

Minutes of the 66th Annual General Meeting of the Christian Dental Fellowship held remotely on Zoom on Saturday 8th October 2022 at 11 am

In attendance: 25

1. Election of Chairman and Secretary for the meeting

Prince Thomas and Kirsty Gayton were elected as Chair and Secretary of the meeting respectively.

Proposed: Simon Stretton-Downes

Seconded: Karen Paterson

Prince opened in prayer reflecting that we gathered because of the death of Jesus on the cross. He thanked the membership for allowing Council members to serve them through CDF.

2. Opening devotions

Susie Matthew spoke on 1 Corinthians Chapter 12 v 12-?31 One Body, reflecting that we had come together as a body of CDF members to transact the Fellowship's business and to find God's will as we sought to be an active Christian witness within dentistry. As individuals, we brought our unique skills (v17) to the Fellowship. We each had a special and important role to play. As members came and went, the CDF body continued.

Susie referenced an Editorial by Steven Hancocks, BDJ Editor, in which he had written that dentists were trained to problem solve, to find a way, to cope. God, however, didn't expect us to cope and manage alone. He gave us the undeserved gift of management in the Holy Spirit. God was delighted when we fixed our eyes on Him and sought to do His will (v13). We were united in one Spirit. We were placed where He needed us (v18). We were like jigsaw pieces that fit together perfectly, and through His Spirit we sought God's will for the Fellowship. Susie closed in prayer, asking God for wise heads, discerning minds and willing hands to do the Lord's will.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Malcolm Prideaux, Margaret Reynolds, Maureen Richards, Nicola Stephens, Albert Yeung, Jenny Harris, Ian Harris, Frances Vose, Catherine Livesey, Anne Atkinson, Richard South, Jenny Gallagher, Henry Fardell, Tony Giles and Ann Giles.

4. Approval of Minutes from 65th AGM October 2021 and the EGM October 2021

Both sets of minutes were accepted without change.

Poll: AGM: 96% yes 4% abstain.

EGM: 96% yes, 4% abstain

5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

6. President's report

Prince drew members' attention to his written Annual Report, circulated with the meeting papers, and affirmed this as his last AGM as President. He reflected on his three years in Office, noting that it had been a time of challenges, sandwiched between COVID and, more recently, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's death, with the majority of meetings being held virtually. However, even in the midst of these challenges, God had been faithful to the CDF. He thanked all Council members for all they had done in taking the Fellowship forward over the last three years. Karen

Silcox had spent a huge volume of time updating the membership records - current membership stood at 284.

Looking to the future, Prince noted that Council had recognised the need for more active engagement with students and he thanked Sarah for accepting the office of Student Coordinator. To support student engagement the subscription for student membership had been removed and CDF branded goods had been provided for Freshers Week in the Universities of Birmingham, Belfast, Sheffield and Glasgow. Another proposal being considered was to encourage mentoring within Regional Groups, and possibly that of a student fieldworker. He asked members to prayerfully consider these roles and to contact him via Karen (Silcox) if they would like to engage in further discussions.

Action: Members to prayerfully consider the two roles and contact Prince if interested

Prince went on to note that Regional Groups were the mainstay of strength for CDF members and that as COVID rules had been relaxed some groups had re-established. The Northwest Group continued to meet in Liverpool on the last Tuesday of the month. The South West, South Wales and East Midlands (Nottingham) groups had also met. He thanked Malcolm Prideaux, Regional Co-ordinator for his support for this work.

Prince summarised other areas of activity during his term of office:

Student and Young Members' Meeting: Following from the virtual meeting on 2nd July 2020, a second Student and Young Members' Meeting was planned to take place virtually on the 20th October 2022.

Pastoral Care- Recognising the increasing stresses within dentistry, CDF now ran a functioning pastoral care scheme. Prince thanked Karen Paterson for nurturing the development of this, noting that the team was supported by CDF member volunteers and that the Fellowship held insurance to cover the activity. Through this work, the profile of CDF had been raised across a number of platforms such as the United Christian Broadcasters Radio (<https://www.ucb.co.uk/listen>), and the Christians and Professionals sector group, Transform UK (https://www.transformworkuk.org/Groups/381647/Transform_Work/Connect/Christian_Professionals_Portal/Christian_Professionals_Portal.aspx).

