

YEAR BOOK OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH: 2014-2015

**INCLUDING THE MINUTES
OF THE 207th ANNUAL MEETING**

**Held at the Hayes Conference Centre,
Swanwick, Derbyshire
from Tuesday 29th July to Friday 1st August 2014**

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in the High Court of Chancery, on 14th February 1822

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THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to express, share and experience with others in life an inclusive, non-judgmental vision of God's kingdom.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is of a network of individuals and groups interacting together to share spiritual insight and understanding in an open and non-judgmental way, in order to promote spiritual growth through the application to life of the Word, and the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg.

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COUNCIL

[Linked responsibilities are listed after the names of the Council members]

Mr DRA FRIEND	[until 2015] Chairman
Mrs JM WILSON, BA	[until 2017] Vice-chairman [Youth and Training and Development] [CAM and Churches]
Ms JZ BROOKS, BA	[until 2017]
Mr RH CUNNINGHAM, BSc	[until 2015] [Human Resources and Web Development]
Mr MD HASELER, BSc	[until 2016] [Purley Chase]
Mr MJ HINDLEY, BA	[until 2017]
Miss SG ROSS, FMAAT	[Non-voting Member] [Company Accountant] [Finance]

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mr GEOFFREY TURNER
Miss DOROTHY TURNER
Mr MICHAEL CLUBB
Mr PATRICK LEONARD JOHNSON
Mr DAVID RICHARD ALFRED FRIEND
Mr GORDON ROLAND SMITH
Mrs FRANCES MARY BURNLEY
Mr GORDON STANFORD KUPHAL
Mrs ELSIE JEAN CHAMBERS
Mrs PAULINE ANN GRIMSHAW
Mr ALAN C MISSON

AUDITORS:	BW SERVICES LTD
INVESTMENT MANAGERS:	RATHBONE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD NEWTON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD
SOLICITORS:	HARRIS AND HARRIS CRIPPS HARRIES HALL

USEFUL CONTACTS INCLUDING VOLUNTARY WORKERS

(Voluntary Workers are shown in italics)

Spiritual Leader	Revd DE GAFFNEY, BSc
Ministers' Committee Secretary	Revd C BANK
Council Secretary & Asst Company Secretary	<i>Mr MJ HINDLEY, BA</i>
Company Secretary	<i>Ms JZ BROOKS, BA</i>
Council Recorder	<i>Mrs P RUSSELL</i>
Company Accountant	Miss SG ROSS, FMAAT
Finance Manager	<i>Mr A BENTLEY</i>
Payroll & Pensions Manager	<i>Mr CV SKINNER, BSc</i>
Insurance Manager	Mr I HAYES
Lifeline Editor	<i>Mr AC MISSON, BSc</i>
Auxiliary Ministry Co-ordinator	Mrs J MILLAR
Technology Manager	Mr D GLOVER
Family Co-ordinator	<i>Mrs J JONES</i>
Child Protection	Revd R RUSSELL
	<i>Mrs JM WILSON, BA</i>
Youth Leaders:	Mr RJ CURRY
	Mrs J PICKARD
Property Manager North	<i>Mr J FORD</i>
Property Manager South	<i>Mr M WILSON</i>
Church Support North	<i>Mrs P GRIMSHAW</i>
	<i>Mrs A CLARKSON</i>
Church Support South	<i>Revd G GORDON</i>
Health and Safety	<i>Mr W WOODHOUSE</i>
Lifeline Distributor	<i>Mr H TURNER</i>
Conference Organiser	<i>Mr J FORD</i>
Conference Bookings Secretary	<i>Mrs M PRESLAND</i>
Conference Programme Secretary	<i>Mrs JM WILSON, BA</i>
Magazine Ordering	<i>Mrs M CURRY</i>

CONFERENCE 2014 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BREAKING OUT

"I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts." Psalm 119:45

Introduction

I suppose the title "Breaking Out" conjures up different things for different people. The fact that we came up with this theme means that people are feeling trapped. If we make it to heaven, then I'm sure it will end there, but wouldn't it be nice if we could get our lives and mindsets and our relationship with the Lord into a permanent state of tranquility and plain sailing. The Lord knows that we develop most when we are being challenged and he wants us to get maximum mileage out of our potential whilst in the life of the body; after all, His life on Earth was incomprehensibly challenging; check out Psalm 69 and read it as though it is describing our Lord talking to His Father within. The Lord Himself clearly felt trapped at times, so we can take comfort in that.

Prisoners.

There are two types of captivity or imprisonment and two types of freedom, material and spiritual.

Imagine what it would be like to be put in jail. Someone I know once ended up in jail because of a misunderstanding and afterwards said it was the worst night of his life. On the other hand, people who have been in prison for a long time can become institutionalised and become fearful or even terrified if they are let out into the big wide world. This may seem paradoxical but I believe it is true. Spiritual imprisonment on the other hand, also seems to have similar paradoxes. The loves we develop, whether good or bad loves bind us to where we are, the Lord said: "And no one after drinking old wine desires new; for he says, 'The old is good.'" (Ex 23:19)

There are four loves which we know are at the core of New Church thought: love of the Lord, love of the neighbour, love of the world and love of self. Those people who are confirmed in a love of selfishness and an insatiable desire for worldly goods, may well see those who endeavour to love the Lord and their neighbour as themselves, as perhaps being imprisoned by their own naivety and missing out on what the world has to offer. On the other side of the coin, people of faith and love may see the narrow confines of those who love worldly wealth and power as a terrible prison which they would avoid at all costs. Each of these diametrically opposed positions seems to see the other as a prison. The difference between these two 'prisons' is that the so called prison of faith and love brings with it a promise of an inflowing of heaven,

along with the Lord's innocence, peace and joy. And as the Lord is infinite, those into whom heaven flows and who come into it fully in the next life, come also into infinite freedom because its bounds are limitless. So it is those who come into hell who are really imprisoned by the walls of their own self-imposed limitations; the prison walls of their own *egos*. Although like those mentioned above who are institutionalised, this is where they would prefer to be.

As the Mystic Rumi said: "*I long to escape the prison of my ego and lose myself in you.*"

How do we escape the prison of our egos and lose ourselves in the Lord? My understanding is that:

Firstly, we need to believe that *for us in the New Church* the Lord Jesus Christ is the one God and is *our God*. Also, that the way in which we understand the Trinity within Him should not undermine our concept of His Oneness. It is this One God who is absolutely agreeable to us at this human level, for in the Lord, the Divine became human like us, and then made his Human Divine. His glorification is the pattern for our own regeneration.

Secondly, we need to **believe** in Him if we are to avoid falling into the traps which gain access to us through our egos. This involves believing that the Word, *as we have it*, is His and was sent by Him and is in fact a complete and tangible expression of Him as the Divine Human.

Thirdly, we need to shun the evils *we perceive* like the plague because they are from the 'dark side' from the hells. A widely held view in Christianity is that one of the greatest victories of the hells is to beguile us into thinking they don't exist.

Fourthly, we need to do the good ***we can discern*** as being good because it is from God; and discernment comes by studying and meditating upon the Lord's Word and seeking His enlightenment.

Finally, in order that we may deepen our relationship with the Lord and nurture a sense of humility and innocence, we must do good ***as if from ourselves*** but believe that the power to do it comes from the Lord alone working in us and through us.

These, with a bit of my own embellishment included, are a summary of "The Precepts of The New Church" as given in Swedenborg's book called "A Brief Exposition of the Doctrine of The New Church," (Section 43.). In the Word, by doing truth means causing good to exist ... which is meant by 'Doing His precepts' (in John 14:24) ... " (Swed, Life 39). The good life of the church has always, throughout history, been degenerated by people falsifying its truths.

These five precepts summarise **true usefulness** and this, I believe, is the way - as Rumi puts it: “ ... *to escape the prison of our own egos and lose ourselves in Him.*” This is how we walk about in freedom; it involves a struggle, it takes a long time and the rewards, I have no doubt, are out of this world!

Those prisoners who are our brothers

In Matthew Chapter 25 the Lord commends those who visit prisoners saying that those who do this to the least of these his brothers do it to Him. The prisoner Jesus is talking about here is a person who desires to be good and to do good but doesn't have the truths of the Word which will enable them to really do good in a spiritual way, but only in a natural way. We are commissioned by the Lord to regenerate and thus transform our natural good into spiritual good, where spiritual good contains wisdom. The Lord's truth from His Word and good teachings derived from it give us the ability to be discerning in our actions towards others in a way that has their eternal welfare at heart or as the old adage states, “Sometimes you have to be cruel to be kind.” (See Swedenborg, TCR 428 etc.)

An interesting point to note is that many categories of the classes of the neighbour were expressed in apparently negative terms by the priests of the Ancient Church, categories such as ‘the prisoner,’ ‘the sick,’ ‘the hungry,’ ‘the thirsty,’ ‘the naked’ and ‘the stranger;’ and this probably many thousands or even tens of thousands of years before the Patriarchs (see AC 2417(8)). According to Swedenborg, this is why Jesus used these terms in Matthew 25: 34 - 46

Why on earth does anyone need to know what scientifics and cognitions are?

If there are any words in the writings of Swedenborg which are a major turn off they surely must include the words: ‘**Scientifics**’ and ‘**Cognitions.**’ Yet it is useful to have at least a basic grasp of their meanings as this helps us to understand how our faith can be built up and how certain things can hijack our faith's development.

Science [is ‘*know-ence*,’ (from scire - knowledge)] so I would say, is the process of acquiring knowledge of ‘things’ and their relationships to each other.

Scientifics, as mentioned in the Writings are the knowledges gained from studying the things of the natural world such as the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms of nature and the sun, stars and atmosphere, the human body and so on. Also included under the definition of scientifics is any knowledge gained from a study of the Word. They include facts and figures, groups of facts, labels, arrangements, classifications and knowledge of interdependencies and so on. They can be true or falsified. They form the basis of

our understanding of reality. If they have been compiled by a person who has an honest and true idea about the nature of God they are likely to be true reflections of reality; if by a person who denies God then they are likely to be significantly falsified.

If our scientifics are in alignment with the Lord then He can use these to give us **cognitions** of Him. These are sublime perceptions of His nature and His presence.

[“Scientifics which are alienated from the inner life are opposed to the Church; for good and truth, which constitute the Church, flow in from the inner life, and if they are not received by the natural life, the inner life is closed, and thus the person is alienated from good and truth. Then, of the scientifics which are in the natural life, only those which are false are acknowledged as true scientifics.” (AC 6652 paraphrased)]

Whilst material science provides us with many benefits such as medical supplies and environmentally friendly technology, nevertheless so much science these days has been developed from an atheistic mindset, and science generally has become soulless; there is no God in it. Science as normally understood these days deals only with what can be measured, tested and reproduced by natural instruments. People often say if you can't prove God by science then He doesn't exist.

However, if God and the spiritual world are real, which I very much believe they are, and science is the study of what is real, then any study of these things should form part of the whole spectrum of science. Swedenborg tells us that the chief education of the Ancients was the Science of Correspondences, and this allows material science to transcend the material world into the spiritual.

*[“There are two principles; one of which leads to all folly and insanity, and the other to all intelligence and wisdom. The first principle is to deny all things, or to say in the heart that we cannot believe them until we are convinced by what we can apprehend, or perceive by the senses; this is the principle that leads to all folly and insanity, and is to be called the negative principle. The other principle is to affirm the things which are teachings from the Word, or to think and believe within ourselves that they are true **because the Lord has said them**: this is the principle that leads to all intelligence and wisdom, and is to be called the affirmative principle.” (AC 2568 [4] paraphrased)]*

In other words, approaching our understanding of the natural world - i.e. our science - from the Lord outwards is constructive whilst approaching it from the outside inwards is destructive and in fact confirms us in a belief that there is nothing inward, a belief which is effectively a prison.

As an aside, I had a thought that the intellect needs grounding in practical application. The Jews, Kabbalists, Swedenborg, and others seem to put significance in artisanship. Jesus Himself was a carpenter.

A basis for all our thoughts is the first chapter of Genesis. This teaches us that the Good Lord made all things for a purpose and they were all good. I believe the Lord put this at the very beginning of the Bible - and we should teach it to our children first - because it is the foundation of spiritually healthy thought, belief and life. Everything comes back to this, it is the touchstone of reality as opposed to fantasy; even though, perhaps paradoxically, this chapter can seem fantastic to adults in the literal sense.

How the Israelites became prisoners in Egypt

Most of you will be familiar with the story of how Jacob and his sons had to leave the land of Canaan and travel to Egypt because of famine in their land. They were literally in danger of starving to death. They were also spiritually starving. To be spiritually starving means that they were not able to find sustenance for their spirits so that they could regenerate and enter into eternal life. To know and to love and therefore to link with God, is to live for ever because God is eternal.

Food and drink which we need for our material bodies *represent* goodness and truth which we need for our spirits; the angels feed on this. Not only did Egypt have food and drink, they had amassed vast amounts of **scientifics** from the natural world and the Ancient Word. The Israelites needed these for their regeneration: to change their natural goodness into spiritual goodness. Natural goodness is a simple childlike kind of goodness which wants to help people without thinking more deeply about the wider implications of our beneficence. A simple example would be to give a person begging in a shop doorway money, without first satisfying ourselves as to whether he is likely to use it responsibly, when perhaps taking him to the cafe and having a chat would be a better option, or to give resources to someone who you feel could be untrustworthy. The application of discernment to natural good makes it spiritual good and when we do spiritual good we become morally wise. Discernment can be gained by **believing** the Word is from the Lord, studying it and endeavouring to live it.

“Those who are by nature compassionate, and do not make their natural compassion spiritual by putting it in practice in accordance with genuine charity, believe that charity consists in giving to every poor person, and relieving everyone who is in want, without first inquiring whether the poor or needy person is good or bad; for they say that this is not necessary, since God regards only the aid and alms. But after death these [people] are clearly distinguished and set apart from those who have done the beneficent works of

charity from prudence; for those who have done them from that blind idea of charity, then do good to bad and good alike, and with the aid of what is done for them the wicked do evil and thereby injure the good. ...” (TCR 428)

Jacob and his sons going to Egypt for food and drink means that a time comes for us personally when we have a hunger to do a higher good and a thirst for the knowledge which will lead us there; a thirst to acquire a more in depth general education about life and faith and how to live it. In this way we can regenerate our simple or natural good into spiritual good or what is the same moral wisdom (see also, CL 163 & 164).

