decemeber 2022)

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.


Mr S Adams

Trustee

Dated: 28/11/2023


Dr J Kyle

Trustee

Dated: 28/11/2023