

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATORS' NETWORK

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 6th July 2020 at 1.30pm

Via Zoom :

<https://durhamuniversity.zoom.us/j/96001149127?pwd=OTZnTnRoWG44b3BaeXhDdFRNQ>

m1rQT09 Meeting ID: 960 0114 9127 Passcode: 703443

Agenda

1. Welcome and opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of 2020 AGM
4. Matters arising not covered below and notification of AOB
5. Financial matters
 - a. To receive the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts
 - b. To re-appoint the Independent Examiner
6. Chair's report of activities
7. Elections of officers to the Executive
 - a. Chair
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Treasurer

NB Charles Read, Irena Edgcumbe and Simon Stocks have completed a two-year term of office and may be re-elected. Other nominations may also be received.

8. Other elections to the Executive

NB The remainder of the Executive Committee is currently constituted as:

*Elected 2017 to serve until 2021 (thus term now expired by may be re-elected):
Paul Regan, Mike Hull, Joanne Jones (currently serving as membership secretary)*

*Elected 2019 to serve until 2023:
Roger Latham, John Hartley*

9. Matters for the Executive to consider / pursue in the next year
10. AOB
11. Close / date of next AGM

The Theological Educators' Network

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Tuesday 7th July 2020 at 3.15pm via Zoom

There were approximately 25 members present and several apologies were received. Charles Read was in the chair.

1. The Chair welcomed and opened the meeting in prayer
2. The minutes of the 2019 AGM were received with one correction – the venue was Collingwood College in the University of Durham [Proposed: John Hartley; seconded Doug Chaplin]
3. The audited accounts were received [Proposed: Charles Read; seconded Phillip Tovey] and Steve Bishop was reappointed as the Independent Examiner [Proposed: Charles Read; seconded Roger Latham]
4. Chair's report of activities

The executive committee met twice since the last AGM and scheduled three meetings for the coming year. Meetings were taking place Zoom during the COVID-19 crisis but it was felt that this would anyway be a more efficient way of meeting generally in the future.

During this last year TEN had been involved in the following activities :

1. We ran an induction day for new staff in collaboration with the Ministry Division and were planning to do something again in the New Year but on Zoom. We attract small numbers to this event but it is much appreciated by those who come.
2. The Chair had conversations with staff in the teaching and learning centre at Durham to see how we can open up Higher Education Academy fellowships etc. to Common Awards staff in TEIs. The lockdown had put this conversation on hold for the moment but it was hoped that we might be able to run information days somewhere other than Durham to make them more accessible.
3. TEN had taken on the running of the annual Reader trainers two day conference and would be doing this from November 2020 with the Ministry Team handling the administration. There were plans that this might lead to some consultations for those involved in lay ministry training more generally.

There were a number of issues arising from the COVID-19 crisis which were affecting TEIs. It was clear that staff who had not been furloughed were working very long hours and were very stretched. Staff returning from furlough were finding that there is a lot of work to pick up and were themselves becoming very busy. On top of this there had been a lot of learning about how to deliver formation and training online followed by a lot of planning about what may be possible in the new academic year

and how this might be delivered. The Chair was very conscious of the strain which this was putting on all staff and especially on those who are teaching in TEIs alongside other responsibilities e.g. in a parish.

5. Elections to the Executive - the officers did not need electing as they were all part way through their terms but we had committee vacancies to fill – Sarah Bush was suggested as a possible co-option.
6. There was then a general discussion on matters affecting theological educators.
 - a. There was some concern that a move to more delivery in a digital mode would lead to staff reductions. Online teaching appeared to be regarded as a shortcut to financial savings in some places. There appeared to be people who might be involved in making decisions about this who do not understand how theological education works, including not understanding that setting up courses and teaching online takes time, both in the initial setting up and in the continuing managing. Theological educators were finding that teaching online takes longer down delivery face to face. There was also some discussion about class size and how if online classes were very large, on the assumption that a person could just teach more and more people in an online class, then this had implications for the marking load of that teacher. It was the opposite of an economy of scale. There is a need to reflect on the new systems now being used in a careful way.
 - b. Staff are generally tired. Alongside the move to online teaching, there has been the RMF process which has added other work and strains. In addition, the new selection criteria and process has added more work as has the request that TEIs should complete the work of discernment begun in online advisory panels. There is a particular strain here for part time staff who are also parish priests, where there has been an increased workload in their parish ministry as well.
 - c. There was some discussion about whether TEN might be involved in helping ordination candidates who are identified as potential theological educators.
 - d. TEN has a role in raising awareness generally about theological education and those who work in it. The main voice nationally speaking to the ministry council is the Principals' group, but the AGM felt that this was a limited voice.
 - e. Concern was expressed about the move to shorter training pathways which squeezes potential theological educators who do not then get enough initial training to help them develop this aspect of their ministry.
 - f. There was some discussion of the new staff day and whether this might be linked with the issue of helping those who are identified as potential theological educators. How does someone identified in this way actually get a foot on the ladder in theological education? An example was given of Oxford diocese which gets its theological educator curates together. Could others do the same in their dioceses or in clusters of dioceses? The question was also raised as to how we encourage lay people, especially LLMs, into a ministry as theological educators.

7. The meeting closed in prayer and the date of the next day AGM would be announced when the common awards staff conference dates were announced.