How does spiritual decline or degeneration happen in a society?

The degeneration of a society happens very slowly over decades and centuries and so it is very hard to perceive it is happening. The mechanism is, I believe, described in the story of Nimrod and the Tower of Babel. Nimrod’s activities represent a hard-headed attempt to control everything including God Himself. He built a tower so he could get to heaven under his own strength. His tribe started off their journey in the East which means close to the Lord and moved away from the East meaning they degenerated. They ended up in a valley - where the sun doesn’t shine - in Shinar. From the bedrock which represents The Lord’s solid Truth, Nimrod would have laid a layer of bitumen which represents self love.

On the bitumen he laid a layer of bricks. Bricks have no positive correspondences and represent false beliefs about what should be life’s values. This was followed by another layer of bitumen or self love and then another layer of bricks and so on going higher and higher. They thought they were going to heaven but were in fact getting further and further away from the solid bedrock of The Lord’s Truth. Eventually, there were so many layers of false beliefs laid one on top of the other they had no concept of Truth and everything was false, thus their goodness was corrupted and life completely lacking in peace and joy. Swedenborg describes Nimrod as having something like pristine externals and dead internals. This is similar to the Pharisees whom Jesus called whitewashed tombs full of dead men’s bones. Nimrod is persuasive, Jewish writings talk of Nimrod as a wicked hunter of souls. It is noteworthy that it is the falsification of truth which facilitates a fall. I wonder how much of the Nimrodian kind of influence has seeped into our significant institutions these days; just as we are persuaded by subtle arguments and advertising.

Make them gather their own straw!

If you read Exodus Chapter 5 you will see that the Lord sent Moses to Egypt to tell the Pharaoh to let the Israelites go and worship Jehovah. The Pharaoh

says: “Who is Jehovah ... I know not the Jehovah.” Indicating that the Egyptians have lost all connection with the God of the Ancient Church and the God of love and peace.

There is some evidence to suggest that Egypt - possibly as early as 10,000 BC was a place of true worship of Jehovah, a place where the quality of peace, wisdom and love was of an exemplary standard (Google: Gurdjieff and pre-sand Egypt. See also The Egyptian Book of the dead, p 38, 51, David Putnam’s, 1895). However, by the time Moses was alive, they seem to have degenerated to a materialistic society with warring, self-centred rulers and dog eat dog lives and this is corroborated by Swedenborg who describes them as having over long periods of time, corrupted their knowledge of the science of correspondences and turned it into magic.

So both the Egyptians and the Israelites had distant memories of Jehovah, but those of the Egyptians were more distant because Jacob or Israel as he was subsequently called had wrestled with Jehovah who infilled (flowed into) an angel. Jacob passed his faith down to the Israelitish tribes. There were therefore remnants in both these nations but less distant ones amongst the Israelites.

I speculate that this remnant of a relatively recent inclusion of Jehovah the LORD in the lives of their ancestors may have helped the Israelites to be persuaded to follow Moses away from this hell-hole of slavery. They were in slavery to the god of materialism which is Pharaoh. And Pharaoh also represents the king of our own lower natures. So at the national level, we are talking about a nation escaping servitude to another nation. At the personal level we are talking about our higher nature being stifled by our lower nature.

Pharaoh was not happy at the thought of losing his slaves; there were hundreds of thousands of them and they made useful bricks. So we are back to the concept of bricks. Bricks were made of clay or dried mud and used chopped straw as a strengthener. Surprisingly, when Pharaoh got annoyed, instead of telling his slave drivers to get the slaves simply to make more bricks, he instead tells them to make the same number but to get their own straw. So what is going on? Bricks represent false beliefs or values upon which Godless societies are built. But what about straw?

Bricks in a wall or a tower represent all the fundamental atheistic beliefs about life’s values put together to defend a Godless lifestyle of a society or a person. And the straws represent some fundamental underlying principles or precepts underpinning these.

So to summarise: Science gives us conceptual frameworks, or knowledges which form our ‘world view’ (Scientifics) from the natural world and the

Word, these give us the straw which in turn leads to bricks, which are our values when straw is false.

Straws Ancient and Modern: these are some examples of some FALSE straws:

There is no God or there are many gods.
God is not Human
There is no such thing as Hell; or there is no afterlife
Nature is everything, there is nothing behind it
The natural Universe is God
We control our own destiny any good we do we do ourselves
Material things are to be worshiped
Etc., etc.

Bricks are values which are ungodly and materialistic, here are some examples:

People with much material wealth are better than those with less.
Some people were born to be dominated by 'higher born' people
Everyone must see your good works so they will look up to you
I don't care that consumerism wastes the Earths resources,
'nature' will replace it
Pleasure is the only reality
Etc., etc.

I am reminded of Pink Floyd's song: "Another Brick in the Wall." But I would imagine, like all of us, that even the iconic rockers have their fair share of false straw beliefs.

Pharaoh knew that the Israelites had not fully bought into the Egyptian's materialistic and Godless mindset and the reason they hadn't is, I believe, because they didn't really buy into the 'grass roots' principles which underpinned them: the straw. This is why Pharaoh said, "make them get their own straw." What he meant was make the Israelites buy into the fundamental underpinning Godless and false principles which support the basic values of his society. Then they will believe exactly like us and will be easy to manage.

Every kind of institution, is influenced by those who want us to "gather our own straw." Straw which supports some people or groups in their expressions of love of self and the world.

You can attack the bricks, but if you attack the straw, you will really wind some people up!

What is the New Church?

It seems to me, more and more, that the Writings of the New Church given to Swedenborg are in a unique class of their own in the world. Swedenborg emphasises that not one word of his theological writings were given to him by any angel but by the Lord himself whilst meditating on the Word. He tells us that the Lord cannot come again in the flesh and so he must come and appeal to the *intellectual* through Writings written by a man; Swedenborg says he is that man. So he is either crazy, or he is correct and after reading these writings for many years, I personally conclude that he is correct. This means the Writings of which we are perhaps the reluctant custodians, are direct revelation and the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ; written by The Lord Himself through a man who is arguably, the greatest genius in recorded history. (See HH 1, CL 1, AC 5, TCR 779, Etc.)

Concerning the Writings Swedenborg states: *"When I think of what I am about to write, and while I am in the act of writing, I enjoy a complete inspiration; for otherwise it would be my own; but now I know for certain that what I write is God's living truth."* (Docu. 251: 7) His inspiration is defined in these words: *"Inspiration is not dictation, but is influx from the Divine."* (AC 9094: 4) There is a section in the Arcana that reveals how the Lord inspired Swedenborg. We read:

"There was an influx like a most gentle and almost imperceptible stream, the current of which does not appear, but still leads and draws. This, which flowed in from the Lord, led in this manner all the series of my thoughts into the consequent things, and altogether gently [yet] powerfully, so that I could not wander into other thoughts, which also I was allowed to attempt, but in vain." (AC 6574)

Also, Swedenborg said: *"... there is no such thing as natural theology without revelation, and in the Christian world, without the Word ..."* (*De Verbo*, 30). In other words we cannot regenerate by meditating on the things of the natural world without at the same time reading written Divine Revelation.

After seven years of interfacing with all kinds of spiritually-oriented groups at Purley Chase, all trying to make sense of life and religion, I can honestly say I have not seen anything which I think has better potential for developing a sound mind and life than the Writings of the New Church, revealing the Lord to us in ways that are breathtaking.

Acknowledgments: Karl Birjekof, Rev. Christine Bank, David Haseler for discussions on Science, Bricks and Straw etc.

Rev David Gaffney July 2014

Minutes of the Two Hundred and Seventh Annual Meeting of The General Conference of the New Church

Tuesday 29th July 2014

1 In accordance with Minute 50 of the last Annual Meeting, the Conference assembled, as arranged by the Council, at 3.00 p.m. at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, on Tuesday, 29th July 2014.

2 The Revd Mary Duckworth led a family service of worship, during which the Pledge of Commitment was repeated as follows:

“I promise to honour the Lord Jesus Christ as the One God of heaven and earth, who is love itself and in whom is the Divine Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I will endeavour to follow the teaching of His Holy Word, contained in the Bible and revealed anew in the theological books of Emanuel Swedenborg.

I will seek to overcome all evils in thought, word and action, and strive to do what is good as if of myself, whilst acknowledging that the saving power to do so comes from the Lord alone.”

3 The Chairman of the Council, Mr David Friend, took the chair and welcomed Members to the 207th Annual Meeting of The General Conference of the New Church.

4 The Chairman announced that he had invited Mrs Pauline Grimshaw and Miss Sally Ross to check the credentials of Voting Members and to supervise the signing of the Conference Roll.

5 The roll, when completed, contained the following names:

COUNCIL

Chairman	D R A Friend
Vice-chairman	J M Wilson
Members	J Z Brooks R H Cunningham M D Haseler M Hindley
Officer	S G Ross

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

F M Burnley
M Clubb
P A Grimshaw
P L Johnson
G S Kuphal
A C Misson

MINISTERS

Spiritual Leader D E Gaffney
 C A Bank
 H T Brown
 C Curry
 M E Duckworth
 J Dunion
 B R Jarvis
 I Russell
 R M Russell
 M W Stanley

AREA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

London and Southern D Margison
North West (Manchester) J D Lomax
Yorkshire and North-East R M Jarratt, G E Rowe

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Stockport J M Chadwick

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

Bournemouth J Pike, S Thomas
Bradford J E Millar, T Millar
Brightlingsea I Hindley, F Fisher
Burnley S Wilson
Dalton J Mrozek, W Richardson
Derby B J Bentley, G C Bentley
Kearsley J E Ford, B Slack
Keighley A E Clarkson, J L Raistrick
Kensington L F Wells
West Wickham H Johnson, A Skinner
Paisley J A Bowie
Seaburn Dene H A Nicholls, E Regan
Southend-on-Sea J Cunningham

SOCIETY VOTERS WHO ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVES

Bournemouth	M P Curry
Derby	B Clubb, J Jones, S Jones, R Kennion
Kearsley	C Kennion, S Kennion, A Presland, M Presland
Keighley	K M Brooks, P Brooks
Kensington	S Friend, H W Turner
West Wickham	M Misson, C V Skinner
Seaburn Dene	T M Jarvis, E K Schofield, M Taylor

CENTRAL REGISTER MEMBERS

B Brown
E S Cunningham
R J Curry
C Goalen
M Hawkins
P M Russell

6 *Resolved:* That Mr Michael Hindley and Mr Gordon Kuphal be a Committee to co-operate with the Chairman and the Company Secretary in revision of the Minutes; Secretary, Mr Kuphal.

7 The Conference, having been informed that Mrs Rachel Booth, Mr Kenneth Eadie, Mr Graham Fisher, Mrs Kathie Freyhan and Miss Barbara Nicholls, M.B.E. had passed into the spiritual world,

Resolved: That the Conference expresses its high regard for these friends and their various services to the Lord's Church, and requests that a copy of the Memorial Notice be forwarded to the families, with the sympathy and goodwill of the Members of Conference.

8 The Company Secretary drew attention to the messages displayed for the information of the Annual Meeting received from:

The Revd Ian Arnold, the Revd Robert Gill, the Revd John and Mrs Jenny Sutton and Mr David, Mrs Elizabeth and Miss Eloise Lomax.

Greetings had also been received by telephone from Mrs Elisabeth Brooks and Mr David Brooks, Mrs Jean Chambers and the Revd Leslie Chambers, and Mrs Enid Nicholls.

Resolved: That the Conference, through the Chairman, sends greetings and best wishes at his discretion to those named above.

9 The Revd Christine Bank presented the Report of the Ministers' Committee, during which she drew attention to the 60th anniversary of the ordination of the Revd John Elliott and the Revd John Teed and the 50th anniversary of the ordination of the Revd Norman Ryder.

10 *Resolved:* That Mr John Harris and Mrs Phillipa Peacock be declared to be Accredited Worship Leaders.

11 *Resolved:* That the Report of the Ministers' Committee be adopted.

12 Mrs Jan Millar introduced a presentation on the work of the Committee for Auxiliary Ministry, to which the Revd Helen Brown and the Revd Mary Duckworth contributed.

13 Miss Gwendolen Rowe introduced a presentation on the work of the New Church Youth Association, and was assisted by Mr Clive Goalen, Mrs Pauline Grimshaw, Ms Alison Presland and Mrs Brenda Slack.

14 There was a short singing practice led by Mrs Marion Curry.

15 Following a discussion on 'One Attending Member One Vote' which was introduced by Ms Zoë Brooks, a motion that every Attending Member of Conference should have the right to speak and vote at General Meetings was overwhelmingly defeated.

16 Mrs Cathy Mahmood and Mr David Glover spoke about the Spiritual Friends and other Conference websites.

17 At 9.15 p.m. evening worship was led by Mrs Susan Wilson.

Wednesday 30th July 2014

18 The morning session was opened at 9.30 a.m. with a short singing practice led by the Revd Bruce Jarvis.

19 At 9.45 a.m. a Family Holy Supper service was conducted by the Revd Jack Dunion. There were 84 communicants including children.

20 The Revd David Gaffney delivered the keynote address based on the Conference theme: "I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts." (Psalm 119:45) This was followed by discussion.

21 Mrs Patricia Russell, President of the Swedenborg Open Learning Centre, introduced a presentation on developments at SOLCe, to which the Revd Helen Brown, Mrs Becky Jarratt, Mr Alan Bowie and Mr Phil Wood contributed.

22 The Revd Helen Brown, Mrs Cathy Mahmood, Mrs Patricia Russell, Mr Stephen Russell-Lacy, the Revd Michael Stanley and Mr Phil Wood formed an 'Any Questions' panel chaired by Mr Alan Misson, to answer questions on the work of SOLCe.

23 Mrs Patricia Russell introduced a 'Time of Thanksgiving', during which some people who had benefitted from SOLCe and its courses spoke about their experiences and gave thanks to the Lord. Following this, the Revd Helen Brown presented a Diploma in Swedenborgian Studies to Mrs Becky Jarratt.

24 At 8.00 p.m. the following special interest groups were held in parallel:

New Church Historical Society Annual General Meeting
Sacred dance – Revd Rita Russell
'Spiritual Friends' website – Mrs Cathy Mahmood
There's no 'I' in team! A fun active session with Mr Bob Curry
Any theological questions – Revd Michael Stanley

Thursday 31st July 2014

25 The morning session was opened at 9.30 a.m. with family worship conducted by Mrs Becky Jarratt.

26 Miss Sally Ross presented the Report of the Company Accountant.

27 *Resolved:* That the Company Accountant's Report, the Balance Sheet and Accounts be adopted.

