

GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND
Meeting of Trustees 1.10.2013

Present: Pam Brunt, Martin Burnell, Robin Davis (clerk), David James, Margaret Morton, John Phillips

1 Scottish Advocacy Project

We have received a paper from Margaret Mortimer (paper A), a vision statement prepared by Elizabeth Allen and Margaret Mortimer (B), a draft job description (C), and a comment by Martin Burnell (D); in addition our treasurer has produced some figures on potential costs. We are grateful for the work that has gone into the production of these papers.

Given the importance the Function Group clearly attaches to the proposal and the financial implications of paying for a professional person to undertake work on General Meeting's behalf, we feel the next is to produce a paper for Area Meetings "selling" the proposal. If Friends are to be persuaded to contribute to the cost they will need to be convinced that

- we will be better able to influence decision-makers than we have been in the past (examples should be given);
- what having an advocate will do that cannot effectively be done now through the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office.

Friends will also need to know

- what the person will actually do? Will he or she network or construct databases? We need better clarity on this;
- whether this is a short-term project or a long term commitment.

We suggest the next step is to ask the Parliamentary Function Group to produce a short document on these lines, and for some trustees to meet with members of the Function Group to discuss it with them with the aim of circulating it to Area Meetings. Function Group members will need to attend Area Meetings to speak to it and to answer Friends' questions.

We have briefly discussed the financial implications, and agree that at this stage all we need to say to Area Meetings is that the proposal will mean roughly doubling Area Meetings' quota to General Meeting.

We ask the Clerk to speak to the convener of the Function Group to underline the importance we attach to the paper to be sent to Area Meetings.

We will report to General Meeting in November on what has been achieved so far. As trustees, we agree we need to consult Area Meetings as soon as possible.

2 General Meeting Administrator: annual review

Robin Waterston (General Meeting Clerk) has sent us a copy of the annual review of Bronwen Currie's job performance, workload and contract in her role as General Meeting Administrator. We add our deep appreciation of all Bronwen does on our behalf.

3 Treasurer's Report

John Phillips has reported that

4.1 General meeting is insured in its own right independent of the Area Meetings.

4.2 There is likely to be a Children and Young Person's Gathering in the summer of 2014.

4.3 The budget for 2014 will be presented to General Meeting at its November meeting.

WE have seen a first draft and note that lower printing costs mean that the expenditure for 2013 will be much less than forecast. There will be no Book of Members next year, which will mean less outlay.

We thank John Phillips for his work.

Confidential Minute (omitted)

Robin Davis, Clerk

NB We have left open the date of our next meeting, depending on progress with the Advocacy project (minute 1 above).