



# We Are Church Ireland

## Minutes of AGM of We Are Church – IRELAND

**Date & time:** 2pm, Saturday 8 June 2019

**Venue:** Mercy International Centre, 64A Baggot Street, Dublin 2

1. Colm Holmes welcomed everyone.
2. Nieves Fernandez read a prayer from Mary T. Malone's book.
3. Ursula Halligan introduced Tina Beattie who gave a wonderful talk titled "Women in the Catholic Church: Hopeful but not Optimistic" followed by a Q & A session. Tina Beattie also launched Nora Kelly's "Last Supper" painting which WAC Ireland have acquired. Videos of this are to be posted on the WAC Ireland website and FB pages. John Farrelly thanked Tina Beattie and presented her with a framed print of Nora Kelly's "Last Supper".
4. The talk by Tina Beattie was attended by 60; only 26 attended the AGM that followed after the break.
5. Colm Holmes welcomed everyone to the AGM.
6. The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were approved.
7. Colm Holmes reported about the busiest year ever in 2018 with the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland. (Report attached in Appendix 1)
8. Finbarr Quigley presented a detailed Financial report showing a surplus of €1,491 leaving a bank balance of €2,290 as at 31 December 2018. (Report attached in Appendix 2)
9. A proposal to revise the WAC Ireland "Principles of Organisation" t Proposal with the addition of 6<sup>th</sup> Aim *A church that is fully committed to justice and equality; prioritising the vulnerable and deprived in society* and Charity Regulator changes was approved.
10. There were 4 vacancies arising on the Core Group and only 2 nominations were received. At the meeting Florence Conroy was proposed

by Gina Menzies and seconded by Phil Dunne and unanimously approved to be elected to the Core Group. Thus the following new Core Group was elected:

- a. Florence Conroy
- b. John Farrelly
- c. Nieves Fernandez
- d. Ursula Halligan
- e. Colm Holmes
- f. One Vacant position (Male)

11. Colm thanked Finbarr Quigley for his 8 years of service on the WAC Core Group. Despite work and family commitments which involved frequent travel overseas, Finbarr was always involved through email and supported all our events. We presented Finbarr with a framed print of Piasecki's "Last Supper".
12. There were comments from several members:
  - a. Gina Menzies suggested the Core Group might meet before the monthly meetings?
  - b. Phil Dunne asked that the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WAC Ireland be celebrated in 2020.
  - c. Florence Conroy asked that an overview of the 25 years of WAC Ireland be compiled?
  - d. Brendan Butler said the extra 6<sup>th</sup> Aim should be stressed on Facebook and our website.
  - e. John Farrelly suggested we might find a social action or Climate action group to partner with?
  - f. Phil Dunne suggested we organize a Climate Justice event.
  - g. Josie O'Reilly noted that WAC is not well known and we need to advertise our existence better.
  - h. Genevieve Mooney proposed we carry out a review of WAC.
  - i. Maureen O'Connor said that Churches are not interested in climate change.
  - j. Florence Conroy proposed we look at the issues of Justice and Equality and Violence against women.
  - k. Joe Mulvaney thanked WAC for supporting his book launch on our website. He is now into his second print run.
13. Nieves read the concluding prayer.
14. The meeting concluded.

## Appendix 1: Report to 2019 AGM on Year ended 31 December 2018

1. 2018 was our busiest year ever with the visit of Pope Francis and the World Meeting of Families.
2. We applied for a stand at the World Meeting of Families (WMoF) thanks to an anonymous donor who gave us the €2k fee which had to be paid with the application. After 5 months of delays and numerous phonecalls we cancelled our cheque. It was clear All were NOT Welcome at the WMoF.
3. We spotted the deletion of numerous photos from the WMoF booklet showing same sex couples. And we spotted the cutting of a bishops video on the WMoF website where he had said that all families whether gay or divorced or single parents should be welcomed. We passed this on to the media.
4. For the Referendum to Abolish the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment we asked all our members to vote in accordance with their conscience.
5. Ursula Halligan represented us at the Voices of Faith meeting in Rome in March where Mary McAleese was a keynote speaker. Cardinal Kevin Farrell refused to allow Mary McAleese and 2 other speakers to attend this meeting in the Vatican, so the organizers moved the event to a Jesuit House in Rome. Ursula delivered the homily at the Voices of Faith Mass in the Jesuit Curia on International Woman's Day
6. We organized an online petition to Pope Francis calling for a change in church language about LGBTQ people – Ursula Halligan, Pádraig Ó Tuama and Senator David Norris endorsed this.
7. At our AGM we filled the theatre in Gonzaga College where Ursula Halligan interviewed Mary McAleese. The videos of the interview were published online.
8. We applauded Dublin Pride for making their theme “We Are Family” and we marched with a new We Are Church Ireland banner and Rainbow umbrellas in brilliant sunshine with 100,000 others.
9. We supported Tiernan Brady's launch of EQUAL FUTURES in the Horse Show House.
10. We organized a Rainbow Choir outside the WMoF in the RDS with top class LGBT choir members which received wide media coverage.
11. We organized a Welcome for Pope Francis BUT Justice for \*Abused \*Women \*LGBTQI+ on the Ha'Penny Bridge with blue ribbons (for the abused), Rainbow umbrellas (LGBT) and Purple umbrellas (Women Priests). Dublin Pride (Eddie McGuinness) and WOW supported this event which received international media coverage.
12. We organised 16 events of which 5 were public witness events.
13. Our thanks to Mercy International Centre with their wonderful team and facilities where we now hold our regular monthly meetings.
14. Our speakers included Harry van den Akker; Annette Esser; Tony MacCarthaigh; Sr Sabine Schratz; Mary McAleese with Ursula Halligan; Claire Jenkins; Joe Mulvaney.
15. Public Witness events included:
  - 15.1. 25 March World Day of Prayer for Women's Ordination (Kildare)