28 An Extraordinary General Meeting was held at 11.15 a.m.

29 *Resolved:* That the whole of Section A of the Rules be deleted and a new Section A be inserted as follows:

1) Any receiver of the Doctrines of the New Church who is aged eighteen years or over may apply in writing to become a Member of Conference. Applications should be sent to the Company Secretary in such form as the Council may decide and should be accompanied by a signed Pledge of Commitment as in Article 4.

2) (a) An application shall be supported by the secretary and another officer or Minister of the Society or Group with which the applicant is associated. The supporters must be satisfied that the application is being made in good faith.

(b) An application from a person who is not a member of any Society or Group shall preferably be supported by two Members who are acquainted with the applicant. The supporters must be satisfied that the application is being made in good faith.

(c) The Company Secretary, after consulting the Chairman of the Council, shall then normally approve the application, but may consult the Ministers' Committee before deciding whether to do so. In the case of an application submitted without the signatures of two supporters, the Chairman shall take reasonable steps to satisfy himself/herself that the application is being made in good faith.

3) When the application for membership has been approved, the name of the new Member shall be recorded in the Register of Members (see Rule H1), together with such other relevant information as may seem useful. The Company Secretary shall inform the new Member in writing that the application has been approved and shall advise the Society or Group with which the applicant may be associated.

4) The Company Secretary shall annually apply to each Society and Group in connection with the Conference for a list of changes in its membership as calculated for the purposes of Rules B5 and B6.

5) Societies and Groups may at any time recommend to the Company Secretary the removal of a name or names from the Register of Members, and shall in doing so indicate the reason for the recommendation.

6) Except by reason of death, or at the request of the Member in writing, or if the Member has failed to supply his/her current address, no name shall be removed from the Register of Members without the Company Secretary giving the Member concerned at least three months' notice of such intended action. The notice shall be counter-signed by the Secretary of the Ministers' Committee. If the Member concerned desires to remain on the Register of Members, he/she shall inform the Secretary of the Ministers' Committee accordingly. If the two parties do not agree on the action to be taken, then the Council shall be informed of the facts and take the final decision.

7) If Members of Conference who are not also members of a Society or Group have not responded to communications from the Conference for a period of three years, their names may be removed under the provisions of Rule A6.

30 Following a ballot Ms J Zoë Brooks and Mr Michael Hindley were declared to be members of the Council until 2017.

31 An appeal for more people to serve on the Council was made by Ms Zoë Brooks.

32 Mr David Friend presented the Report of the Council.

33 *Resolved:* That BW Business Services Ltd., of The Mills, Canal Street, Derby, be appointed auditors to the Conference.

34 *Resolved:* That the Report of the Council be adopted.

35 At 5.15 p.m. the Conference Service was conducted by the Revd Christine Bank and the Revd Clifford Curry in the Main Hall of the Hayes Conference Centre. The service was inspired by the Conference theme of 'Breaking Out' and Mr Curry delivered an address on "Tell my people to go forward" (Exodus 14:15).

The offertory for the Conference funds amounted to £1,260.50 (inclusive of Gift Aid).

36 At 8.00 p.m. a social was held, compered by Mrs Jan Millar, which included games led by Mr Stephen and Mrs Jenny Jones and dancing led by the Revd Bruce Jarvis.

Friday 1st August 2014

37 Mr Robert Curry spoke about the work of the Youth Leaders.

38 The children, under the guidance of their leaders, presented the work they had undertaken over the period of the Conference.

39 A number of speakers contributed to a review of the Annual Meeting.

40 *Resolved:* That, in accordance with the Council's proposal, the 208th Annual Meeting be held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, starting on Tuesday, 28th July 2015.

41 *Resolved:* That the warm thanks of the Conference be conveyed to all those responsible for making arrangements for the meeting, in particular Mr John Ford (the Conference Organiser); Mrs Margaret Presland (the Bookings Secretary); Mrs Jan Millar and Mrs Judith Wilson, for the planning of Conference; Mr David Glover and Mr Samuel Kennion, for Information

Communication Technology arrangements; Mrs Jenny Jones, and all those involved in enabling and planning for families to be present at the Meeting; Mrs Pauline Grimshaw and Miss Sally Ross for acting as the Credentials Committee; Mr Alan Bowie and Mr Alan Misson for acting as scrutineers; Mr Michael Clubb, Mrs Edith Schofield and Mr David Friend for arrangements for the Holy Supper service; Mrs Susan Friend and Mrs Ruth Friend who did the washing up afterwards; Mrs Marion Curry (Music Director), the musicians and the choir; Mrs Jenny Jones and Mrs Jan Millar for the Social and Mrs Erica Cunningham for the beautiful floral arrangements.

42 *Resolved:* That the warm thanks of the Conference be accorded to the Minutes Committee for their conscientious work in producing the minutes of the meeting.

43 *Resolved:* That the warm thanks of the Conference be accorded to the Chairman of the Council, Mr David Friend, and to the chairmen and vice-chairmen appointed by him, for their conduct of the Annual Meeting. Those who acted in this capacity were Mrs Judith Wilson, Mr Richard Cunningham, Mr David Haseler, Mr Stephen Jones and Mr Alan Misson.

44 The session concluded with the Chairman's closing remarks.

45 At 12 noon a closing service of family worship was conducted by the Revd Rita Russell.

46 The Minutes of this Annual Meeting were verified.

47 The Annual Meeting closed at 3:10 p.m.

Signed

David R A Friend, Chairman

J Zoë Brooks, Company Secretary

Michael Hindley, Minutes Committee

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH

1) The meeting, duly convened by the Council, was held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire on Thursday 31st July 2014 at 11.15 a.m.

2) Mr David Friend took the chair and Mr Richard Cunningham acted as vice-chairman.

3) After the Company Secretary, Ms J Zoë Brooks, had explained the purpose of the Special Resolutions and had informed the Conference that all the necessary formalities had been complied with, she moved the following five Special Resolutions:

That the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association be altered by making the following amendments:

4) Special Resolution Number One

Article 5

That in the first sentence the words 'and left at or sent to the Registered Office of the General Conference' be deleted.

5) The Resolution was seconded and carried as a Special Resolution.

6) Special Resolution Number Two

Article 6

That the existing Article 6 be deleted and that a new Article 6 be inserted as follows:

(a) The Council may, after consultation with the Ministers' Committee, declare, by a resolution passed by a majority of two-thirds, that a Member is guilty of conduct calculated to bring scandal upon the New Church, or of teaching, preaching, or otherwise circulating doctrines contrary to the teachings of the New Church.

(b) Such Member shall forthwith be informed in writing that his/her name will, subject to appeal, be removed from the Register of Members of the General Conference and he/she will not be entitled to any of the rights or privileges of membership.

(c) Such Member shall be advised of the reasons for the decision of the Council and also of the procedure under which he/she may appeal against the decision. Any appeal must be received by the Company Secretary not later than twenty-eight days after the issue of the declaration referred to in subparagraph (a) above. The details of the procedure shall be laid down in Standing Orders.

(d) Any Member whose name shall have been removed under this Article shall not again be eligible to be a Member of the General Conference until he/she shall have been declared eligible by a vote of a majority of two-thirds of the Council.

7) The Resolution was seconded and carried as a Special Resolution.

8) Special Resolution Number Three

Articles 33(e) and 33(f)

That in 33(e) ‘occurring’ be inserted after ‘Any vacancy’ and that after ‘Vice-Chairman’ ‘occurring between General Meetings’ be deleted.

That in 33(f) ‘occurring’ be inserted after ‘Any vacancy’ and that after ‘Elected Members’ ‘occurring between General Meetings’ be deleted.

9) The Resolution was seconded and carried as a Special Resolution.

10) Special Resolution Number Four

Article 34

That ‘Any three members of the Council may at any time summon a meeting of the Council by notice in writing’ be deleted and that ‘A meeting of the Council may be summoned, by notice in writing, at any time by not less than half the members entitled to vote’ be inserted.

11) The Resolution was seconded and carried as a Special Resolution.

12) Special Resolution Number Five

This Special Resolution was rejected:-

Articles 11, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 38

That ‘Chairman’ be amended to ‘Chair’ in Article 11 (twice), Article 30 (twice), Article 32, Article 33 (a) final sentence, Article 33 (d) (twice) and Article 33 (e) (three times).

That ‘Vice-Chairman’ be amended to ‘Vice-Chair’ in Article 11 final sentence, Article 30 (twice), Article 32, Article 33 (a) final sentence, Article 33 (d) (twice) and Article 33 (e) (three times).

That ‘chairman’ be amended to ‘chair’ in Article 11 final sentence, Article 34, Article 35 and Article 38.

13) The Extraordinary General Meeting was closed at 11.50 a.m.

David R. A. Friend, Chairman

J Zoë Brooks, Company Secretary

Michael Hindley, Council Secretary

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2014

1 MEMBERSHIP

1.1 The Council held the usual five meetings during the year, which included one short meeting before the Annual Meeting. Details of attendances are as follows:

Chairman:	Mr D R A Friend	3 (3 possible)
Vice-Chairman	Mrs J M Wilson	3 (3 possible)
Acting Chairman:	Mr M Clubb	2 (2 possible)
Trustees:	Ms J Z Brooks	5
	(Also Company Secretary)	
	Mr R H Cunningham	5
	Mr M D Haseler	5
	Mr M J Hindley	5
	(Also Council Secretary)	
	Mrs J M Wilson	2 (2 possible)

In attendance were:

Company Accountant:	Miss S Ross	5
Ministers' Com. Secretary:	Revd C Bank	5
Spiritual Leader:	Revd D E Gaffney	4 (4 possible)

Mr Andrew Bentley also attended part of the June meeting in his role as Finance Manager. Mr David Friend attended the June meeting and the July meeting by invitation. Mr David Glover, Technology Manager, also attended the December meeting to advise the Council of his proposals regarding risk management and to answer questions.

1.2 The Council records its appreciation to Mr Michael Clubb for service as Acting Chairman for a second year until 25 July 2013 and for his previous service as Vice-Chairman and as an Elected Member. Mr Clubb, who did not seek re-election, had served continuously for 10 years and the Council is grateful for his contribution during this long period.

Mr Michael Hindley and Ms J Zoë Brooks will each complete their terms of office in July 2014. Both are seeking re-election.

The periods of office of the remaining members of the Council are: Mr David Friend until 2015, Mr Richard Cunningham until 2015, Mr David Haseler until 2016 and Mrs Judith Wilson until 2017.

1.3 At the Conference in 2013 only one of the three possible Trustees was appointed and subsequently the Council has been two Elected Members short this year, making it the fifth year during which it has been without its full complement. This year, therefore, it is possible to appoint two Trustees for a period of three years, one for two years and one for one year, despite the fact that only two are retiring.

2 GENERAL REVIEW

Mrs Jen Pickard and Mr Robert Curry took up employment as Youth Leaders on 1 April. Their first year has been a great success and it is hoped that as a result of their work Conference will continue to maintain the interest of young people. They have introduced a range of exciting activities, details of which are given by them in the Around the Church Report.

Mr Howard Turner retired on 15 July but continued to perform all the same duties as a voluntary worker from that date. The Council wishes to record its appreciation of the work of Mr Turner during the time he was employed and its gratitude for his continuing as a voluntary worker.

Mr David Friend has given up his work as Pensions and Insurance Manager to allow him time to carry out his duties as Chairman. The Council wishes to record its appreciation for the many years that Mr Friend carried out this work on a voluntary basis. Mr Colin Skinner has taken on the Pensions Manager role on a voluntary basis and the Council is very grateful to him for doing this. Unfortunately no volunteer could be found to carry out the insurance duties and as a result Mr Ian Hayes was engaged on 1 August on a self-employed basis to do this work.

Our Company Accountant, Miss Sally Ross, obtained The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) Certificate in Charity Finance & Accountancy on 8 July. The Council congratulates her on this achievement. Miss Ross is now undertaking a further course of study.

In order to continue to encourage young people to attend Conference the Council has again agreed that Mrs Jenny Jones be authorised to invite 16-19 year olds to attend Conference 2014 as a free event. Additionally it has authorised her to invite those aged 20 and 21 who are undergoing full-time education on the same basis.

As the Council realises that it is not only young families that sometimes have difficulty meeting the costs of attending Conference it has decided to continue to offer to reduce the price for all members to 75% of the actual cost. Those who can afford to do so have been asked to make up the balance of 25% by donation, in addition to any donation they might wish to make towards the costs of young families. As a result of this reduction, young families have been offered attendance at only half of 75% but they have been asked to make

this up to 50% by donation if they can afford to do so.

Following the announcement at Conference 2013 the registered office of Conference was changed from 20 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2TH to Purley Chase Centre, Purley Chase Lane, Mancetter, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 2RQ, at the Council meeting on 18 September 2013.

3 LINK MEMBERS

Details of the links between the Council and those engaged in ministerial work are:

Churches and CAM	*Mrs K Brooks and Revd C Bank
Web Development	Mr R H Cunningham and Revd J Dunion
Purley Chase	Mr D Haseler and Revd D Gaffney
Finance	Miss S Ross and Revd C Curry
Human Resources	Mr R H Cunningham and Revd C Bank
Youth and Training and Development	Mrs J Wilson and Revd J Dunion

*Although she is no longer a Council Member Mrs K Brooks continued her work with Churches and CAM via the Secretary for the Ministers' Committee.

In addition Mrs J Wilson links with Mrs J Jones on working with Youth.

4 STAFF & REMUNERATION

In 2013/14 the total of stipends, telephone and broadband paid to ministers was £97,893. In addition one worked as a part-time non-stipendiary minister throughout the year. In the same year the total of salaries, wages, telephone and broadband paid to lay employees was £157,114. These figures include people employed for part of the year.

The Council approved a 1.5% increase from 1 April 2014 for all employees, except those paid hourly. This is slightly in excess of the Average Weekly Earnings index.

5 MINISTRY

Spiritual Leaders

The Revd Gillian Gordon's two years as a Spiritual Leader came to an end at Conference 2013. She retired from Conference employment altogether on 12 August. The Council wishes to express its appreciation for her service both as a Minister and as a Spiritual Leader.

The Revd David Gaffney has agreed to become the sole Spiritual Leader for a period of two years from July 2013 and the Council hopes this will not prove to be too burdensome for him.

