

Finance & Support Services Committee Meeting 22nd April 2017 - Summary

The audited accounts for 2016 were presented to the committee along with budgets for 2018 and a revised forecast for 2017. It was noted that no issues were reported during the audit and the accounts were approved.

Assets of the charity increased in the year by £352k despite an operating deficit of £719k. This was due to exceptional unrealised investment gains of £790k but it was noted that investments can go down as well as up. The money markets + FTSE are currently at all-time highs. Receipts from closed churches of £165k along with legacies of £45k and some realized gains on properties all contributed in transforming the operating deficit into an overall surplus. However, it must be reiterated that this figure does include unrealised gains and there remains an operating deficit.

It was recognized that the organisational re-structure will have an effect on budgets during 2017 and 2018 and that the new underlying trends will become clearer after this transitional period. However, the deficits are now at much lower levels which immediately ease the financial pressures. It was noted though that careful monitoring and managing of the overall level of operations is still required in order to keep operations within sustainable deficit levels.

The budget for 2018 was presented and approved. The operating deficit will fall back to £440k, which includes historic depreciation of £90k, specific and restricted funds account for a further £105k leaving a deficit of around £245k due to normal operations. It is anticipated that CF will continue to receive significant amounts of closed church receipts in both 2017 and 2018 which should cover the underlying deficits, thus leaving the Protected Program Fund intact.

Recommendations to Assembly include: 2018 Church affiliation fees of £135 (church) and £5.50 (per member). Personal and Associate membership fees increase to £35.

The Clerical Medical pension scheme has now been fully wound up.

CF has met its staging date for pension auto enrolment purposes through the Royal London pension scheme.

A request for CF affiliation has been received from All Nations Church, Swansea, affirmed by CF in Wales and the FSSC was happy to recommend to Council and Assembly membership is accepted.

DONM: 14.10.17