

German Speaking Congregation in Edinburgh and Aberdeen
Registered Charity SC009066

1 Chalmers Crescent, Edinburgh, EH9 1TW

Trustees' Annual Report for the Calendar Year 2023

Aims and Objectives

We are a church congregation. Our objectives, therefore, as enshrined in our constitution of 1st May 1961 (last revised on 22nd February 2003), are to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ as the Word of God in the strength of the Holy Spirit and on the basis of the Old and New Testaments.

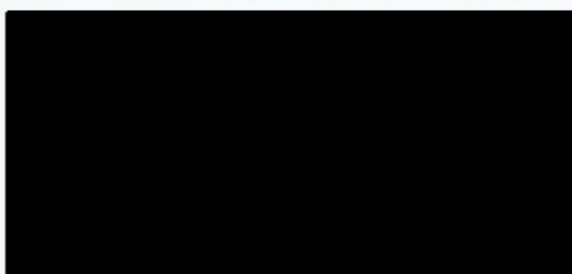
Specifically, in its proclamation of the Gospel, its pastoral care and social work, the Congregation recognises its responsibility towards all German-speaking persons residing permanently or temporarily in the eastern half of Scotland, the western half being the responsibility of our sister congregation in Glasgow.

Administration

The ultimate governing body of the Charity is its membership, in the form of the Congregational Assembly, which makes decisions at its Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings. The day to day management of the Charity's affairs is vested in a committee known as the Church Council. All members of this committee act as Trustees and thus as formal owners of the congregation's assets on its behalf.

Committee members are elected by and from among the membership to four-year terms of office. These elections generally take place at every second AGM in such a way that at each election approximately half the committee is elected.

Members of the committee were:



At the end of the year membership stood at 89.

Activities

Given that our pastors' term of office was drawing to a close after 8/9 years, many of our activities with them were to be carried out for the last time.

Our AGM took place on 5th March 2023.

The bulk of our charitable expenditure goes towards maintaining our property (we own the church building and attached manse at 1 Chalmers Crescent, Edinburgh) and towards supporting the work of our pastors. Accordingly, we make a significant annual donation (£20300 this year) to our parent charity, the Synod of German-Speaking Lutheran, Reformed, and United Congregations in Great Britain (registered in England No 266600), which acts as formal employer to our pastors, whose duties are divided between us and our sister congregations in Glasgow and Newcastle.

In keeping with tradition, approximately a quarter of the proceeds of our main fundraising event of the year, our annual Christmas Bazaar, (a sum of £483) was donated to a local charity (this year the Edinburgh City Mission Food Banks). Other charities we supported by way of collections included the Salvation Army.

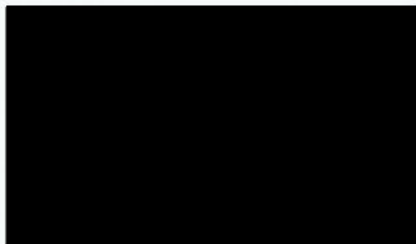
Reserves

We maintain reserves for a number of designated and undesignated purposes. The committee regularly monitors the level of reserves.

Some two thirds of our total reserves are held in a unitised investment with "abrdn" (Aberdeen Standard Investments, formerly Standard Life), the rest in cash at bank.

The year 2023 saw a deficit of £23500.

For the Trustees



German-Speaking Congregation in Edinburgh and Aberdeen
Registered Charity SC009066

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31/12/2023

Receipts	2023	2022
1a Membership subscriptions	9197.00	9007.00
1b Collections (own purposes)	1719.41	618.15
1c Collections (external purposes)	1539.18	1215.90
1d1 Donations (use of hall)	3845.00	3392.35
1d2 Donations (guest room)	839.32	374.48
1d3 Donations (other)	710.00	716.15
1e Bazaar, Sales	2106.47	1566.56
2a Rent	2604.75	1915.00
3 Grants	2384.00	2258.00
4e Reimbursements (heating etc)	1800.00	1800.00
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Total Receipts	26745.13	22863.59
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Payments	2023	2022
2 Staff (cleaner etc.)	3270.00	1775.00
3b Taxes (council tax)	2341.50	2234.47
3c Buildings insurance	1278.18	1170.17
3e Repairs and maintenance	5229.00	7568.79
3f Electricity, gas, and water	3842.76	2810.92
3g Inventory purchases	99.99	3410.21
3s Manse renovation	4744.56	0.00
4a Motor expenses	797.87	640.26
4b Other travel expenses	540.77	324.54
4c Postage and office expenses	444.36	428.46
4d Telephone, internet	3470.50	3100.50
4e Parish and social work	2228.19	1777.59
5b Synod contribution	20300.00	20125.00
5c External collections	1669.42	1515.90
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Total Payments	50257.10	46881.81
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Surplus (Deficit)	(23511.97)	(24018.22)
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All funds are unrestricted.

Statement of Balances as at 31/12/2023

Funds Reconciliation

	2023	2022
Cash at bank at start of year	243588.81	267607.03
Ordinary deficit for year	(23511.97)	(24018.22)
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Cash at bank at end of year	220076.84	243588.81
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Bank Balances

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Current Account	220076.84	243588.81
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Investments

Aberdeen Standard Life Units	565725.25	533343.18	Note 2
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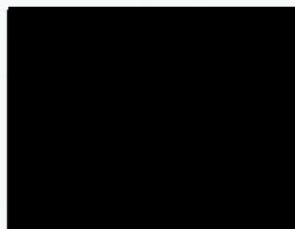
Other Assets

Church	1099007	976895	Note 3
General contents	58525	53204	Note 3
Manse	447068	397394	Note 3
Motor car	6598	6598	Note 4

Notes:

- 1) All funds are unrestricted.
- 2) These are shown at published unit values at year end.
Original acquisition cost in 1996 was £100000.
- 3) Buildings and contents shown at insurance value.
- 4) Car is shown at half its acquisition cost (in 2016) of £13195, because it was 50% co-funded by our sister congregation in Glasgow.

For the Trustees



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the
German Speaking Congregation in Edinburgh and Aberdeen
1 Chalmers Crescent, Edinburgh, EH9 1TW
Scottish Charity number SC009066

I report on the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st
December 2023 which are set out on the attached pages.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the
accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee
Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland)
Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit
requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does
not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as
required under section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether
particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the
Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 seeks explanations from the trustees concerning 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.

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention
which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material
respect the requirements [to keep accounting records in accordance
with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006
Accounts Regulations, and to prepare accounts which accord with the
accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts
Regulations] have not been met, or to which, in my opinion, attention
should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the
accounts to be reached.