Non-Stipendiary Ministry

Once again the Council wishes to record its appreciation of the generosity of the Revd Clifford Curry who worked as a part-time non-stipendiary minister throughout the year. His voluntary work continues to contribute to Conference's improving financial position.

Ordination Training

The Ministers' Committee's ideas for work-based training and the concept of a Student Minister role came to fruition at Conference 2013 when Mrs Rebecca Jarratt was inducted as Conference's first Student Minister. The Council wishes her every success in this role.

Last year the Council reported that it had decided to advertise for an Ordination Student to train specifically for the role of programme director at Purley Chase. It is planned that advertising will appear shortly in a number of publications.

At its meeting in December the Council, ever mindful of Conference's expressed desire that priority be given to the training and employment of ministers, considered its financial position carefully and decided that it could now support a second Ordination Student. The Council is consulting with the Ministers' Committee as to how best to recruit a suitable student.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

During the year the Council has been looking at the various types of risk, such as financial, loss of key personnel and loss of data and a Risk Management Policy is now in place.

One of the key areas is loss of data and Mr David Glover's work in this area has highlighted the need for a more robust backup procedure for key personnel and also the need to archive certain information. The process of implementation is still ongoing.

7 CENTRAL REGISTER MEMBERS

The Council continues to be concerned that Central Register Members, particularly those who are not members of Groups, may become isolated. To help them maintain contact Mr Friend has written to all Central Register Members and sent them a copy of Outlook and of the Purley Chase brochure.

8 CHILD SAFEGUARDING

On 9 November the Revd Rita Russell and Mrs Judith Wilson attended a training session run by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), concerning the changes that came into effect in May 2013. We now need an Enhanced

Disclosure and Barring Service Check in respect of our workers.

The Council wishes to remind everyone involved in work with children of the importance of following the agreed process.

9 VOLUNTEERS

The Council again wishes to express its gratitude to all those who have taken on voluntary roles. A full list of volunteers now working for Conference is given in the Year Book. The Council is still seeking to reduce the work of volunteers wherever possible

10 SOCIETIES

Mr Alan Misson was inducted as Lay Pastor at West Wickham on Sunday 14 July. The Council wishes him every success in this role.

It is with sadness that the Council has to report the closure of the Bristol Society on 27 October. This happened because of the lack of Worship Leaders and the fall in the number of Members. The Council hopes that all those who were Members at the time of closure will be happy in the new places of worship that they attend.

11 CONFERENCE PROPERTIES

Domestic

The property at 59A Balmain Road, Auckland, was transferred into the joint ownership of Conference and Revd John and Mrs Jennifer Sutton on 25 February 2014. This was in recognition of the extension and improvement of the property undertaken by Mr and Mrs Sutton at their own expense. Conference's share of the property is now 86.7647%.

Churches and Other Buildings

The church premises at Besses continued to be let to a community group at a rent of £500 a month until they were sold to the group for £100,000 on 6 September 2013. The property had been on the market since 17 August 2007.

Despite various parties being interested in Blackpool church the offers received were disappointing. Last year two offers of £70,000 were rejected. This year an offer of £80,000 was made and the agent subsequently succeeded in getting this increased to £90,000. As he advised that in the present climate he thought we were unlikely to do better the revised offer was accepted and the church was sold on 8 July 2013 for £90,000.

Following the closure of the Bristol Society the property at Cranbrook Road was put on the market. Four offers were received but only one was in the least satisfactory. This was an unconditional offer of £430,000 and was accepted at

the beginning of March. There are now, however, two problems connected with the sale. The first problem is that a local protest group applied to Bristol Council to have the church declared an asset of community value. Unfortunately their application was successful. The result of a successful application of this nature means that there is an interim moratorium period of six weeks during which the vendor is not allowed to sell the property so that any interested group may lodge a request to be treated as a bidder. If such a request is received then the moratorium period is extended to six months to allow the bidder time to obtain finance and put in an offer. Conference has appealed against the Council's decision. The second problem is that squatters moved into the church in March. At this point the Council decided to engage a local firm of solicitors to deal with the removal of the squatters and also the sale, as it was felt that this was desirable when court appearances could be involved. Conference applied for an interim possession order, which would have meant that the squatters could be removed prior to the matter being finally determined, but because incorrect information was given to the Court it was ruled that we were out of time in making the application. We then applied for a possession order and this was successful. We have three months in which to enforce the order, so the enforcement is being delayed until arrangements are in place to secure the premises to prevent another group of squatters moving in.

The residents of the flats at Burnley decided to put railings and a gate in front of their car park and also more railings and another gate at the entrance of the church's car park, all without consulting either the local Society or Conference, the freeholder of the flats. To make matters worse they dissolved the limited company that managed the flats, making it difficult for us to know whom to contact about this violation. The matter is at present in the hands of our solicitor.

12 MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE

Since the last Annual Meeting Mrs Kathie Freyhan, Mr Ken Eadie, Mrs Rachel Booth and Mr Graham Fisher (who attended many Conferences although not actually a Member) have passed into the spiritual world. Memorial notices for these friends are enclosed.

13 ARTICLES AND RULES

Again there are a number of motions to effect changes to both Articles and Rules. The Council anticipates that this will be the last year when there will be such a substantial amount of amendments before Conference.

14 NOMINATIONS AND PROPOSED ARTICLE AND RULE CHANGES AND OTHER MOTIONS

a) Nominations

The Council proposes that Messrs BW Business Services Ltd of Derby be re-appointed auditors for the Conference.

b) Articles

The following Special Resolutions will be moved by the Council at the EGM in order to effect amendments to the Company's Articles of Association. Attention is drawn to the fact that the Companies Acts require that Special Resolutions at EGM's cannot be amended but can only be passed in their entirety or rejected.

Special Resolution Number One

Article 5

That in the first sentence the words 'and left at or sent to the Registered Office of the General Conference' be deleted.

Special Resolution Number Two

Article 6

That the existing Article 6 be deleted and that a new Article 6 be inserted as follows:

(a) The Council may, after consultation with the Ministers' Committee, declare, by a resolution passed by a majority of two-thirds, that a Member is guilty of conduct calculated to bring scandal upon the New Church, or of teaching, preaching, or otherwise circulating doctrines contrary to the teachings of the New Church.

(b) Such Member shall forthwith be informed in writing that his/her name will, subject to appeal, be removed from the Register of Members of the General Conference and he/she will not be entitled to any of the rights or privileges of membership.

(c) Such Member shall be advised of the reasons for the decision of the Council and also of the procedure under which he/she may appeal against the decision. Any appeal must be received by the Company Secretary not later than twenty-eight days after the issue of the declaration referred to in subparagraph (a) above. The details of the procedure shall be laid down in Standing Orders.

(d) Any Member whose name shall have been removed under this Article shall

not again be eligible to be a Member of the General Conference until he/she shall have been declared eligible by a vote of a majority of two-thirds of the Council.

Special Resolution Number Three

Articles 33(e) and 33(f)

That in 33(e) ‘occurring’ be inserted after ‘Any vacancy’ and that after ‘Vice-Chairman’ ‘occurring between General Meetings’ be deleted.

That in 33(f) ‘occurring’ be inserted after ‘Any vacancy’ and that after ‘Elected Members’ ‘occurring between General Meetings’ be deleted.

Special Resolution Number Four

Article 34

That ‘Any three members of the Council may at any time summon a meeting of the Council by notice in writing’ be deleted and that ‘A meeting of the Council may be summoned, by notice in writing, at any time by not less than half the members entitled to vote’ be inserted.

Special Resolution Number Five

Articles 11, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 38

That ‘Chairman’ be amended to ‘Chair’ in Article 11 (twice), Article 30 (twice), Article 32, Article 33 (a) final sentence, Article 33 (d) (twice) and Article 33 (e) (three times).

That ‘Vice-Chairman’ be amended to ‘Vice-Chair’ in Article 11 final sentence, Article 30 (twice), Article 32, Article 33 (a) final sentence, Article 33 (d) (twice) and Article 33 (e) (three times).

That ‘chairman’ be amended to ‘chair’ in Article 11 final sentence, Article 34, Article 35 and Article 38.

c) Rules

The following rule changes will be moved by the Council at the AGM 2014:

Membership

Rules Section A

That the whole of Section A be deleted and a new Section A be inserted as follows:

1) Any receiver of the Doctrines of the New Church who is aged eighteen years or over may apply in writing to become a Member of Conference.

Applications should be sent to the Company Secretary in such form as the Council may decide and should be accompanied by a signed Pledge of Commitment as in Article 4.

2) (a) An application shall be supported by the secretary and another officer or Minister of the Society or Group with which the applicant is associated. The supporters must be satisfied that the application is being made in good faith.

(b) An application from a person who is not a member of any Society or Group shall preferably be supported by two Members who are acquainted with the applicant. The supporters must be satisfied that the application is being made in good faith.

(c) The Company Secretary, after consulting the Chairman of the Council, shall then normally approve the application, but may consult the Ministers' Committee before deciding whether to do so. In the case of an application submitted without the signatures of two supporters, the Chairman shall take reasonable steps to satisfy himself/herself that the application is being made in good faith.

3) When the application for membership has been approved, the name of the new Member shall be recorded in the Register of Members (see Rule H1), together with such other relevant information as may seem useful. The Company Secretary shall inform the new Member in writing that the application has been approved and shall advise the Society or Group with which the applicant may be associated.

4) The Company Secretary shall annually apply to each Society and Group in connection with the Conference for a list of changes in its membership as calculated for the purposes of Rules B5 and B6.

5) Societies and Groups may at any time recommend to the Company Secretary the removal of a name or names from the Register of Members, and shall in doing so indicate the reason for the recommendation.

6) Except by reason of death, or at the request of the Member in writing, or if the Member has failed to supply his/her current address, no name shall be removed from the Register of Members without the Company Secretary giving the Member concerned at least three months' notice of such intended action. The notice shall be counter-signed by the Secretary of the Ministers' Committee. If the Member concerned desires to remain on the Register of Members, he/she shall inform the Secretary of the Ministers' Committee accordingly. If the two parties do not agree on the action to be taken, then the Council shall be informed of the facts and take the final decision.

7) If Members of Conference who are not also members of a Society or Group have not responded to communications from the Conference for a period of three years, their names may be removed under the provisions of Rule A6.

Gender Neutral Terminology

Rules A2, C1, C2, C3, E1, H3 and L3

That 'Chairman' be amended to 'Chair' in Rules A2 (twice), C1, C2, C3, E1, H3 (twice, in the second and third sentences) and L3.

Rules E1 and L3

That 'Vice-Chairman' be amended to 'Vice-Chair' in Rules E1 and L3.

Rules E2, E3, E4, E5, E9, E11, E12 and E14

That 'chairman' be amended to 'chair' in Rules E2, E3, E4 (twice), E5, E9, E11, E12 (three times) and E14.

d) Other Motions

The Council will move that:

Every Attending Member should have the right to speak and vote at General Meetings and that the matter should be brought to an Extraordinary General meeting in 2015 to effect the necessary amendment to the Articles.

15 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(The Company Accountant, Miss Sally Ross, reports on the Income and Expenditure accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014 and the Balance Sheet as at that date, subject to audit)

Overall Summary

The operational results have continued in line with the previous year with an operational surplus of £76,000.

Income

Society income has continued to fall to £169,000 which is a decrease of 1.75% compared with last year. Investment income has continued to increase due to Legacy receipts and property sales of which there were two in the year.

Expenditure

There has been an increase of expenditure of over 2% compared with last year. This is pretty evenly spread over the different administration expenditure but a large increase is in expenses and charges from people running events. Human Resources costs have decreased by 4%.

Balance Sheet

As mentioned, investments have increased but this is mainly due to property sales and so cannot continue indefinitely. Steps have been taken to make the investments easier to manage to eventually only have investments through Newtons who look after the common investment fund and Rathbones who look after Conference's unrestricted funds.

Future Forecast

The forecast remains overall the same as last year with a predicted operational surplus for the next few years although the surplus will decrease each year. Society contributions are falling which is eventually made up for by investment income when properties are sold but that can take some time. We are also seeing a drop in donations to Conference which if it continues can lead to us getting close to an operational deficit. We need continued financial support to enable us to not fall into a deficit situation.

16 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PURLEY MANAGEMENT TEAM 2013 – 2014

(Michael Clubb, Chairman, and David Haseler, Secretary, report)

1 The Team

Michael Clubb	Chairman	Alison Plunkett
Anne Gaffney	Manager	Sally Ross Accountant
David Gaffney	Programme Director	David Haseler Secretary

The Team was pleased to welcome Alison Plunkett of the Derby Society to the Team at the end of the year.

The competent housekeeping and catering team of Sue Earp, Dawn Scaife, Angela Lewis, Samantha Twining and Samantha Moore continued to ensure the smooth running of Purley during the year.

2 Events

It is encouraging that total attendance at residential events has increased by 15% in the year, bolstered by a 91% increase in outside spiritual events. There was a significant 21% decrease in General Church attendees and a more modest 7% decrease in Conference attendees, reflecting the 5% decrease in the number of Conference events (1 event). A highlight of the year was attendance of 65 people at the Spring Young Families event. However, the Team is well aware that the success of Purley should not be judged on statistics, and that it is impossible to assess the influence and effect of the teaching and work at Purley by looking at numbers.

The monthly Sunday morning service continues, supplemented this year by

some members of the Derby Society and visitors from the local community. This service is at the heart of our work at Purley. The carol service again attracted a good number of people, and has become a much loved and appreciated annual event.

3 Finance

There was a small surplus of £300 for the year compared with a loss of £14.4K in the previous year. Encouragingly, donations had increased by £9K to £56K. A combination of a better tariff and a mild Winter had reduced the cost of gas by £5K.

4 Programme Director

The Team has refined its initial ideas about the job-description and the training of a successor to Rev David Gaffney as Programme Director, and will be advertising this position in the Spring

5 Building and Grounds

(a) General

After several problems and delays, the Conservatory was finally completed in October 2013 at a cost of £90K. The Team is pleased with the quality and appearance of this fine addition to the property, which has already proved to be popular for users of Purley.

A major leak in the roof of the original building is being repaired at a cost of £3800.

A programme of redecoration has started to ensure that the appearance of the building does not deteriorate.

b) Grounds

The grounds continue to be maintained by volunteers from the Midlands. The laying of the hedge along the field-boundary has now been completed.

