

Annual Report and Financial Statements

1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022



affinity
gospel churches in partnership

Churches, Agencies and
Christians proclaiming the good
news of Jesus Christ together

Affinity is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity
Commission for England and Wales with registered charity number 1192455

Report of the Trustees

Members of the Trust Board have the pleasure of submitting their report and the independently audited financial statements of Affinity for the year starting on 1 January 2022 and ending 31 December 2022. The trustees have adopted the Provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts following the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) published in October 2019 and comply with the charity's governing document and the Charities Act 2011.

Charity name:	Affinity
Registered charity number:	1192455
Charity's principal address:	PO Box 905, Haywards Heath RH16 9TJ

Constitution

Affinity was constituted in June 1969 as an unincorporated organisation (although it has been a recognised body since 1952) and became the current CIO with the same name and charitable purposes in November 2020.

Objectives and Activities

The main objective of Affinity is to promote the advancement of the Christian religion, as expressed in Affinity's doctrinal basis, by means of a fellowship of evangelical churches, agencies and individuals. Affinity exists to:

Promote gospel unity among us by engaging in activities that encourage mutual recognition, understanding and respect and that serve to strengthen each other and to help each other maintain and exhibit the highest standards of godly living and Christian discipleship.

Encourage all like-minded churches, agencies and individuals to identify themselves with Affinity. To demonstrate unity to the world by supporting and, where possible, promoting the evangelistic enterprises of Members and Associates. In particular, to be committed to supporting the planting and restoration of Bible-centred, evangelical churches.

Represent our Members and Associates to governments, the media and to those responsible for formulating policy and influencing public morality and social justice. To apply the Word of God to public life and join with others of like persuasion in making representation on these issues where this serves to advance godly, just and wholesome ends.

Engage in theological research and discussion to advance an understanding and acceptance of biblical Christianity. To promote biblical teaching on true ecumenism and to encourage its practice among Members and Associates.

Express our unity and fellowship with like-minded churches and evangelical agencies worldwide.

Governance

Affinity is governed by five trustees who make up the Trust Board, they are supported by the Advisory Council made up of representatives from Corporate, Church and Agency members. The Trustees meet with the Advisory Council twice a year to discuss matters of strategy and planning and to share information about the work of Affinity. Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees.

The Trust Board has considered the general guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in particular, its supplementary guidance on the advancement of religion for the public benefit.

Members of the Trust Board

Rev Dr Thomas Brand (Chair)

Rev Paul Yeulett

Rev David Meredith (re-elected in September 2022)

Rev Mark Thomas

Rev John Stevens

Organisational structure

The Trust Board is responsible for the governance and policy for Affinity. The implementation of the policy and the day-to-day management is delegated to the Director, who is appointed by the Trust Board. Graham Nicholls has been in post as Director since 2018. The Director is supported in his responsibilities by an Executive Assistant.

Achievements and Performance

Throughout 2022, Affinity has continued to provide advice, support and services to its member churches and associate agencies in the United Kingdom and Ireland. It provides a focus for co-operation, mutual encouragement and assistance in our united witness.

Resources and advice are provided to churches, agencies and individuals through our website and other published materials.

Key activities are undertaken by teams which work in the areas of theological advocacy, public engagement, social issues and world mission. In particular, the Director has given considerable time to develop Affinity's profile through local and national media, to represent the views of its members on matters of concern to evangelical Christians.

A theological study conference is held every two years as a focus for discussion and debate on matters of mutual concern to Affinity members. The most recent Study Conference happened in March 2023 and preparations are already underway for the next one in March 2025.

The Director and Executive Assistant have continued to oversee and develop the various ministries of Affinity and have ensured an efficient and cost-effective administration.

Financial Review

The 2022 deficit of £8,070 was an improvement on the budgeted level. The trustees, with input from the advisory council, have implemented strategies to make sure this level of deficit would not be repeated in 2023.

Comparison with the previous year is complicated by the fact that the Affinity CIO did not begin operating until 12 July 2021, at which point funds were transferred from the previous charity.

The Trustees confirm they have exercised careful financial oversight of the charity's resources and provide the following overview.

