

David Hampshire writes:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Last week I had to write to the Executive to resign my position as Chair of NASACRE due to a change in my circumstances. Last Monday I signed a contract with the Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) and in the process become the new Assistant Director. The IFN has a bylaw that does not allow its staff to be part of the management structure of a member organisation. As NASACRE is a member of the IFN this meant that I could not carry on as the Chair. I will, though, be able to carry on as a member of the Executive Council and carry on supporting the work of NASACRE – at least until the next AGM.

I am confident, that NASACRE's work will carry on with the intensity it has seen over the last five years and our current constitution and practices mean that the Chair moves seamlessly to the Vice Chair. During my last three years I feel very privileged to have been the Vice Chair and the Chair. In those roles I have had the support of some wonderful people, not least Lesley Prior as the previous Chair and Paul Smalley my Vice Chair and the whole Executive. I am sure that Paul will experience the same support as he takes on this noble task.

Paul Smalley replies:

First of all on behalf of the whole NASACRE Executive, and indeed every SACRE member up and down the country, can I place on record our heartfelt thanks to David for his time as both Vice-Chair and Chair of NASACRE. He is an incredibly wise and well-read gentleman, and his advice and wisdom has been a tremendous help for many of us. David has certainly worked over and above what many others would have done, in order to further the cause of SACREs and through that the cause of RE and most importantly the pupils.

I also wish to congratulate him on his new role as Assistant Director of the Inter Faith Network for the UK. I believe this will be an excellent appointment for both David and the IFN. I am also glad that David will be able to stay on the Executive Committee of

NASACRE, and look forward to drawing on his support, and that of all my fellow Committee members, in the coming months and years.

Although I am taking on the Chair's role earlier than expected, it is an exciting challenge and one that I am looking forward to. I hope that I can continue to do the role as well as the previous chairs, David, Lesley before him, and all the others before her.

It is an exciting time (as it always seems to be) for RE. As always we at NASACRE will do our best to support, strengthen and promote the work done by local SACREs and represent the interests of you, our member SACREs at a national level.

On a practical level, what this means immediately, is that I will now be receiving emails sent to the chair, so replies may contain fewer long words!