

**2022 Annual General Meeting of City Faith Ministries Trust  
Aka Christian Life Fellowship**

**Date:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
**Venue:** Online (via Zoom)  
**Time:** 7.00pm-9.59pm

**Attendance**

**Trustees & Elders:** Meka Umeadi - Vice Chair & Treasurer (MU)  
Michael Amoah - Chair (MA)  
Marilyn Mensah (MM)  
Enoch Amoah (EA)  
Sandra Ankrah (SA)  
Philip Ankrah (PA)

**Ex Officio:** John Dompreeh (Executive)

**Members Online: 65** John (KJD), Philip (PA), Michael (MA), Meka (MU), Sandra (SA), Stephanie (SLK), Hannah A, Rebecca S, Abigail (AA), Enoch (EA), Angela (AC), Fola (FO), Karen, Nickelas, Nunya (NL), Peter N, Tina, Nnenna, Frankie, Tina, Lynette, Pauline, Mary O, Genevieve, Christine, Sabrina, Paulina, Janet D (JD), Karen A, Mary A, Sheron, Janet A, Adebola, Kwabena, Michelle O, Phylicia, Samantha A, Steven G, Uche, Petrina, Tosin E, J, Lee M, Afriyie (AD), Edmund, Hannha O, Marilyn (MM), Peter (PM), Ruth, Nicholas, V, Natalie, Chris E (CE), Fiona, Philippa, Ozi, Tim G, Shelisha, Vanessa W, Martyn, Diana Q, Diana M, Yaw John, Siobhan, Austin, Bianca, Delia, Kai, Stefanie, Andrew Q.

**Apologies:** None given

**Agenda**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Reading of 2021 AGM minutes
3. Amendments to 2021 AGM minutes
4. Matters Arising
5. Report of CFMT for 2021:
  - a. Global Report
  - b. Finance Report
6. Any Other Business
7. Closing prayer

## **1. Opening Prayer:**

Meeting began at 7:06pm by MA.  
MU opened meeting in prayer.

## **2. Reading of 2021 AGM minutes:**

Minutes for 2021 read by MU.

Amendments made by MU to re-word parts of the 2021 minutes

## **3. Amendments to 2021 AGM minutes:**

MU advised of areas to be amended within the Building Update section. No further amendments were made to the minutes.

## **4. Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising from minutes. Minutes approved by SA & NL

## **5. Report of CFMT for 2021:**

### **a. Global Report:**

Global report read by MA. MU asked members if there were any amendments.

Amendments to be made for the 2021 report:

- No leader for DOTK assigned
- Peter Mensah is now the Leader of SMM
- AGM was 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 not 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021
- Liz's son's name is Zachary
- Othniel correct spelling for Ps Peter's son
- Enoch Amoah - should read "Regional & National Overseer Responsibilities within the Trust"

MR stated that it had not been read that he was the National Overseer for RSA. MA stated that this information would be added.

PA stated Dr Moses passed away in May 2021 and that this information needed to be updated. Additionally, that his daughter had assumed the position to oversee the works in Andhra Pradesh. He stated that details would be sent to update the report.

It was pointed out that the repeated line in the report for EA as regional overseer should say National overseer for Ghana. MA stated this would be amended.

Ozi asked which chat group the AGM documents had been shared in. MA stated that the documents had been shared within the CLF Global chat.

PA stated that he had not been involved in the Apostolic events although he had been cited in the report. PM stated that the Apostolic forums that PA had been involved in were what were referenced.

FO queried that as SA was an employed member of staff then she was not permitted to be a Trustee in line with Charity commission rules. JD stated that employees were permitted if they did not amount to the majority of the Trustees.

CE asked who will be now leading SMM? JD stated PM was now the leader of SMM.

Ozi asked about the progress of CLFTV and whether plans had been shelved. MA stated plans were in infancy stages as planners worked on next steps.

Ozi asked how this would work globally with all the churches? MA stated that a TV ministry needed a spearhead and that he, JD, and PM were working on how this would go ahead for CLF. MA stated that the skillset to function properly as a TV outlet required technical support to help it grow.