- 15.2. 22 April Vocation Sunday (Armagh)
- 15.3. 30 June Dublin Pride March
- 15.4. 23 August Rainbow Choir (RDS)
- 15.5. 25 August Ha'Penny Bridge Welcome for Pope Francis BUT Justice for \*Abused \*Women \*LGBTQI+
16. We issued 14 Press Statements
17. Our Membership increased for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row and reached our highest ever number of paid up members at 140.
18. Our Finances had a record year and our balance at 31 December 2018 was €2,395
19. In August we organized the WOW Steering Committee meeting in Solas Bhríde (Kildare). WOW members joined us on the Ha'penny Bridge to Welcome Pope Francis; they also handed out leaflets outside the Papal mass in the Phoenix Park and then attended the Stand4Truth March from Parnell Square to the Magdalene Laundry.
20. We applied to the Charity Regulator to become a Registered Charity.
21. We applied for Membership of the Global Network of Rainbow Catholics (GNRC).
22. Colm Holmes attended the WAC International meeting in Rome in March where Colm was elected Chair and in April Finbarr Quigley was co-opted as Treasurer of WAC International.
23. Brendan Butler represented us at the International Church Reform Network (ICRN) meeting in Bratislava in October.
24. We again held our Advent Liturgy in Manresa thanks to the Jesuits. We are looking for help with organizing this event if anyone can get involved?
25. And in 2019 so far:
  - 25.1. Our speakers included Marie Collins (Abuse Summit); Minister Josepha Madigan (Women in the church); Sr Sheila Curran (Immigration); Mary T. Malone (The Elephant in the Room) as well as an excellent DVD on Saint Oscar Romero.
  - 25.2. We Are Church Ireland are now registered with the Charity Regulator (Number 20203544)
  - 25.3. We Are Church Ireland is now the Irish representative for the Global Network of Rainbow Catholics (GNRC)
  - 25.4. Columbans Dalgan Park Consultation
  - 25.5. Members Survey 2019

## Colm Holmes

### WAC Ireland Members Survey 2019

	Definitely YES and YES
Q9.A Would you be interested to take part in a house eucharist without an officially ordained presider?	74%
Q9.B We should promote the selection & election of our bishops by all the adult members of our dioceses?	78%
Q9.C We should seek a Church with non-ordained people involved in decision making	94%
Q9.D We should add a 6th goal for WAC: A church that is fully committed to justice and equality; prioritising the vulnerable and deprived in society	88%
Q9.E Regarding clerical sex abuse WAC should press the hierarchy for a universal safeguarding policy across all Church entities worldwide and a clear accountability policy for all church leaders in regard to the handling of cases of the abuse of minors.	94%

## Appendix 2: Financial Report for 2018

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Year Ended		31/12/2018	31/12/2017
		€	€
<b>Receipts</b>			
	Collections from Monthly Meetings	998.00	1,065.00
	Collections from Liturgies / Events	1,469.00	450.00
	Membership and other Donations	3,815.00	1,332.00
	Sales of prints and cards	2,540.00	2,076.00
		<b>8,822.00</b>	<b>4,923.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
	Room Hire for Monthly Meetings	708.00	813.00
	Room Hire for Liturgies / Events	175.00	150.00
	Liturgies / Events	2,929.00	197.00
	WAC International membership	300.00	312.00
	WAC International Meeting	492.00	100.00
	Printing	260.00	54.00
	Bank Charges	133.00	94.00
	Post and Packaging	312.00	587.00
	Insurance	769.00	703.00
	Charitable Donations	300.00	450.00
	Website	195.00	95.00
	WOW subscription & meetings	90.00	644.00
	Voice of Faith Conference	213.00	0.00
	Gifts to speakers	306.00	260.00
	Paypal	149.00	101.00
		<b>7,331.00</b>	<b>4,560.00</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>		<b>1,491.00</b>	<b>363.00</b>
<b>Reserves</b>			
	Opening Balance	799.00	436.00
	Excess of Receipts over Payments in Year	1,491.00	363.00
	Balance Forward	2,290.00	799.00
<b>Balance Sheet as at</b>		<b>31/12/2018</b>	<b>31/12/2017</b>
<b>Assets Less Liabilities</b>			
	Bank Balance	2,290.00	799.00
<b>Reserves</b>			
	Excess of Receipts over Payments	2,290.00	799.00
<b>Notes:</b>			
A monetary value has not been included in the accounts for the following assets held at 31/12/2018			
Original of Last Supper Painting			
	Large Last Supper Prints	131 no.	
	Medium Pentecost Prints:	1732 no.	
	Medium Mary of Magdala Prints:	181 no.	
	Last Supper Postcards	36 no. packs of 12	
	Medium Last Supper Prints	1639 no.	
Online sales of prints and postcards in 2018			
	Large Last Supper Prints	49 no.	
	Medium Pentecost Prints:	4 no.	
	Medium Mary of Magdala Prints:	4 no.	
	Last Supper Postcards	19 no. packs of 12	
	Medium Last Supper Prints	31 no.	