Prayer meetings and prayer teams: Set up to support members during COVID, Karen (P) and Susie had been instrumental in overseeing these meetings. Since March 2020 to date, 41 had taken place, all on Zoom and had provided a 'lifeline', particularly during the early COVID days.

Conferences: These went online for November 2020 and 2021 with the biblical teaching of 'Finding Hope - Looking up from Lockdown' with Ruth Perrin and 'An Unchanging God in a Changing World' with Stephen Cullis respectively. Plans for the face-to-face return to conference in November 2022 were well underway and Prince thanked Vicky Graham and her husband, Jonathan, for taking these forward.

Publications: The Fellowship continued to publish the Three-in-One magazine and Prayer Diary quarterly. Prince thanked Tracey Dilbey for her stewardship of the magazine during her time as Editor and acknowledged the work she had done in reducing costs by moving the magazine to digital print-runs without loss of quality. He also thanked Naomi Wilson for covering this work when Tracey stepped down mid-year.

Susie Matthew continued to collate the Prayer Diary. Prince reflected that his use of the prayer points within the diary had become a daily habit during morning devotions. He thanked Susie for her diligence in creating this and members for entrusting CDF with their prayer needs.

Mission Partners: We continue to pray for our mission partners of which there are currently eight. Prince thanked Jonathan Longhurst for his steadfast work in making their needs known and for collating reports during his Office as Mission Partner Secretary. He went on to inform the meeting that CDF had also been working in Partnership with CMF, ICMDA and the Global Child Dental Fund to support the Ukraine Project and an appeal from CDF for dental supplies had been fruitful. He

thanked the volunteers who had made this possible and reflected that this had increased confidence in the Fellowship's ability to engage in such partnerships.

In concluding, Prince noted that as a CDF family, there were landscape changes which could be made and reminded all present of the four key areas Council were looking to take forward over the next year:

- Reactivate Regional Groups and encourage local mentorship of students
- Revisit the concept of field workers to dental schools
- Invest in partnerships and share resources with other like-minded organisations and charities
- Look to ensuring membership demographics reflected that of the UK dental team

He closed by thanking members, Council and God for the fellowship and support he and his wife, Julie, had enjoyed while serving CDF and he committed to continue to hold the Fellowship in prayer.

7. General Secretary's report

The written report had been circulated with the meeting papers. No questions were raised.

8. Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts to 31st March 2021

Maureen Reynolds had sent her apologies for the meeting. The Accounts for the year ending March 2022 had been circulated with the meeting papers. No queries raised from the floor and the accounts were approved.

Proposed by Kirsty Gayton, seconded by Karen Paterson. Poll 100% approval

9. Election to Council

The following nominations were tabled and approved by poll of members present:

President	Karen Paterson	proposed Prince Thomas seconded Susie Matthew
General Secretary	Liz Roebuck	proposed Kirsty seconded Karen Paterson
Student Coordinator	Sarah Peterson	proposed Martyn Green, seconded Liz Roebuck
Three-in-One Editor	Naomi Wilson	proposed Tracey Dalby, seconded Simon Stretton-Downes
Mission Partner Secretary	Simon Crewe	proposed Martyn Green, seconded Karen Paterson
Pastoral Care Coordinator	Margaret Reynolds	proposed Susie Matthew, seconded Ramen Bedi

Poll: 100% approval

10. Pending Council Vacancies

Prince referenced Maureen Richard's sterling role in managing the Fellowship's accounts and finances over the past five years. He informed members that she had indicated her intention to step down as Honorary Treasurer, however, in the absence of nominations, had indicated she could remain in office until the 2023 AGM if required. Expressions of interest for the role were invited to contact Karen Silcox or a Council Member and it was agreed that Council would seek nominations from the wider membership with a view to appointing a new Honorary Treasurer in 2023.