The Team continues to be concerned about the hazard presented by the many trees in the grounds and arranged a second inspection by an arboriculturist, 4 years after the first, to check on their condition. Of 114 trees inspected 12 were identified as needing attention within a specified period.

(c) Health and Safety

Routine maintenance continues to be carried out together with the required regulatory checks and testing. The Kitchen has again received a 5 star rating from the Food Standards Agency.

6 Thanks

Purley is maintained in a clean and welcoming condition by our hard-working staff, and we continue to be grateful for their contribution to the Centre. The Team would also like to thank the many people who have volunteered in different ways both large and small to ensure that Purley continues to operate successfully; it would be invidious to mention any names.

The Team would also like to thank the many people who have donated generously to the Centre.

At the centre of Purley is the team of Anne and David Gaffney and Sally Ross who are primarily responsible for the smooth running of the Centre and for explaining our teachings to visitors who show an interest in them. They need to cope with the wide variety of problems that inevitably occur to the fabric and guests during the running of a complex organisation, often at inconvenient times. The Team expresses their thanks for their work and dedication.

On behalf of the Council:

David R A Friend, Chairman

J Zoë Brooks, Company Secretary

REPORTS FROM AROUND THE CHURCH – YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2014

1 AREA COUNCILS

1.1 SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

(Mrs H Laidlaw reports)

During 2013, Rev Jack Dunion produced a new illustrated leaflet for distribution around the local area. The Scottish Association supported this effort and covered the cost of printing. Some copies were kept to be available for any visitors to the Church.

This year's "Doors Open Day" was on Saturday 14th September and 156 visitors were warmly welcomed and the volunteers enjoyed the interest the visitors took in the building and the discussions which took place over a tea or coffee.

The Scottish Association in conjunction with the Paisley New Church Committee and the Apocalypse Study Group hosted an exhibition of G Roland Smith's 25 artworks depicting scenes from the Apocalypse of John. The exhibition was held in the Paisley Museum and Art Gallery from Tuesday 22nd – Sunday 27th October 2013 and with support and help from the Apocalypse Study Group there was always someone willing and able to talk to visitors and to discuss the pictures and answer questions.

A fuller report on the exhibition can be found in the Lifeline for December 2013.

1.2 YORKSHIRE AND NORTH EAST AREA COUNCIL

(Mrs Jan Millar reports)

At the AGM in 2013 a presentation was made about the pros and cons of continuing to have an Area Council. The four churches were asked to discuss the matter and report back to the Executive. Three of the four churches were strongly in favour of the Area Council continuing but it was pointed out at the 2014 AGM that this would only be viable if people were willing to come forward to take office. After a number of years in the post Kathie Brooks resigned as Chairman of the Area Council and has been replaced by Gwendolen Rowe.

In September we once again held a wonderful Area Weekend at Purley Chase but attendance was down this year. In view of this it was decided not to hold the event in 2014 but it could be held again in the future if sufficient numbers were interested.

The reports received from all four churches show that, despite problems and reduced numbers of people attending Sunday worship the area remains generally in good heart. We are grateful to the Ministers, Retired Ministers and Lay Worship Leaders who take our services and to all those who work so tirelessly on our behalf to maintain the life of our churches.

1.3 NORTH WEST (MANCHESTER) AREA COUNCIL

(Mrs Pauline Grimshaw reports)

Two meetings of the Council have been held during the past year with an average attendance of six, representing our members at Kearsley, Radcliffe and Stockport.

Again we have organized the usual three area events which give us the opportunity to meet together for fellowship, worship and instructional purposes.

Our New Church Day Service was held at Kearsley when we joined together with friends from North Lancashire to celebrate New Church Day. This was followed by lunch. We all appreciated the service, which was again led by Mr. Christopher Chambers.

Our Christmas celebration was held at Kearsley, preceded by a shared meal. We enjoyed a selection of readings, poems and other individual items coordinated by Mr. Ray Kennion.

On the last Saturday in January our Swedenborg birthday meeting was held as usual at Radcliffe. This was facilitated by Mr. Christopher Chambers and as in previous years focused on discussing Roland Smith's images from the Apocalypse.

Mr. J Ford and Mrs. P Grimshaw prepared joint detailed reports of the proceedings of the General Conference as Mrs. J Chadwick, our appointed representative, was unable to attend.

Concern has been felt about the lack of ministerial input within our area but sincere thanks of appreciation go to all who have led services during the past year and who have ensured that the worship of our Lord and the rites and ceremonies of our church have been maintained and provided.

During the coming year our officers will be:-

Chairman: Mr. Jeff Lomax

Treasurer: Mr. John Ford

Secretary: Mrs. Pauline Grimshaw

Kildwick Committee Representative: Mr. Keith Sandiford

1.4 LONDON AND SOUTHERN AREA COUNCIL

(Mr Bryan Brown reports)

Active Churches/Societies: Bournemouth, Brightlingsea, Greenhill, Kensington, Southend and West Wickham.

Revd Gillian Gordon retired in the latter part of 2013 leaving the Area with no full time ministers. Her enthusiasm and motivating force will be greatly missed. Alan Misson was inducted as Lay Pastor in July during Revd Gillian Gordon's final service at West Wickham. Church services and sacraments are provided by three retired ministers, one part-time minister, a self-employed free-lance minister and other members of the laity, eight of whom are authorised celebrants for sacraments. Stephen Thomas, our other lay pastor, continues to visit and celebrate holy supper with linked members at Eastbourne.

Bournemouth hosted an "All-Age" gathering in April organised by Lara Nicholls and attended by some 39 people. The theme of the day was "The Sense of Taste" and was packed with activities for both the children and adults.

Brightlingsea celebrated its bicentenary with a special service on 17 August 2013. Revd Bruce Jarvis conducted the service which was attended by New Church people from across the country, members of other local Churches and local dignitaries.

Two workshops organised by Revd Helen Brown and Hilda Johnson were held at Greenhill. The first in April entitled "How Do I Find and Keep my Path?" and the second in November, facilitated by David Lomax, on the theme "Vision for life". Another workshop was held at Swedenborg House in October entitled "Opening to Inner Life".

At West Wickham, in November, there was a half day workshop entitled "Five Spiritual Eras of Mankind" when participants focussed on Roland Smith's five paintings illustrating the principal churches down the ages and listened to a talk by Roland himself.

Two series of talks, on spiritual themes, were run by Revd Helen Brown at Swedenborg House, one in the Spring/Summer entitled "Soul Awakening" and the other in the Autumn/Winter entitled "Journeying Home".

The Open meeting was held at Swedenborg House on Wednesday 26 March 2014 attended by David Friend, Howard Turner, Patrick Johnson, Dorothy Margison and Bryan Brown.

2 KILDWICK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(Keith Sandiford, the Secretary, reports)

Although the planned decorating work had been completed it was several weeks after Easter 2013 before bookings could be taken, as heavy snow and low temperatures made conditions unsuitable.

There have been several large items of expenditure during the year, namely £600 on electrical work, £296 on plumbing and £774 on replacing the cooker and cutting the large privet hedge.

The only other problem has been the recurring invasion of moles. Twice, in May and October, we have had to pay for a mole catcher to trap them.

Bookings have been of the usual type. The Discussion Day organised by the Revd Geoffrey Clarkson was again popular and there have been groups from Radcliffe, Kearsley and Derby. The number of bookings was somewhat lower than in recent years. The total was 19 for 62 days compared with 23 for 76 days last year. The breakdown was 10 church groups for 36 days (14 for 52 days in 2012) and 9 outside groups for 26 days (9 for 24 days in 2012).

A lot of effort has been needed to maintain the premises in good order, especially when considering the financial constraints. However, the change brought in from having a variable Conference grant to just having the insurance premium paid means that we have a clearer idea of how much, or how little, money is available to us. We can always call on the Friends of Kildwick for extra support. Hopefully there will be less unexpected expenditure next year and the available money can be spent on routine maintenance.

3 OVERSEAS

(The Revd Norman Ryder, Overseas Secretary, reports)

South Africa The Most Revd Ben Ngwexande was installed as Archbishop and President of the New Church of Southern Africa in a ceremony in February 2013 before a congregation which overflowed both the Church in Orlando East and the 300-seater marquee erected alongside it. Though now frail and sickly, the Archbishop Emeritus, the Revd B P Kunene, gave a stirring charge to his successor.

On 13th June 2013 the Morning Service at Orlando was broadcast live on radio across Johannesburg and also nationally on pay television. The Service was conducted by the Revd M E J Montsho, Minister of the Orlando Church and Treasurer General of the New Church of Southern Africa.

The consignment of multiple copies of the Writings of the New Church donated by the Swedenborg Society have been received and distributed to all the Ministers of NCSA and the South African priests of the General Church. Two

sentences sum up their reaction: “Words cannot express our Ministers’ excitement on receipt of the books. It shall forever remain a memorable moment.”

Swedenborg Publishers International has sponsored a Zulu translation of “Conjugal Love”, and we wait for news of when it is to be published.

Nigeria I have continued to send copies of the Writings and other New Church books to Ministers and leading lay members of our churches. New Church House provided many books when its stocks and library had to be dispersed. I have also provided sermons and doctrinal articles for Christmas and Easter for use in both churches and home-worship groups. Appreciation for the use we serve in this way is movingly expressed.

Europe Swedenborg Publishers International continues to sponsor the publishing work of Miss Lenka Máchová and the Revd Pavel Heger in the Czech Republic and of other translators in Scandinavia.

Asia After the typhoon in the Philippines in November 2013 it was a relief to hear from the Revd Ian Arnold that none of our churches in this nation are in the disaster area. Even so, our people are indirectly affected; and it is good to know that some of our British congregations raised money for emergency relief measures in the aftermath of the disaster; at the suggestion of Mr Arnold such donations could most usefully be made via Save The Children Fund.

4 HOME WORSHIP

(Mrs Sylvia Fay, the Organiser, reports)

Our team of members of Chester New Church continues to produce each Sunday’s material; the issues for 2013/2014 have been sponsored by our Society so that there is no charge on Conference funds. Marian Kidd reminds contributors as each deadline approaches, so usually the material reaches us in good time.

Currently we send out 46 copies by email and 44 printed copies by post. It is good to hear how some who receive the pages make extra copies for their friends; others overseas translate the scripts into their own languages for their friends, also.

During the past year we have heard of the deaths of five friends who had received Home Worship for many years. We are happy to add to our address list anyone who is housebound by age or illness, so that we can help them to sense that they are still a part of our worshipping Church.

5 BROADFIELD MEMORIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

(Ray Pulsford, the Treasurer/Secretary, reports)

The Fund has continued to make grants, on request, to pensioners and ministers and a total of £16,400 has been distributed compared with £16,075 last year.

Donations remain at £16,000 and other income was £313 from CIF dividend. There was a balance of £558.90 on 31st March 2014 compared with £659.72 last year.

6 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR AUXILIARY MINISTRY

(The CAM Coordinator, Mrs Jan Millar, reports)

General

It is a time of great change for the Church and the Committee for Auxiliary Ministry is developing to respond to the challenge. CAM continues to work closely with SOLCe to train and support churches and individuals in many aspects of church life. Unfortunately, because of my sick absence from October to February, much of the usual work of CAM was held in abeyance and some events which were planned were not able to take place. It is hoped that these will now be programmed for later this year or in spring 2015.

Worship Leader Training and Support Programme

Several worship leaders are still undergoing training as either Accredited or Recognised Worship Leaders. Gwendolen Rowe has become a Recognised Worship Leader and both Philippa Peacock and John Harris have become Accredited Worship Leaders during the year. Becky Jarratt has also been confirmed as a Celebrant for Baptism. Both trainee and experienced worship leaders attended the Worship Leader Weekends that were held at Purley Chase in May and November 2013 and March 2014. Revd Rita Russell attended the meeting at the end of May to give details and obtain feedback on the new 'Introduction to the Four Gospels' module which she is writing especially aimed at Worship Leaders. This was very well received by all the participants. The theme for the November weekend was 'Prayer' and the weekend was led by Revd Clifford Curry. At the March weekend we looked at 'The Beatitudes' under the leadership of Revd Christine Bank. All the weekends were both educational and inspiring and CAM would like to thank all the ministers who have given of their time, insights and expertise to support and encourage the worship leaders.

Lay Pastors

CAM is delighted to report that Alan Misson has been inducted as Lay Pastor for the West Wickham Society. The three Lay Pastors have all been presented

with red ribbons as a symbol of their office.

Resources

CAM continues to build up a wide variety of resources to assist lay people in their ministry. Some of these resources have been included on the 'Spiritual Friends' website and more will be added shortly. The committee is grateful to all those who so generously share their work with others.

CAM would also like to thank the Council and the Committee of Ministers for the support they continue to give to the work of lay people. The committee is always looking for new initiatives to meet the changing needs of the Church so do not hesitate to approach CAM if any training or support is required.

Finally, the committee would like to thank all the Auxiliary Ministers who give so generously of their time, knowledge and enthusiasm to help to maintain the life of the Church. Without their dedication the Church would be unable to function.

7 FAMILIES

(Mrs Jenny Jones, Family Co-ordinator, reports)

The two weekends held at Purley Chase for families have yet again been very popular over the last year. Families of all shapes and sizes attend and the children's ages range from babies to teenagers. We continue to welcome new families occasionally and welcome back adults who enjoyed Purley when they were young people and now would like to bring their own families. Last year, we experienced the problem of being over-booked, meaning that a few families were unable to attend. To solve this problem we decided to hold a third family weekend in March. The weekend was due to be run using a different format where all the adults attending worked as a team to run the weekend reducing the pressure to find children's leaders. However, despite initial interest and volunteers to take part, the weekend had to be cancelled as there were not enough bookings to make the weekend viable. Hazel and Geoff Nicholls, who have run the November family weekend for 20 years, have finally "retired" and the job has been taken over by Helen and Hannah Curry. Many thanks must go to Hazel and Geoff for their hard work and dedication over the last two decades!

We also continue to have a number of families who return each year to attend Conference, although we have been unable to increase the number of families who show interest in attending this event. We do need to continue to find volunteers for both the family weekends at Purley and at Conference to ensure that families continue to be able to come and to spread the work load.

A three day Easter Rally again took place at SOLCE in April for young people aged 13 and over. This was attended by fourteen young people and was run by

Jenny and Steve Jones, Rev Jack Dunion, Rob Taylor and Emily Taylor. We had a few new faces and some of these had been introduced to the group through the outdoor pursuits activities run by Bob Curry throughout the year. Some of the young people continue to attend each year despite now being of university age, highlighting the need to run events for young people as they head into their late teens and early twenties.