Income

Excluding the transfer of funds, we saw income increase in 2022 to £54,228. The main reasons were as follows. The introduction of a new sliding scale for membership contributions resulted in a more standardised level of giving from contributing members. In addition, there has been an increase in the number of evangelical Christian organisations becoming Agency members. We are grateful to God for this strengthening of the work of Affinity. We are also grateful to all our Corporate, Agency and Church members and the numerous individuals who support the work financially. While the 2022 accounts show an income of £5,471 for the biennial Theological Study Conference, we anticipate this activity will have made an overall loss by the time of the event in March 2023.

Expenditure

Expenditure increased significantly in 2022 to £62,298. The main reasons for this were as follows. Staffing costs increased as the Executive Assistant role became full-time. The website was rebuilt with a view to increasing individual donors and reducing ongoing website maintenance costs.


Reserves policy

Affinity aims to maintain free reserves (unrestricted funds less debtors) at a level sufficient to cover three months' general expenditure, to give Affinity time to respond to unexpected developments. At the end of the period available, unrestricted funds were £24,375 (2021: £32,445) which is around five months' general expenditure. A deficit budget was planned for 2023 which will further reduce the level of the reserves.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved this Annual Report for 2022.

Signed on behalf of the Trust Board:



Thomas Brand
Chair

Date:

11 September 2023

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Affinity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of Affinity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of Affinity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.


Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Affinity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



.....

Name: Aaron Chen

Address: 31 Syresham Gardens, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. RH16 3LB.

Date:

17 October 2023

Statement of financial activities

1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total 2022 funds £	Total 2021 funds £
Incoming resources					
Donations and Legacies	2	46,628	600	47,228	24,517
Charitable Activities	3a	7,000	0	7,000	733
Other	4	0	0	0	32,560
Total		53,628	600	54,228	57,810
Resources expended					
Staff Costs	5	37,279	0	37,279	16,957
Charity Management & Administration		7,003	0	7,003	2,782
Charitable Activities	3b	2,410	0	2,410	0
Communications		15,606	0	15,606	5,625
Total		62,298	0	62,298	25,364
Net resource movement		(8,670)	600	(8,070)	32,445
Transfers beteen funds		600	(600)		
New movement in funds		(8,070)	0	(8,070)	32,445
Total funds brought forward		32,445	0	32,445	0
Total funds carried forward		24,375	0	24,375	32,445

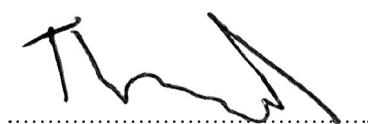
Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2022

	Notes	31/12/2022 £	31/12/2021 £
Current assets			
Bank Balances	6	26,300	34,270
Debtors		117	344
Total		<u>26,417</u>	<u>34,614</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Supplier Accounts Payable		44	510
Payroll Liabilities		1,998	1,659
Total		<u>2,042</u>	<u>2,169</u>
Total net assets		<u>24,375</u>	<u>32,445</u>
Unrestricted funds			
General		24,375	32,445
Designated		0	0
Total funds		<u>24,375</u>	<u>32,445</u>

Approved by the trustees on: 11 September 2023

Signed on their behalf:



Thomas Brand
Chair

Notes to the financial statements

1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

1. Accounting principles

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year.

a) Basis of accounting

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the historic cost basis of accounting.

b) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Incoming resources from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.

c) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them. Charity management costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include costs linked to the strategic management of the charity. All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SoFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource.

2. Donations and legacies

	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£
Corporate members	28,912	16,152
Agency members	7,875	3,450
Church members	4,963	2,880
Affiliates	2,219	1,436
One off donations	2,417	300
Grants	600	0
Gift Aid	242	299
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	47,228	24,517

3a. Charitable Activities - Income

	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£
Theological Study Conference 2023	5,471	0
Other conferences and events	1,529	733
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,000	733

3b. Charitable Activities - Expenditure

	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£
Theological Study Conference 2023	1,800	0
Other conferences and events	610	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,410	0

4. Other - Income of funds from Affinity unincorporated

On 12 July 2021, *Affinity unincorporated* (charity number: 258924) ceased trading and all assets were transferred to *Affinity CIO*.

5. Staff costs

	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£
Payroll costs	35,500	16,854
Pension contributions	1,779	103
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	37,279	16,957

6. Custodian & charity trustees' remuneration

During the period payments of £118.60 (2021 - £0) were made to 1 trustee (2021 - 0 trustee(s)) in respect of the reimbursement of travelling expenses incurred by trustees attending meetings on behalf of Affinity.

The trustees received no other remuneration in their capacity as trustees of the charity.