Action: Expressions of interest for the role of Honorary Treasurer to be made to Karen Silcox or a Council Member

Action: Council to actively seek nominations for the role of Honorary Treasurer

11. Re-election of those continuing on Council:

The following members were re-elected to Council:

Prince Thomas	Immediate Past President (2022-23)
Maureen Richards	Honorary Treasurer (2017-23)
Martyn Green	Vice-President (2017-)
Cathy Fordyce	Vision and Development Coordinator (2014-)
Vicky Graham	Conference Secretary (2020-)
Malcolm Prideaux	Regional Coordinator (2020-)
Susie Matthew	Prayer Calendar Coordinator (2021-)
Jacqueline Knowles	DCP Representative (2021-)

with the Fellowship's Trustees confirmed as Prince Thomas, Maureen Richards, Kirsty Gayton, Martyn Green until post-AGM when Karen Paterson and Liz Roebuck would take over from Prince and Kirsty respectively.

Proposed by Karen Paterson, second by Alan Vogt. Poll 100% approval with 91% participation.

12. Appointment of the Independent Examiner for the accounts

Karen (S) advised members that with Karen's appointment as a Trustee, Mike Paterson had declared a conflict of interest and indicated he was no longer in a position to continue as Independent Examiner for the Fellowship's accounts, a role he had carried out for a number of years. It was not possible to put forward the name of Mike's successor to the AGM and as such she asked the AGM to delegate this appointment to the Fellowship's Trustees.

Proposed by Simon Stretton-Downes, seconded by Chris Evans. Poll: 100% approval

Action: Trustees to seek and appoint the Independent Examiner for the Accounts

Action: Prince to convey the Fellowship's thanks to Mike

13. Conference Secretary's update

Vicky spoke to her written report, circulated with the meeting papers. She noted that the 2021 conference was the second year it had been held virtually and had welcomed 60 delegates at a total cost of £1000. She explained that 2023 planning had begun and if numbers were low this year, the booking threshold would be reviewed with a view to considering whether numbers should be reduced for 2023, and asked members to contact her suggestions for bible speakers and clinical speakers.

Vicky went on to provide a brief overview of plans for this year's conference (4th-7th November) and confirmed that 14 adult places remained unbooked. Ruth Perrin was returning to speak on the subject of 'Liminality - Meeting God in the Desert'. Vicky reminded members that the monies given during the Conference Giving were used to support mission partners and charities (see Section 19 for details), and asked members to consider, and forward to Simon Crewe, proposals for the 2023 guest charity. Furthermore, she noted that the Bursary Fund was available for the use of Mission Partners, clergy and their families and confirmation that the 2021 Hothorpe Hall Deposit had been received, resulting in a current balance of £21K in the conference account, with projected 2022 costs of £16K and the deposit for 2023 having been paid.

2022 marked CDF's 70th year and Prince thanked Alan Vogt, Honorary Founder Member of the Council for having the vision to start the Fellowship and for his ongoing service throughout the years

14. Mission Partner Secretary's update

The written report had been circulated with the meeting papers. No questions were raised.

15. Pastoral care coordinator update

The written report had been circulated with the meeting papers. No questions were raised.

16. Student and electives update

A written report was not available and no questions were raised from the floor.

17. Vision and Development Group update

Cathy Fordyce confirmed that the Vision and Development (V&D) Group continued to meet regularly and that her tabled report provided a succinct summary of the group's work to date. She went on to briefly highlight the following areas:

- Branded merchandise had been provided to CMF Student Representatives in Birmingham, Belfast, Sheffield and Glasgow Universities for distribution during Freshers Week Fairs.
- With support from Malcolm Prideaux's son, who worked in the area, a promotional video was being made about CDF.
- The Fellowship's Social Media profile was being strengthened and Cathy asked members for phrases or snippets to use for this purpose.
- With respect to supporting student work, she noted that there had been early discussions about whether CDF invested in the time of a paid worker, say 1 day a week, to visit dental schools. This could be for example a CDF member or, if CMF were willing, the time of the CMF student support team

Cathy closed by reminding those present of the current demographics of the Fellowship's membership and highlighted the importance of engaging students and younger members of the profession and retaining their membership throughout their careers. Prince thanked Cathy for all she and the group were taking forward.