Theological Educators' Network

Annual report for the year ended 31st December 2020

Administrative Information

The Theological Educators' Network (TEN) of Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London SW10 3NZ is registered with the Charity Commissioners (No. 1078957). It was set up in May 1989 and is regulated by a constitution that was revised on 7th July 1999, and 9th July 2015, and 6th July 2016.

Structure, Management and Governance

The Charity is administered by an Executive Committee, comprising:

Chairman - Charles Read
Secretary - Irena Edgcumbe
Treasurer - Simon Stocks

Other elected members:

2019 – 2023 - Roger Latham, John Hartley.
2017-2021 - Michael Hull, Joanna Jones (membership secretary), Paul Regan.
In attendance - Keith Beech-Gruneberg (representing Ministry Division)

Officers of the Executive Committee are elected for renewable terms of two years.

Members of the Executive Committee are elected for renewable terms of four years.

Objects and Activities

The object of the charity is to advance religion through the furtherance of theological education and ministerial training and in its practical and theoretical aspects. To this end conferences are held from time to time (usually annually) to facilitate discussion and deliberation, and training events are held for new theological educators.

Achievements and Performance

The principal activity in 2020 was the conference, which was held in conjunction with the Durham University Common Awards on the 6-8th July 2020. Owing to pandemic restrictions, the conference took place online. The Annual Meeting of the charity took place during this conference, attended by 20 members. A training event for new staff was held on the 6th February 2020. The executive committee met three times: in February, July and October.

Financial Review

The Accumulated Fund at the year-end amounted to £7,412. Because the conference was run online, it generated no income. Expenditure was £127.

Reserves Policy

The policy of the Charity is to maintain an Accumulated Fund sufficient for on-going purposes and to add to this, as necessary, by planning for a surplus at the annual conference and/or by requesting the payment of subscriptions from members.

Plans for the Future

TEN reviews its activities regularly in order to adapt to the changing landscape of ministerial training. A new direction and a new constitution came into force in 2016, and further developments may be necessary. Conferences are usually held in conjunction with the Common Awards annual staff conference organised by Durham University as part of the Common Awards arrangements, and/or in conjunction with other national church groups with related interests (e.g. Continuing Ministerial Development network). The next conference will be 5-7th July 2021 and is likely to be online. A training event for new staff is also planned for February 2021 and a conference for Reader trainers in November 2021.

Charles Read
Chair of the Executive Committee

Irena Edgcumbe
Secretary to the Executive Committee

Theological Educators Network
Registered Charity No. 1078957

Income and Expenditure Account
For the year ended 31st December 2020

2019		2020
£		£
	Income	
120	Conference – <i>see note 1.</i>	0
	Expenditure	
	Executive Committee:	
194	Travel & postage	38
89	Website hosting & domain	89
<u>60</u>	External examiner	<u>0</u>
<u>343</u>		<u>127</u>
<u>(223)</u>	Surplus (Deficit) for the year	<u>(127)</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020

	Assets	
7,539	Cash on bank current account	7,412
	Liabilities	
<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
<u>7,539</u>		<u>7,412</u>
	Represented by:	
	Accumulated Fund	
7,762	Balance at 1 st January 2020	7,539
<u>(223)</u>	Surplus (Deficit) for the year	<u>(127)</u>
<u>7,539</u>	Balance at 31 st December 2020	<u>7,412</u>

Note 1: an amount of £60 from Durham University in respect of 2018's conference was received in 2019.

Simon Stocks
Treasurer to the Executive Committee

**Independent Examiner's Report
to the Executive Committee of the Theological Educators' Network**

I report on the accounts of the Theological Educators' Network for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of executive committee and examiner

As the charity's trustees, the members of the executive committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

23rd March 2021

Chair's Report to AGM July 2021

The executive committee has met three times since the last AGM.

We have moved to meeting via zoom and will continue to do so as committee meetings are relatively short.

During this last year we have been involved in the following activities :

1. We once again ran an induction course for new staff in collaboration with the Ministry Team. This time we ran three separate sessions on three different occasions and this mode of delivery worked well and enabled participation by a different set of people, so we are looking at how we provide induction next year, possibly in February. We need to think about whether we are reaching all those who would find such a programme helpful.
2. After conversations last year with staff in the teaching and learning centre at Durham, the Higher Education Academy fellowships etc. are once more being made available to TEI staff. We still need to look at locations for this to make it more accessible.
3. TEN has taken on the running of the annual Reader Trainers' two-day conference and we had a successful conference online in November. There will be a conference in November this year at Sarum college and the provisional dates are 4th to the 5th of November. Should a face-to-face meeting not be possible, we will revert to Zoom but we hope this will not be necessary.

The Executive has considered a variety of issues arising from TEIs having to deliver almost everything via Zoom or a similar platform. There are widespread reports of staff being very tired after over a year of operating in this way and there is still some uncertainty in some places about how we will operate in the autumn term. The exec has therefore been concerned about issues of staff well-being in the current and recent situation.

In addition to this, we have discussed a variety of matters which the sector is facing including the RMF review and what the implications of this might be, once proposals are firmed up. We have also decided to try to hold one or more events for potential theological educators so that people who are in IME 1 or who are in the early years of public ministry can explore what this might mean if it has been suggested to them that they might be a potential theological educator or if they feel called to this work.

While our meetings have been dominated by pandemic related matters in the last year, I sense that in the year ahead we will be facing a broader agenda, not least driven by issues arising from the RMF review and considerations of racism and accessibility within theological education.

Charles Read