AD asked if the TV ministry was something that we were looking at after purchasing a building? If not, could we focus on obtaining the building first? (In terms priority of funding). JD stated that the content would not require high end / BBC type equipment initially.

FO asked if questions he had, not related to the report should be held until later. MA replied Yes

**b. Finance Report:**

MU thanked members on behalf of the Trustees & Elders for the financial support made even in adverse situations due to COVID-19.

The financial report given by MU. The report reflected on the financial activity of CFMT during January-December 2021.

Ozi asked if there was a tighter budget squeeze to help when approaching lenders?

MU stated Trustees were working to obtain a surplus figure for the year in the budget. Face to face service costs had been factored in. As Greenwich was the mother church it underwrote most of the bills and branches paid donations to assist. Trustees were looking to increase donations where possible from the other branches.

MA added that Trustees were factoring in all expenditure to see where resources could be saved. However, there was exceptional support required by other branches and ministries - especially overseas. A half year review was scheduled for the first time to see

whether scale back of discretionary spend was necessary. This year there would be more consideration of support from all churches to support the global work.

FO asked what contributed to the increase in employees' costs. MA stated the increase was due (in part to) JB's funeral service.

FO asked if there was any scope to increase office team pay regularly?

MA stated that he was embarrassed that this issue comes up annually as per minutes read but that there had not been a pay review due to affordability. He stated that for the first time there was to be a half year review if the Trust were in a position at half year, this would be done. He stated that it was important to not increase expenditure and thanked staff and volunteers for their service.

CE asked if there was a way to increase church income

MU stated that historically there had been mentions of fundraising champions – JB had also mentioned this last year. He stated this was a key area that would help grow income and would make a difference.

MR encouraged attendees on the missions and financing impact CLF had made around the world. He reiterated that CLM was self-funded and that individuals could decide to sponsor a nation. The CLM team were working on a new mission's development manual and in RSA they had embarked on a pilot scheme.

AD asked if there were plans for investment for the fundraising? MU stated that there had been initiatives before - such as farming to help individuals to be self-sustainable. However, stated that a lot of work was still needed in follow up.

MR stated that JD, PM & the presbytery were trying to build initiatives to develop more of a business mentality – ability to accrue sustainable income. He stated this similar approach was being done in RSA and this was the new drive in CLM.

PA thanked MU his answer and added that the challenge was not follow up, but more skillset to run a micro business. He stated this had been done several times in Ghana without the intended results. Currently regions were being reviewed to see which had the drive to learn and could carry micro businesses forward.

PM also stated some initiatives had been spread over the regions without the desired results. Some had been positive such as the computer network scheme where 4/5 had graduated and in University within Sierra Leone. CLM had tried a cultural project, but this was mismanaged. Therefore, to ensure future initiative success we needed people we had trained ourselves to spearhead and volunteer for a period until establishment.

Sheron asked if Crypto currency had been considered to generate income.

MA said it was his view that until Crypto currency was regulated it could not be used as a means of investment. However, if an individual wanted to take a risk and donate the funds this would be fine. This was not something CFMT could partake in.

MA shared that over 90% of what CLF had been doing was investing into poverty nations that may not have the skillset for self-sufficiency. As we are missions based this is not entirely negative and individuals, cells, churches with "burdens" would be key in progressing these initiatives.

A church building had been raised as a key priority, but any property in London to house 500+ people would be costly £2 million + renovation and all our assets would not exceed 50% and commercial properties required more than that.

FO echoed that international missions was a key strength of the church and that we should try to keep this as an anchor. However, he stated due to our Eldership / leadership structure members did not really have a say on what initiatives CLF would focus on as the decision would be with the elders rather than members.

MR disagreed and stated that strong views that were brought to the elders would be listened to. He argued that all members had a say and the structure was good. He stated rather the focus would be how it was brought forward and whether what was being said had value.

PA stated that he endorsed MRs comment. He challenged FO that he may have forgotten past initiatives brought by members – himself included which have been a blessing. He shared that the leadership team carry a great responsibility to carry the church – they aimed to be led by the Spirit and would positively respond to Spirit led initiatives.