8 YOUTH LEADERS

(Mrs Jen Pickard reports on behalf of both Youth Leaders)

This has been an exciting and rewarding first year for us in our roles as Youth Leaders, primarily looking at what the young people and families were aware of; what activities they are making use of and what they would like to see available within the organisation.

This was made possible through the warm welcome and support received allowing us to oversee, join in and support some of the events and activities already successfully running; for example, All Age Gatherings, Easter Rally, Conference, Family Weekends and Summer Camps. Also an online questionnaire through Spiritual Friends Website enabled us to obtain some of this information

Being located close to the Tuckton New Church (Bournemouth) meant there was an exceptional opportunity to help promote the Church and draw in new families, so in April the New Church Parent and Toddler Group was created. Being held within the Church environment has proved to be an excellent opportunity to promote the organisation and break down barriers. The Group's format and activities are 'church-based' in its approach, so making it a welcoming and fun place for children to go and a supportive and welcoming environment for families. I was also thrilled to have the opportunity to assist Becky Jarrett in setting up the Twiglets Toddler group which started in Yorkshire on the 18th September

In June 2013 a 16 plus Outdoor Pursuits weekend was piloted and attended by seven young people between the ages of 17-21. A second weekend took place in October and was attended by nine. The third weekend ran this year in March and was attended by eight. Our younger church members expressed an interest in the Outdoor Pursuits Weekends, so to ensure they were included in September 2013 an Activity Day in Calshot was organised which included archery, low ropes, rock climbing and high wire. The day received such an amazing response by all those who attended that two more Activity Days are planned, one in Manchester in April and another in the South in June 2014

After the enthusiastic responses from the children the Council sponsored both Youth Leaders to qualify as Archery Leaders thus allowing us to deliver this activity within Purley Chase as part of Young Families Weekends, Summer Camps etc.

9 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MARKETING AND RESOURCES GROUP 2014

(Mr Stephen Russell-Lacy, Chair, reports)

The Group consists of Revd. Helen Brown, Patrick Johnson, Alan Misson, Colin Skinner, Nigel Sutton and Stephen Russell-Lacy (chair). We continue to meet twice a year, and communicate between meetings via email. We aim to produce, commission, sponsor and encourage the production of resources tailored to different audiences that help to effectively communicate our teachings.

New Church House, Manchester, was the agent for selling and distributing Conference publications. Because of its closure we are commissioning an e-commerce website to help towards fulfilling this function. Owners of related material will market it and the site will be used for ordering and delivery. However, for products not being much marketed by their owners, such as Conference stock, the website will also fulfil a marketing role. The website will thus show brief details of books etc. with pictures as well as price and delivery information.

Before this can really get going, there is a need to identify storage space for Conference and related stock and a person on hand to parcel up and post orders. We are hoping to encourage a conversation between the various organisations within our movement looking to benefit from this arrangement and collaborate over resources.

We are looking to recruit a member to our Group with an interest in helping to promote our teachings to the younger age public through the media of video.

10 NEW CHURCH YOUTH ASSOCIATION REPORT TO 2013/2014

(Mrs Pauline Grimshaw reports)

Council Meetings: Three council meetings have been held during the past year.

NCYA Conference: The combined Conference AGM and 'Make a Difference Day' were held at Bradford on Saturday 17th of May when those present young and old dug flower beds, cut back trees and undergrowth and planted flowers in tubs. After the practical work we discussed the work of the NCYA and during the concluding service we welcomed Rev Christine Bank as our incoming President. Our best thanks go to Miss Gwendolen Rowe our retiring President whose graphic and presentational work during her term of office has been particularly appreciated.

Summer Camp: The NCYA organizes and financially sponsors Summer Camp 1 (for ages 9-12) held at Purley Chase during August. It was attended

by eight boys and nine girls who thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The leader was Rev Christine Bank and the team of leaders included Bob and Lou Curry and Callum Nicholls. Jen Pickard was also present for part of the camp. The theme of the camp was the stories from the book of Daniel.

Home Sunday Club: The Home Sunday Club members are mostly children with New Church connections but who are unable for a variety of reasons to attend a New Church regularly. The children are sent age appropriate lessons and a letter through the post. They are also sent Sunrise magazines, Christmas cards, Colouring Exhibition sheets and news of forthcoming events. Thirty-three packs a month were sent out during the past year. Our thanks go to co-ordinator Carolyn Kennion, and letter writers Lara Nicholls and Alison Presland.

Colouring Exhibition: This year there were fifty entries, including one from the Czech Republic. Each entrant received a small prize and the 'originals' were displayed at our Bradford Conference. One of the categories was 'Design a Newsletter Cover for Harvest Time.' It is our hope that some of these covers are used by our societies with a newsletter.

Publications: Again Miss Gwendolen Rowe has produced three excellent Sunrise magazines, given the professional touch with her quality graphics and illustrations.

Two copies of 'Contact' a news leaflet for teachers have also been issued.

Kearsley's Upper Room: Thanks to a grant from the NCYA, along with help from New Church House, the Kearsley Society has converted an empty roof space with limited access, into a state of the art Sunday School room with purpose built storage units, a wet area and a carpeted area.

Children's Day: The third Sunday in January was designated as a special day to remember the work with children and young people. An order of service and prayers were circulated beforehand to worship leaders and a number of churches made use of them.

General: The NCYA has continued to offer financial help and assistance to all schools and societies involved in work with children, particularly with the provision of bright and modern equipment. We are also ready to offer one-off grants for child-orientated events at Purley Chase e.g. special treats or activities at camps. We also ensure that the stationery and art equipment cupboard at Purley Chase is well stocked.

Finally our thanks and appreciation go to all those who work with children in our organization.

11 SPIRITUAL FRIENDS WEBSITE REPORT

(Mrs Cathy Mahmood reports)

The Spiritual Friends website has two main aims:

- 1) To develop a positive web presence, helping the national organisation remain relevant, dynamic and connected to churches, congregations and individuals across the UK and abroad; and
- 2) To create a hub for the organisation – promoting communication, friendship and fellowship between churches and individuals.

The web team is confident that the Spiritual Friends website is fulfilling its aim to provide a positive web presence and offering opportunities for individuals and congregations to interact and connect. Websites of this nature take time to build an audience and grow and we have been quick to respond to feedback on functionality issues to continually improve the experience of using the site. The Spiritual Friends website is a 'hub' for a range of websites connected to the New Church and other Swedenborgian sites and offers a central online space for events and workshops promoted by the General Conference of the New Church as well as members' recommendations. The site has been created for 'traditional young and old church-goers as well as individuals seeking spiritual ideas and hoping to find fellowship, spiritual courses and less traditional ways of sharing their faith'.

The google statistics from July 2013 to end of March 2014 show peaks of activity in July 2013 (following Conference) and November 2013 and a steady increase since January 2014 of new visits to the site. For the whole period 1st July 2013 to 22nd April 2014, there have been **35,831 page views** and **4,555 sessions** (a session is the period of time a user is actively engaged with the site). The average session duration over this time is 7.24 minutes. A benchmark to aim for is 2 minutes so this compares very favourably! It means people are coming and are interested to stay and look around. 66.6 % of visitors are returning visitors and 33.4% of visitors are new to Spiritual Friends.

REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' COMMITTEE 2103/14

1. Meetings

The Committee meeting took place from 12th -14th November 2013 and the AGM from 25th – 27th March 2014 with 9 members and Mr G S Kuphal (Recorder) present at both. Mr Phil Wood (leader of the Spiritual Centre, SOLCe) was present for part of the AGM by invitation. All meetings took place at Purley Chase.

2. Spiritual Leader's Report

As I write this, I am reminded of Revelation chapter 12, of the woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and twelve stars around her head. She gives birth to a male child who is taken up to heaven for protection whilst she is given safe haven in the desert until a certain danger is over. The woman represents the Church of the New Jerusalem (the New Church) and the male child she gives birth to represents its teachings. The world is not yet ready for this church and these teachings and they must be protected until a certain time. The world and churches and faiths in general are experiencing times of great change, much of what has in the past been considered normal, is being questioned. There are advantages and disadvantages to this: old false beliefs can be let go of and new truths can be embraced which can lead to more heavenly living; on the other hand, periods of instability always give the dark side opportunity as well.

Since I sat behind the desk of the Spiritual Leader of this church, I have become aware of another set of priorities. I am sure many of you will have experienced something similar when given a new or different job. Purley Chase where I do most of my work, attracts all kinds of groups and seems to be a kind of representative microcosm of what is happening on a global scale in terms of changes in societies affecting world faiths and the springing up of new ones. Lifestyles, spiritual concepts and language are changing and it seems much of this can be viewed here from Purley. I question the wisdom of some of what many people propose in terms of spiritual principles and life practices. However, much of what I personally may see as dubious, I would say is done in ignorance and so is spiritually safer than that which is done in the light of understanding. Many ideologies from outside the New Church, are impinging on Conference; some good and some in my view not so good.

What seems to have become clearer to me recently, is that the Lord's Word alone is infallible and we need to meditate on it prayerfully and in humility if we are to derive from it, direction from our lives. In the past - going back probably as far as Nimrod: representing the priest with pristine externals but with dead internals - many faith leaders have interpreted the written Word from love of self and the world and have led people into difficulty. In Swedenborg's book *De Verbo* (The Sacred Scripture) he tells us that 'The Word is Holy even as to syllables and points.' Every jot and tittle of the Word is

Holy. Swedenborg has done much meditating on the Word in what appears to be great humility and has thus given us the Teachings of the New Church as a result. But, he exhorts us to become practiced at doing the same and we can use his writings for guidance and corroboration. I believe that if we do this then the New Jerusalem will descend, the church will grow. What form it will take, I don't know, but the Word in all its senses will be taken up by people and lived.

Revd David Gaffney - Spiritual Leader

3. New Church College / SOLCe

We welcomed the chance to invite Mr Phil Wood to our meeting and hear something of how he is settling into his new role at the College and the way he and Revd Helen Brown are working together in this new phase of the life of the College.

4. Sexual Orientation

Discussions have continued around this issue with colleagues listening to each other's views as we continue to discern the Lord's way through this emotional and difficult subject. There was a feeling that it could be possible to live with respect for the variety of other people's views and it would be good to have a break from this issue. Our November 2013 meeting resolved to set this aside at the present time and to publish the relevant resolution to advise Conference of our present situation.

Resolved: That, following many discussions on the issues around sexuality at the Ministers' Seminar, it was acknowledged that ministers had a variety of approaches to this subject. The meeting was at present content that the matter be set aside for the time being, but that it would be raised again, as and when it was considered necessary.

5. Committee for Auxiliary Ministry (CAM)

The Ministers' Committee is deeply appreciative of the work of CAM and those who freely offer their time and skills as Worship Leaders and Celebrants to serve groups and churches in a variety of roles. The two Purley Chase weekends each year for Worship Leaders provide a valuable time for sharing and learning together and we wish to affirm their value and encourage attendance at these events. The work of the CAM Committee and of the Co-ordinator, Mrs Jan Millar, is appreciated and we are grateful to all those who generously contribute towards providing opportunities for worship week by week.

6. Web presence

Revd Jack Dunion is our link member for Web development and liaises with Cathy Mahmood around the development of the Spiritual Friends website.

Those who use or contribute towards the various church websites will know something of the range of resources and information available to use.

7. Apocalypse Study Group (ASG)

The Group has followed its customary practice of holding workshops prior to the two meetings of the Ministers' Committee at Purley Chase. In an attempt to speed up the pace of progress, the Group also met for a further day after the autumn 2013 meeting; and convened for a further immensely valuable workshop in February at Mary Duckworth's home in Clayton-le-Moors. Unfortunately, ill health prevented our Secretary, Bruce Jarvis, from attending the Spring Workshop.

Once again the prime focus of our time and energy has been on the materials related to the Apocalypse Card Deck. The purpose of this project is to enable the Book of Revelation to be opened up in new ways and at different levels for people who really wish to enter more deeply into this challenging part of the Lord's revealed Word. The extraordinary teachings revealed through Emanuel Swedenborg, combined with the text of the Apocalypse itself, give our Church a wonderful opportunity and vehicle to help many people.

Progress this year has been steady, but the amount of detail involved means that the process cannot be rushed if the end result is to be of a high standard. We do, however, believe that we are now close to completion, and we have a date for a launch event sponsored by the Swedenborg Society in mid-September. We look forward to the approaching time when we can hand the materials over to Church members and seekers to make their own explorations and journeys into the Apocalyptic experience.

The Apocalypse of John Exhibition has been exhibited once during the year at a successful event over several days at Paisley Public Library, as reported in *Lifeline*. Two members of the Group were able to travel to Paisley to lend support. We are most grateful to the Scottish Association, Revd Jack Dunion, and members of the Paisley congregation for their enthusiastic willingness to mount the Exhibition.

Once the Card deck project has been completed, the Group intends to do some work refining and developing materials to accompany the Exhibition. Requests from local groups to do what our Paisley friends did would do much to stimulate us! The members of our Group (Mary Duckworth, Michael Stanley, Clifford Curry and Bruce Jarvis) look forward to hearing from fellow Apocalypse enthusiasts.

8. Safeguarding

Revd Rita Russell and Mrs Judith Wilson, as our Safeguarding Officer and Deputy, have circulated revised guidance on the best practice for events involving children, whether they are held on church premises or at other loca-

tions. The Ministers' Committee together with the Council fully endorse this document and urge all leaders to implement these measures.

9. The office of Ordaining Minister and the Red Stole

The Ministers' Committee has discussed the role of Ordaining Minister and the use of the red stole as a mark of those holding this office at our recent meetings. The present situation is that all the Ordaining Ministers are retired and due to the limited numbers of Ministers there was concern that to induct every future Spiritual Leader into the Ordaining role could soon leave us with most of the Ministry holding this office after relatively few years.

Some research of our church history and the teachings around ordaining people for Ministry has been undertaken. We feel that any Minister can ordain; our history has given us the special office of Ordaining Minister to fulfil this function, but situations change. We have, therefore, considered possible changes to the process which retain a sense of order but recognise our current numerical situation.

There are colleagues who have been inducted into this office, all retired, and the suggestion is they retain this role. The difficulty is for the future and how best to have an orderly process for future ordinations.