Action: Members to provide material for use in social media to Cathy Fordyce

18. Appointment of Safeguarding Officer.

Prince advised members that there was a need for the Fellowship to appoint a Safeguarding Officer. Susie Matthew held a similar role within her church and had indicated she would be willing to serve CDF in this capacity. He sought the membership's approval for this appointment. Following a poll, Susie was appointed as Safeguarding Officer.

Proposed by Kirsty Gayton, seconded by Iain Corran. Poll: 95% approval with 5% abstention

19. Future conference giving

VG further clarified the following arrangements for use of the Conference Giving monies:

- 50% to mission partners,
- 50% to charities - currently equal split between Dentaaid, the Liberian Therapy School and a yearly guest charity (2022 - Bridge2Aid).

20. AOB at the discretion of the Chairman

Prince invited Karen Paterson, in her role as incoming President, to say a few words. Karen began by saying that it had been her privilege to be President-elect and for her appointment to the Office of President be affirmed by the membership. She reflected that she had felt called to the profession after becoming a Christian at the age of 14. She went to dental school in Newcastle where she got to know many current CDF members. During her career, the Lord had guided her to work in varied settings, both overseas and within the UK, and, more recently, on to retirement. She was part of the church leadership team at New Life Baptist Church, was married to Mike, with three grown-up sons, and had recently become a grandmother.

Karen paid tribute to Past-Presidents and founding members of the Fellowship who had set Jesus as the Cornerstone of the Fellowship, working hard to build the foundations and set the building blocks that all appreciated today. She reflected on the sacrificial model of serving that Jesus demonstrated, and committed, with God's grace and the Holy Spirit, to do the same.

Karen went on to thank Council members and Trustees, both past and present, for their service to

the Fellowship over the last three years and applauded Prince for his dedication and hard work during his Presidential term, in what had been the most trying and difficult of circumstances, and warmly welcomed the new members to Council, acknowledging everyone's unique gifting and commitment.

Looking to the future; Karen recognised there were many and varied challenges facing the Fellowship to ensure that its legacy was protected and its future secured; she wished to hear the views of CDF members, and those of christian members of the dental team who were not CDF members; there were plans to run new member welcome meetings; there was a need to consider how the retired membership might be best supported and also to explore what repurposed meant for individuals as retirement approached; monthly prayer meetings would continue to provide prayer for those working in dentistry, the Chief Dental Officers and all who were making vital decisions within the profession; many within dentistry had not heard of CDF - there was a need for the Fellowship to develop a slightly louder voice within the profession; Christians had a calling to speak up for injustice, to lead with, and show, mercy, and do this, while walking humbly with our God.

In closing Karen invited members to consider the varied opportunities presented during the meeting, and to get in touch if they felt able to support CDF in any of these areas. She looked forward to meeting members face-to-face at conference.

Action: All to consider the opportunities for supporting CDF and to contact ??KP if able to get involved

21. Closing prayer

Karen (P) closed in prayer, reflecting the words of Paul in Ephesians Chapter 3.

Action Notes

Item		Action By	Deadline/ Status
6.	Prayerfully consider the roles of student mentor and field worker and contact PT if interested	Members	
10.	Expressions of interested for the role of Treasurer to be made to Karen Silcox or Council Member	Members	Complete
10.	Actively seek nominations for role of Honorary Treasurer with a view to co-opting in 2023	Council	Complete
12	Seek and appoint the Independent Examiner for the Accounts	Trustees	Complete
12	Convey the Fellowship's thanks to Mike Paterson	PT	Complete
17	Share material for use in Social Media to Cathy Fordyce	Members	
20	Consider opportunities for supporting CDF and contact KS If able to get involved	Members	