

European Christian Mission Ireland

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives and activities

Objectives, strategies and activities

The principal activities of the charity are to promote ministries of evangelism, discipleship, 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.

Public benefit

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.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 (6) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have due regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit and the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the charitable company.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Mr Andrew Graham McCormick
	Mr John Leslie Patterson (resigned 28 February 2024)
	Ms Jean Tubman
	Rev Thomas Alastair McNeeley (resigned 31 May 2024)
	Mr Geoffrey Baxter McIlrath
	Mrs Lorraine Moore (appointed 1 January 2023)
	Mr Tom Greer (appointed 1 February 2024)
	Mr Gary Mahood (appointed 1 February 2024)
Secretary:	Mr Geoff Donaldson (appointed 1 January 2023)

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Structure, governance and management

Organisational structure

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.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Office Staff

In 2023 there were four part time staff and two volunteers.

Missionaries and Associate Members

The core business of the mission continues to be recruitment and support of workers who serve the church in Europe. At the end of 2023 ECM Ireland was supporting 43 members serving in Albania, France, Kosovo, Slovenia, Serbia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Ireland, Greece, Bosnia, and Germany.

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. We also hosted an ECM Supporters Day.

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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 2023 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 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.

Financial Review

The results for the year are detailed on the Statement of Financial Activities of the financial statements. The net income for 2023 is £46,053 (2022 - £87,664).

The balance on unrestricted funds at 31 December 2023 was £83,442 (2022 - £90,156) with a proportion of this made up of proper capital being £62,000. The balance on restricted funds at 31 December 2023 was £417,096 (2022 - £364,329) and all of this is contained within the bank balances at the year end.

Plans for the future

Recruitment

We currently have no candidates applying for membership although one enquiry is being followed up.

We have a team that is currently planning for 2025 'Pastors to Pastors' event, 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 appointed a new Ireland Director, Geoff Donaldson.

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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. We are also aiming to run a roadshow style event in 2025 to raise the profile of ECM.

Member Care

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

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of European Christian Mission Ireland for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 its 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can 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 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

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Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 28 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms Jean Tubman
Trustee