After discussion it was recognised the red stole has a special significance and it is appropriate for the Spiritual Leader to retain the prerogative of wearing this **during his or her term of office**.

The Committee has agreed that the Spiritual Leader should be the person with both the prerogative and responsibility to arrange and conduct ordinations - but they may choose to delegate this task to any Minister. It was noted that in recent years candidates for ordination have been able to be involved in discussing who should perform the ceremony and there was no wish to lose this option. In the future arrangements are to be conducted under the authority of the Spiritual Leader to keep an orderly process in place.

This may require changes to the Rules and the suggestion for change also needs to come before Conference to allow discussion or questions from the floor before any proposed changes are made. It was envisaged that the person who is appointed Spiritual Leader in 2015 will be inducted into the office with the red stole being presented to them at that point. David Gaffney's current term as Spiritual Leader is due to end at the 2015 AGM.

10. Retired Ministers

The Committee wishes to acknowledge the work of Ministers who do so much in retirement to support and lead congregations or groups and who continue to research, translate and write new material. Not all colleagues attend our Committee meetings or the Conference AGM but we all benefit from their continued service to the church.

11. Salary rates

Once again the Committee agreed that the standard salary rate for Ministers should be published in this report, and to record our thanks to the Council for their decision to increase the salaries of employed Ministers, the fees of self-employed Ministers and the fees of retired Ministers by 1.5%.

The salary (gross) for an ordained Minister for the year 2014/15 inclusive of the payment towards telephone and broadband is £29,664.

12. Home worship

Thanks go to Co-ordinator, Marian Kidd, and the work of Revd Norman Ryder and Sylvia Fay in producing and distributing this valuable resource to the wider church. Their own report provides fuller details and the Ministers' Committee is grateful to all who contribute to this work.

13. The Council

The Ministers' Committee is aware of, and sympathetic to, the difficulties faced by the Council as they continue to work with fewer than the allowable number of Trustees. Representatives of the Ministers' Committee attend meetings, which provide valuable lines of communication between Ministry and those who take a lead in the central administrative functions of the organisation.

14. Appointments and nominations

The Secretary of the Ministers' Committee, Revd Christine Bank, attends the meetings of the Council and Revd David Gaffney as Spiritual Leader also attends as an additional ministerial representative.

We have appointed the following ministers to liaise as appropriate with the members of the Council on linked matters:

Revd Clifford Curry	Finance
Revd Jack Dunion	Youth, Training and Development
Revd Jack Dunion	Web Development
Revd David Gaffney	Purley Chase
Revd Christine Bank	Human resources
Revd Christine Bank	CAM and local churches

We have appointed Revd Christine Bank as our representative on the Committee for Auxiliary Ministry

We have appointed Mrs Marian Kidd as Home Worship Co-ordinator.

David Gaffney [Spiritual Leader]
Christine Bank [Secretary]

REPORT OF THE COMPANY ACCOUNTANT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST 2014

During the year, two properties were sold; Besses for £100,000 and Blackpool for £90,000. Two legacies were also received, £85,000 from the Christopher Jackson Estate and £360,000 from the Dr Margaret Jackson Estate. Income increased by over 3% in comparison to the previous year due to an increase of 24% in investment income. Purley income was for the first time higher than society contributions making it the second largest income source to Conference.

Expenditure increased by 2% compared with the previous year due to an increase of 12% for administration costs, which include an 18% increase in professional fees due to problems arising from property sales. This has meant an overall operational surplus of £76,000.

Purley has for the first time made an operational profit albeit only £286. We have received a legacy in the year from the estate of Glenna Newbold of £1000 and have continued to see an increase in donations to the Centre. Unfortunately, there has been a decrease in Conference groups at Purley and a decrease in attendance meaning that there has been an increase in non-Conference groups using the Centre. We need to make sure that Purley is dominated by Conference groups to ensure we continue to work to the mission and vision of our organisation.

Over the past few years we have managed to move from an operational deficit to a surplus. This has only been possible by cost cutting and reducing the number of staff employed and increasing the use of volunteers.

The closure of societies brings more income into Conference from property sales but it also decreases the charitable activities we are engaged in. We need to look at new activities to grow the organisation in different ways.

Finances are merely a tool to enable us to achieve our mission.

Sally Ross – Company Accountant

Income and Expenditure Accounts

For year ended March 31st 2014

	£,000	£,000
	2013/14	2012/13
INCOME		
Societies	169	172
Donations - Conference	28	38
Investment Income	199	161
Trust Income	72	73
Bursary Grant	10	10
Other Income	3	6
Income Purley Chase	173	173
Total Receipts	654	633
Human Resources		
Ministry	108	127
Laity	89	75
Staff - Purley Chase	80	85
Student grants	5	5
Self employed fees	14	13
Pensions	18	22
Housing	28	29
	342	356
Administration		
Travelling Expenses	22	18
Professional fees	33	28
Insurance	17	15
Office	11	9
Marketing/Resources	8	8
Central Costs	18	18
Education & Training	29	13
Purley Chase	91	103
Kildwick	2	-2
	236	210
Total Payments	578	566

	£,000	£,000
OPERATIONAL SURPLUS/DEFICIT	76	67
Other Receipts and Costs		
Depreciation	-65	-74
Closed Society Receipts	179	640
Legacies	445	20
Homelands	10	0
CIF	3	-50
Prior Year Adjustments		
NET SURPLUS	648	601

Balance Sheet as at March 31st 2014

	£	£
	2014	2013
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>		
Tangible Assets for operational use	3,004,776	3,017,343
Investment Assets	10,778,071	9,504,755
	13,782,847	12,522,098
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Net Current Assets	738,302	375,220
Less Creditors falling due after more than one year	-75,000	-100,000
<u>NET ASSETS</u>	14,446,149	12,797,318
Represented by:-		
Endowment funds	1,094,237	1,253,635
Restricted funds	6,802,101	5,962,246
Unrestricted funds	6,549,811	5,581,437
	14,446,149	12,797,318

STATISTICAL TABLE

	Society Members	Non-resident	Total new members	Deceased	Removed	Increase	Decrease	Members of Conference
Accrington	42	16	0	4	1	0	4	32
Bournemouth	37	7	0	0	0	0	0	35
Bradford	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Brightlingsea	21	9	0	1	1	0	2	14
Burnley	27	6	0	2	0	0	2	15
Chester & Wallasey	37	18	0	1	0	0	1	32
Clayton	18	7	0	0	0	0	0	11
Dalton	34	2	0	1	0	0	1	26
Derby	56	25	0	1	1	0	2	39
Kearsley	51	17	2	1	0	1	0	23
Keighley	37	9	2	4	0	0	2	27
Greenhill	19	8	0	1	0	0	1	9
Kensington	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	10
West Wickham	29	11	0	0	0	0	0	24
Paisley	53	9	0	0	0	0	0	28
Radcliffe	16	2	0	1	0	0	1	7
Seaburn Dene	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Southend	20	7	0	0	0	0	0	11
Other members								214
Total 2013/14	568	158	4	17	3	1	16	603
Totals 2012/13	589	163	7	23	9	3	27	590

	Baptisms	Marriages	Funerals	Sunday School No. of children	Avg. attend. 16-	Holy Supper Administrations	Holy Supper Average Attend-	Overall Average Attend-
Accrington	0	0	4	4	4	5	22	17
Bournemouth	3	1	2	9	9	12	20	24
Bradford	1	0	0	5	1	12	10	11
Brightlingsea	0	0	3	0	0	2	8	8
Burnley	0	0	2	0	0	12	10	10
Chester & Wallasey	2	0	5	6	6	12	13	26
Clayton	0	0	1	0	0	7	7	7
Dalton	0	0	1	0	1	12	8	7
Derby	1	0	2	10	5	6	20	28
Kearsley	5	0	3	6	3	5	20	24
Keighley	7	2	3	0	0	12	16	30
Greenhill	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	11
Kensington	2	0	0	11	1	12	7	9
West Wickham	0	0	0	4	1	13	14	14
Paisley	0	0	0	2	2	6	16	16
Radcliffe	0	1	1	0	0	1	9	11
Seaburn Dene	0	0	1	10	8	8	19	35
Southend	0	0	0	0	0	9	10	9
Totals 2013/14	21	4	28	67	41	157	240	297
Totals 2012/13	11	9	36	67	51	173	252	309

**THE NEW CHURCH COLLEGE
REPORT OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL 2013 – 2014**

This Report covers the work of the College Council for the year ended 31st March 2014.

A COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

1 Attendance at Council Meetings

The Council met for full Council meetings on 3 occasions during the year. Membership and attendance at meetings were as follows:

Dr PM Russell, President (appointed October 2012)	3
Mr RJ Nicholls, Treasurer	3
Mr MD Haseler, Secretary (resigned June 2013)	1
Mrs C Mahmood, Secretary (appointed June 2013)	3
	(1 by invitation, 2 in office)
Mr JE Ford	3
Mr SR Lacy	2
Mr P Leather (resigned June 2013)	1
Rev MW Stanley	3
Mrs MMJ Taylor	3
Mrs S Wilson	3
Mr R Kennion (appointed Sept 2013)	3

The outgoing Principal, Mr David Lomax, attended 2 meetings (2 possible) by standing invitation.

The Administrator, Ms Melanie Bennett, attended 3 meetings (3 possible) by invitation.

The Leader of Education, Rev Helen Brown (appointed 1 November 2013) attended 1 meeting (1 possible) by standing invitation.

The Leader of the Spiritual Centre, Phil Wood (appointed 1 November 2013) attended 1 meeting (1 possible) by standing invitation.

2 Attendance at the Annual Meeting

The 149th Annual Meeting of Governors was held at Swedenborg House, London on Saturday, 23rd June 2013 with an attendance of 17 Governors and 12 guests/friends.

3 Membership of the Council

Mr MD Haseler resigned as Secretary of the Council in June 2013. The Council wish to express their sincere thanks for his dedication and care during his 11 years in this role. The Council are pleased to welcome Mrs C

Mahmood to the Council in the position of Secretary.

Mr P Leather resigned from the Council in June 2013. Mr Leather became Secretary when The College moved to Radcliffe in 1974 and served for 12 years, standing down to become a Council member for the subsequent 27 years. The Council thanks Mr Leather for all his hard work over these years and for sharing his experience and knowledge of the New Church College.

Ray Kennion joined the council in September 2013.

B EMPLOYEES

There have been significant staff changes at The College during this year. The Principal, Mr David Lomax, resigned as Principal in January 2013 but offered to delay his departure until the Council could find a successor and agreed a finishing date of 30th September 2013. During the past 7 years as Principal, Mr Lomax has brought 3 students to ordination and overseen an update to the curriculum, has obtained agreement to introduce student ministry and managed the day to day operations of the College. He has proved a great support in enabling students to explore their personal vision of ministry. The Council wishes him well and thanks him for everything he has given to the College.

An intensive recruitment and shortlisting period during Summer 2013 resulted in five people attending a full day of interviews (one group exercise and two interviews). The Council was open to how the two roles of 'Leader of Studies' and 'Leader of the Spiritual Centre' might combine - with the option of appointing one full time position or two part-time collaborative roles.

The Council would like to express their sincere thanks to the Council members who helped on the Interview day, Helen Newton for her display and book stall and Melanie Bennett for preparing a wonderful welcome and nourishing food.

The Council is delighted with the outcome of the recruitment process. The current staff team is strong and visionary and following a handover period are now settling into their new roles.

As of 1st November 2013:

Rev Helen Brown	Leader of Education (15 hrs, with 5 hrs to delegate, per week)
Phil Wood	Leader of the Spiritual Centre (20 hrs per week)
Melanie Bennett	Administrator (32 hours per week)

The Council would like to thank Mr Lomax for continuing his valued work overseeing the work-based training for the College's Ordination student, Mrs B Jarratt on a self-employed basis.

C EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION

In line with the current policy of the Council to follow the lead of General Conference, the salaries of both the Principal and the Administrator were increased by 1.3% as from April 2013.

D GENERAL REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE COLLEGE

1 Performance of the Charity

The Council considers that the Charity has performed well in the year 2013-2014 in line with its charitable objects.

The training of one ordination student continues and 17 students are studying either through open learning or in tutorial groups.

The Leader of Education, Rev H Brown and Mrs H Newton have established a new series of monthly 'GEMS' Workshops which have become a foundation for a new quarterly programme of workshops and events at The College (now more commonly referred to as SOLCe, the Swedenborg Open Learning Centre). 'GEMS' is designed to be an accessible introduction to Swedenborgian perspectives. Other keynote events have included seminars and walks.

Gems Workshops attendances:

Angels	12 th December 2013	13 workshop participants including 4 new people
Visioning	9 th January 2014	12 workshop participants
Soul Symbols	20 th February 2014	8 workshop participants including 2 new people
Being One	20 th March 2014	13 people including 1 new person.

The College held a 'Celebration of Light' in December 2013 led by Malaika. Phil Wood has led 3 workshops including 1 walk.

Developing national and local perceptions of New Church College / the Swedenborg Open Learning Centre as a spiritual centre, with open doors and an accessible programme, is our current focus. Alongside this is a review of all current modules and a strong awareness of the need to support and develop the tutoring team.

SOLCe faces considerable challenges, including responding positively to decline in our traditional constituency. At the same time the Spiritual Centre enjoys momentum, vigour and energy as we seek to make fresh connections. It is an encouraging beginning and we are looking to improve our marketing,

create a database and develop our networks. We have identified the need for new volunteers, who could make a real contribution in the grounds, library and our growing programme.

2 Future Development

The Council has developed a 3 year financial plan which forms the basis for an investment strategy for SOLCe, including necessary refurbishments to update the rooms for the needs of a 21st century spiritual centre. With a new staff team and new members on the Council, we are entering an energetic new phase in the life of the College. The Council have submitted and gained approval from Conference Council for the 3 year financial plan 2014 – 2017. This will enable the Council to draw on Investments to improve communications, IT systems, signage, storage and spaces within the building. In addition we anticipate the need to increase staff hours and provide a programme budget for the two new Leaders.

