

Trustees' Annual Report (Including Directors Report)

Year Ended 31 December 2022

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the European Christian Mission Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Trustees of the charity

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The trustees who have served during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Rev Albert Baxter
Mr Andrew Green
Mrs Christina Clydesdale (Resigned 31/12/2022)
Mr Andrew Graham McCormick
Mrs Audrey McIvor (Resigned 31/12/2022)
Mr John Leslie Patterson
Miss Jean Tubman
Rev Thomas Alastair McNeely
Mr Geoffrey Baxter McIlrath
Mr Peter John Smyth (Resigned 31/12/22)
Ms Lorraine Moore (Appointed 01/01/2023)

Structure, governance and management

The charity was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 8 March 2016. The company is exempt under the legislation from using 'limited' as part of its name.

The charity is registered with The Charities Commission for Northern Ireland, NIC102665. The charity is controlled by its trustees who are directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and is governed by the provisions contained within the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

All trustees are members of the charitable company and stand as guarantors of the charitable company in the sum of £1 each.

There can be up to twelve trustees. Once appointed, trustees serve for a period of four years. At least two trustees are appointed by the existing board and at least one by the member of the mission at the annual general meetings.

Affiliation

European Christian Mission Ireland is in a covenant agreement with ECM (International) and the terms of this relationship are set out in a Covenant agreement signed by both parties.

The board of trustees of ECM (International) is the overall governing body responsible for doctrinal and spiritual principles and the general direction and development of ministries in Europe. The trustees of European Christian Mission Ireland are responsible for the promotion of work in Ireland, the recruitment and member care of personnel and the raising of resources to further the objectives of the charitable company in Europe.

Objectives and activities

The principal activities of the charity are to promote ministries of evangelism, church planting and church development in Europe along with their associated social action projects. It also seeks to recruit, train, send, support and care for workers called and equipped to fulfil such ministries.

Trustees' Annual Report (Including Directors Report)

Year Ended 31 December 2022

Public benefit statement

Under the Public Benefit guidelines, for religion to be charitable, it must be 'advanced', i.e. promoted or extended. As our charitable objects include the evangelisation of the peoples of Europe, and the establishing and strengthening of evangelical churches across Europe, we consider that we meet this definition. The identifiable benefits include the transformation of lives through the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship, friendships and relationships created or restored through participation in the life of a local church. Furthermore, the outworking of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by the newly established Christian communities tends to the promotion of the relief of poverty and sickness and the propagation of positive ethical values. These benefits are available to members of the public from all levels of social life across Europe, as we work in communities ranging from the affluent, such as in Austria, through to the very needy, such as in Bosnia. There is no private benefit or harm flowing from the purposes.

Achievements and performance

ECM Ireland's principal activity is that of Christian missionary work in Europe, specifically the support of church-planting and discipleship through ECM (International). The ongoing focus in 2022 was in the areas of promotion of service opportunities in Europe, recruiting new mission workers, care for existing mission workers, encouragement of prayer and giving for Europe.

ECM's Mission Statement

ECM's mission statement is to 'equip, connect, and multiply followers of Jesus through church planting and discipleship across Europe.

The mission statement can be expanded upon and explained more clearly through the three key words of "Equip, Connect, Multiply".

EQUIP

We identify people's God-given gifts and abilities and develop them into ministry and leadership.
We train people to live out and speak out the good news where they are.
We lovingly care for people, so they thrive in both life and ministry.

CONNECT

We build networks so that God's resources in one place can extend his kingdom in another.
We encourage people to work in teams, so their ministries have greater impact.
We actively work together and form partnerships as a way of showing the unity of Christ's church.

MULTIPLY

We mobilise and inspire people for God's mission in Europe.
We challenge people to become disciples of Jesus who themselves make more disciples.
We make possible the planting of healthy churches that reproduce naturally.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Office Staff

In 2021 there were three part time staff and two volunteers.

Missionaries and Associate Members

The core business of the mission continues to be the recruitment and support of workers who serve the church in Europe. At the end of 2021 ECM Ireland was supporting 39 members serving in Kosovo, Slovenia, Serbia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Ireland, Greece, and Germany.

Projects

Projects for which significant funds were raised during 2021 - 'The Greek Bible College' and 'What's the Story?' project in Ireland.

Trustees' Annual Report (Including Directors Report)

Year Ended 31 December 2022

Promotion and Communications.

ECM Ireland has continued to make known the spiritual needs of Europe known through our website, social media, monthly prayer diary, tri-annual ECM Life magazine, videos and through a variety of speaking engagements.

Financial review

The results for the year are detailed on page 10 of the financial statements. The net income for 2022 is £87,664 (2021 - £48,102).

The balance on unrestricted funds at 31 December 2021 was £90,156 (2021 - £44,068) with a proportion of this made up of property capital being £62,000. The balance on restricted funds at 31 December 2022 was £364,329 (2021 - £322,753) and all of this is included in the bank balances at the year end.

Plans for the future

Recruitment:

We have three Candidates who are currently applying for membership.

We have two Short Term Candidates going to Greece and to Ireland in June 2022.

We have one team that is currently planned for 2022. A 'Pastors to Pastors' Team, which aims to encourage national workers in their knowledge of God, and to build up prayer contact and other support for their ministries.

We will continue to follow up any enquiries from those who have an interest in working long or short term in Europe.

Office Management:

ECM Ireland is seeking to appoint an Operations Manager and a Communications and Supporter Relations Manager who will oversee the overall running of the ECM Ireland office.

Partnering with others:

Continue to build and develop partnerships within ECM and with other Christian organisations through MAP, IMAP and Global Connections.

Communications:

To sharpen our communications via the channels mentioned above.

Member Care:

Continue to support and equip our members who are involved in Church planting and discipleship in Europe.

Reserves Policy

The income of the charity is considered stable and the risks associated with any significant reduction of income is regarded as unlikely. The trustees are satisfied that the level of reserves stated in the accounts will ensure, that in the event of a significant decrease in funding they will be able to continue the charities current activities.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of European Christian Mission Ireland for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

European Christian Mission Ireland

Trustees' Annual Report (Including Directors Report)

Year Ended 31 December 2022

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to the auditors

We, the directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

On behalf of the board



Miss Jean Tubman, Trustee

25 September 2023