AD shared that missions was close to her heart so understand and knowledge of activity would be good e.g., social action activity. She suggested a re-brand and greater communication of the mission's program

MA said he thought FO was saying that there were things Trustees and Executive had to work through (like the budget) and despite suggestions, the Eldership would have final say on decisions.

JD said those who have a passion (for an initiative) should do the groundwork and then share the vision - the leadership were behind those that were willing to put in the work in. She had been able to pioneer with PM as an example.

FO added that MA had articulated what he was saying and wanted to reaffirm that members can raise things, but the Leadership would have the final say over priority of funds.

PA apologised for where his response may have sounded impassioned and that he had misunderstood FO. He now understood as FO had clarified his point.

CE returned to MA previous point regarding the reality of our current financial position and asked if there was a way investment could be made in business / asset to help build capacity to achieve our goals? E.g., could we invest in a café that could build income?

MA said that we were at the point that we were looking at selling our properties to yield cash to help buy our building and obtain a mortgage. He said it should be remembered that we were a charitable trust and so needed to show sufficient capabilities within our resources – e.g., if we wanted to buy and sell goods and made a loss the Charity commission would query how responsibly we had invested funds based due to lack of expertise. Ultimately, any endeavour would need a spearhead to oversee what was being investing into.

AAO stated we can use what we have got to achieve our goals quickly, but the will was needed and demanded a collective effort. There were a few ways to raise funds to buy business which involved liquidating assets, investing in a café, buying more properties. These projects would require time, effort, and energy. We were thankful that we were in a very good position but would need the manpower to push forward in these areas.

MR stated the eldership were not a business board but a spiritual cover. Those skilled should help. He stated he had made investments in RSA which were currently funding the work.

MA stated the review of the report was concluded. He stated that God's grace had kept us, and the church was "above water" financially despite what we had gone through over the last 2 years.

#### **Any Other Business:**

FO asked if office staff or more volunteers could be compensated for their service to enable them to focus - rather than it being a side task. He proposed that if CLF were to go beyond current levels there should be compensation for the work being done by volunteers.

MA stated that he understands FO position and that Trustees had made a commitment to review things. However, if the work had relied on employing people CLF would not have gone as far as it had. He stated many individuals that deserved payment which was not possible alongside global commitments.

MU stated it was a very good question by FO and MA had put forward the Trusts position. He shared that Trustees were trying to ensure funding of things already committed to but would review at half year. There had been an increased commitment for churches overseas and this was ongoing, and fundraising would help balance commitments.

SLK stated there may be unknown reasons for lack of pay rise (e.g., JB stating being uncomfortable for one as staff could be laid off). She stated her role was a service to God and although she had taken a huge pay cut she had seen Gods provision.

MR said that he would like to say a big thank you to the presbytery and the trustees and especially Ps Phil and Ps John for their faithfulness.

JD thanked God, MA & the Trustees, Presbytery team, the CLF Pastors globally, Leaders, admin team and volunteers who help the church to function. He shared that all should not lose focus on why we existed and who we served. He stated prayer was the most important thing as anything built outside of God would not be sustained. He stated that these were very challenging times. He shared that we would continue to trust in the Lord and all we do must bring glory to God.

JD stated that all that was done should be borne of faith and that the body of Christ was facing challenges and needed the Holy Spirits leading. Although CLF was experiencing challenges (and with the loss of JB) he encouraged all to be united and to pursue the cause of Christ. He asked all to please give the Eldership space to put things in place for the future. He reaffirmed that CLF existed to make Disciples of Christ and that with or without a building it had not stopped the work in 28 years. He stated CLF was to focus on spreading the word of God throughout the world. Prayer and unity were needed more than ever whilst waiting for what God had in store for 2022.

MA stated that he was drawing the meeting to a close and hoped attendees had a good understanding of what the church had been doing.

## **6. Closing prayer:**

SA closed meeting in prayer

AAO suggested for all to continue to commit Ps Ayshea and the children in prayer. MA agreed and encouraged all to do so and thanked all who had attended meeting.

Meeting closed at 21:59pm