3 Staff

a) The Leader of Education

The focus of the Leader of Education role is needs-led education facilitating spiritual understanding and reflection, mainly within the context of Swedenborgian teachings, supporting students and tutors, especially those who are called to reach out to others e.g. in ministry, leadership, writing, workshops and worship leading. Rev Helen Brown is an ordained New Church minister and the Council would like to extend a warm welcome to her in her new role. Rev Helen Brown is delegating the day-to-day organisation of our Ordination student's work-based training to David Lomax but retains a holistic view – liaising with the Committee of Ministers, the Council (Conference), the Sponsored Student Monitoring Group (SSMG) and the Education Committee on behalf of Becky Jarratt.

b) Leader of the Spiritual Centre

The Leader of the Spiritual Centre is responsible for the development of SOLCe as a spiritual centre, encouraging new ways of reaching out to spiritual seekers and new ways of coming together to connect in spirit and to share a spiritual pathway. The Council welcomes Phil Wood to SOLCe! His focus is person-, group- and community-centred i.e. facilitating spiritual understanding and reflection within the context of the individual and corporate needs of our constituency - whether centre attenders or in the wider community. Phil has outlined his vision in a paper entitled *Praxical* which focuses on the creative potential of spiritual practices – hospitality, meditation, peace-making and community building. On Saturday 8th March 2014 Phil facilitated a Vision Day at SOLCe which enabled us to share hopes and fears in taking a look at the way ahead.

c) Creative and Community Outreach

This role was developed following Malaika's interview for the role of Leader of the Spiritual Centre. Malaika offers a wealth of community liaison experience and as an Interfaith Minister brings a new and vital energy to SOLCe. Malaika is working on a self-employed basis for 6 hours a week with a focus on building community connections and local events such as Peace Week.

b Assistant to the Principal

Mr Alan Bowie has continued to use his expertise and experience to maintain and develop The College web-site. However, he has requested to step down in 2014 when a new website will be in development.

c Administrator

In addition to her routine work, Ms Bennett has successfully increased the usage of the building and there have been 11 groups using the building during the year:

Youth group day event

Journey into Lower Earth group weekend

MASCS / over 3 days and 3 counsellors weekly

ME group / Creative Living Centre (use the building for 8 weeks at a time a couple of times a year)

Residents of Shorecliffe Rise meeting (twice a year)

Gems Workshops (monthly, ongoing)

Slimming World (2 groups weekly)

Easter Rally (4 days annually)

Shorecliffe Rise Managing Agents AGM (once a year)

Home Education Group (once a month)

Friends of Coronation Park (every 3 months)

The Council agreed that Ms Bennett could increase her working hours from 20 to 32 hours to accommodate the increased workload within the new staff structure. The Council would like to thank Ms Bennett for her commitment and hard work during the staff transitions and for maintaining and developing new administrative, financial and communication systems to ensure the day-to-day smooth running of SOLCe.

4 SOLCe

a Ordination Student

Becky Jarratt continues her studies on a part-time basis. The Sponsored Student Monitoring Group (SSMG) has been working closely with her during

the year and changes have been made to her training programme to suit her particular circumstances. She is now in work-based training. There was a ceremony at the Annual Meeting of Conference to acknowledge her moving from being a student to a student minister. The Council has been pleased to hear of the lively and inspiring work she is doing. She plans to increase her training to half time incorporating her work as a volunteer at West Thorpe Methodist Church.

b SOLCe Students

In addition to the ordination student, there are currently 17 students, 2 of whom are from overseas, studying 9 different modules tutored by 7 different tutors including 1 lay person. 4 new students enrolled during the year.

c Education Committee

The Committee has met four times during the year. The Committee plays a major role in developing the educational work of SOLCe and benefits from the experience and expertise of its 10 members.

E PUBLIC BENEFIT

The College has continued to advertise its open learning courses and its spiritual centre programme on the web-site. Events and courses are available to the general public as well as to our church members and a limited number of bursaries are available towards their cost.

The College building is used by several neighbourhood groups. We hope to increase room lettings over the next year.

F THE FABRIC

The fabric and grounds continue to be kept in good condition by the Estate Management Committee. There have been several improvements and repairs during the year. The Lecture Room has had a re-fit with contemporary fitted blinds and colour on the walls.

G RELATED PARTY

The Trustee, The General Conference of the New Church, is a registered charity. The General Conference is entitled to a proportion of the net incoming resources from the Jersey Fund and provides payroll facilities for which The College pays a service charge. The College also relies on the support of Conference for tutors, examiners and module-writers.

H GOVERNORS

There are currently 7 Honorary Governors (-1), 11 Life Governors (0), and 65 Annual Governors (+3); in total 83 (+2). The numbers in brackets show the changes during the year.

At the last Annual Meeting, there were 17 Governors present – a significant increase from the previous year’s attendance of 2.

I FINANCE

1 Annual Accounts

The budget for 2013 – 2014 projected a surplus of £2,700 but the actual deficit for the year was £2,233 before the investment management fees. Part way through the year the way these fees were charged changed having a direct impact on the income and expenditure figures resulting in a deficit of £9,263.

During the year, losses on the disposal of investments of £4,390 were realised and notional gains of £75,484 arose on the revaluation of investments.

The budget for 2013–2014 projected a surplus of £2,700 but the actual deficit for the year was £2,233 before the investment management fees and £9,263 when these are included. During the year the way management fees are collected has changed. These are now being charged each quarter instead of being included as part of the transaction fees which meant they were hidden in the investment valuations movements.

A budget for 2014-2015 projects a deficit of £48,500 before any adjustments arising on the real and notional gains and losses or charges for managing our investments. The reason for this increased deficit is to allow for developments at the College in the coming year including improvements to the property. This forms part of a 3 year plan which has been discussed with and is supported by the Conference Council.

2 Investments

The unrestricted funds, including the Jersey Fund, are amalgamated to minimise trading costs and to form a larger portfolio. The funds continue to be separated from an accounting point-of-view.

Following a visit to the investment adviser, Brewin Dolphin, with the Conference Company Accountant they have been instructed to continue concentrating on capital growth rather than income.

J FUNDING AND RESERVES POLICY AND RISK REVIEW

1 Objective

The objective of the Charity is stated in the Charity Commission Scheme dated 13th July 1977. This states that the Charity shall promote the education of members of the New Church, with emphasis upon the doctrine and life of the New Church. The land and investments belonging to the Charity shall be held in the name of the Trustee (The General Conference of the New Church). The Trustee shall administer and manage the said investments and shall pay the clear income thereof to the Council for application in furthering the Objective of the Charity.

2 Principle

The New Church College operates to a balanced budget, while recognising that, within each individual year, a small operating surplus or deficit may arise. Any deviation from this objective will be agreed with the Trustee in advance.

Monies available to the College are invested to obtain an income but with a focus on capital growth. The income is used to fund the day-to-day activities of the College, while the capital growth ensures the continuing viability of The College, enabling it to meet future commitments and objectives.

Small donations and legacies, which are not given for a specific purpose, will be used at the discretion of the College Council to fund and enhance the day-to-day activities of the College.

Substantial donations and legacies may be added to reserves to fund the future development of The College's Objective. These monies will be added to the Non-Permanent Endowment account at the discretion of the Treasurer of the College, in consultation with the Council and/or the Trustee if appropriate. Donations or legacies that are given for a specific purpose may require the establishment of new endowment funds. When required, these will be set up with the agreement of the Trustees.

The handling of these accounts, the level of reserves, and investment policy are subject to regular review by both the Trustee and the Council at their respective meetings, and as part of the annual budgeting exercise. This is supplemented by regular discussions between the two Treasurers of these organisations.

To assist in this objective, The New Church College currently operates the following accounts:

National Westminster Bank account. This is used for meeting day-to-day operating expenses.

Investment accounts are detailed below. In addition, the Council and the Trustee have responsibility for the assets as defined on the Balance Sheet, including the property in which the College currently resides.

Investment accounts operated by Brewin Dolphin Securities Ltd.

Deposit accounts. For each of the investment accounts below, Brewer Dolphin hold cash balances from the purchase and sale of investments and to meet transaction expenses.

Permanent endowment account established under the Charity Commission Scheme. This restricted fund contains the investments as defined in the Scheme. Over time, the detailed investments have changed as the result of

sound investment decisions, but the principle of income together with capital growth remains. (These funds fall under the definition of Permanent Endowment as defined in the Charities Reserves booklet CC19, and are therefore not classed as reserves).

In one combined account, the two following funds are maintained with separate records of income kept for the two constituent funds.

The non-permanent endowment account contains additional non-restricted funds that have been donated to the Charity over time. These have been invested in line with the above principle, thus increasing investment income while allowing additional flexibility for funds as required by the Council. (These funds fall under the definition of Expendable Endowment as defined in the Charities Reserves booklet CC19, and are therefore not classified as reserves).

The Jersey Educational Fund was established following a substantial donation from the Jersey Society, and the non-restricted fund was established so that the income from the Fund would be allocated to the College for the development of New Church education. This is administered in line with the 'Memorandum of Intent' agreed by the Councils of the General Conference of the New Church and of The New Church College, signed on 8th April 1998. (These funds fall under the definition of Expendable Endowment as defined in the Charities Reserves booklet CC19, and are therefore not classified as reserves).

Note. Included within the funds, which are administered on behalf of the College by Brewin Dolphin, are investments in both the General Conference Pool, which is administered by the General Conference of the New Church, and the COIF Charity Funds administered by CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

This means that The New Church College does not currently hold reserves as defined in the Charities Reserves booklet CC19.

This policy is subject to an annual review as part of the budgeting process to ensure that the reserves still meet the requirements of the Charity, and that the policy is still being followed.

Any variances from the agreed policy, or changes to this policy document will be agreed with the Trustee.

K TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity trustee is responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustee is required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply these consistently.

Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

Prepare the financial statements on the ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

L ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The smooth and effective running of The College depends principally on the hard work of the staff team and the Council expresses its gratitude to them. There are also many other people, both paid and voluntary, who support The College in different ways, and the Council thanks them for their varied contributions.

Thanks are also due to the students, an essential component of The College.

Approved by the Council on 12 July 2014 and signed on its behalf by:

PM Russell

President

C Mahmood

Secretary

LEADER OF EDUCATION REPORT

The hallmark of this last year has been change. We have embarked on a new phase with new staff, new developments and new energy. Consequently there has been quite a long period of settling in and forming new working relationships.

Through the work of David Lomax, our ordination student Becky Jarratt has become a student minister undertaking work-based training which is primarily based at West Thorpe Methodist Church in York. During the forthcoming year Becky will be working part-time as a volunteer continuing her work with the Mums and Toddler group called Twiglets as well as undertaking pastoral work. She will receive at Conference 2014, her Diploma award for completing 8 credits, which is two thirds of the 12 credits required for ordination. I have continued to liaise with the Sponsored Student Monitoring Group, Committee of Ministers and Council concerning matters relating to her training and future needs. The organisation of Becky's day-to-day training is undertaken by David Lomax. For this I am very grateful.

I submitted a paper entitled 'Developing Leadership' to Council and Committee of Ministry. Subsequently our summer event has focused on this subject which is a part of Becky's Advanced Group Leadership/ Leadership Module.

Education Committee and our tutors continue to support students learning in groups as well as by email and Skype. In looking to the future we will need to encourage new tutors to become involved. We hope to appoint a student liaison person to work as a volunteer to improve communication and support particularly for those who are studying by email.

I wish to thank David Lomax and the Education committee for their support and wise experience which has been invaluable to me as I have had a very steep learning curve to negotiate.

I have enjoyed working with Phil Wood who brings a wealth of experience from outside of our organisation. I value the leadership and support of Dr Patricia Russell and Mrs Cathy Mahmood who each bring unique qualities to the mix that is the life-giving energy of SOLCe.

Rev Helen Brown

LEADER OF THE SPIRITUAL CENTRE REPORT

I took up my post as Leader of the Spiritual Centre here at SOLCe, on 1st Nov 2013. A great deal has happened in the meantime, not least renaming our premises 'Wellspring House'. Coming from outside the Swedenborgian tradition, it has been important to listen and learn.

The vision behind the Spiritual Centre recognises that we are in the midst of challenges and change. In common with many other faith communities the New Church constituency in the UK has seen steep decline. For SOLCe the wider picture underlines the need to make fresh connections and support new developments. At the same time SOLCe remains deeply rooted in an older tradition. Our new quarterly programme offers a deliberately varied mix. GEMS is a lively, accessible exploration of Swedenborgian themes. We have tackled some difficult issues including a seminar on decline. I have been leading a series of interpretative walks, the first of which – 'Blake with Boots On' uncovered a hidden Manchester through the eyes of William Blake. One off occasions have included a Vision Day, a one-off event where we shared hopes and fears in an honest look at the future of SOLCe.

At the heart of new development is an outward looking vision which has seen SOLCe forging new partnerships with community organisations, both on site and further afield. Currently we're working on preparations for September 2014 Peace Week. At the same time we are building a closer relationship with our excellent resident counselling service, MASCS (Manchester and Salford Counselling Service). September 16th, 7.30pm will also see the launch of a new meditation group, beginning with a six week 'Introduction to Christian Meditation'. Developments are rooted in an underlying approach called 'Praxical' which focuses on the significance of spiritual practices, whether hospitality, peacemaking, journeying, meditation or 'building community'.

There is a great deal more that I have not space to include here. Clearly, the vision is demanding. We have identified key areas where we will urgently need to identify new resources – whether financial, administrative, spiritual, or in terms of personnel – especially volunteers. In addition we are working to update our premises. Fundraising is an important part of our plans. There is much in the new developments which will not happen without sourcing new money for essential building works and community engagement.

I am greatly appreciative of the energy and commitment of the SOLCe Council. I also greatly value working closely with my colleagues Helen Brown and Melanie Bennett. Of necessity we have spent a good deal of time building an effective team these past several months. Challenges remain, not least ensuring first rate communication across a dispersed network, marketing events and balancing the relationship of SOLCe education and the Spiritual Centre.

Phil Wood

The New Church College

**Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 March 2014**

TOTALS	2014	2013
	£	£
Incoming Resources		
Subscriptions and Donations	13,768	13,840
Investment Income	67,230	69,076
Fees	4,314	899
Miscellaneous Income	1,930	1,094
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Incoming Resources	87,242	84,909
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Resources Expended		
Direct Charitable Expenditure	84,643	74,987
Other Expenditure	11,862	3,265
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Resources Expended	96,505	78,252
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Incoming Resources	(9,263)	6,657
Transfers	-	-
Gains and Losses on Revaluations and Disposals Of Investments		
Realised Revaluations	(4,390)	3,890
	75,484	139,424
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Movements in Funds	61,831	149,971
Fund Balances brought forward @ 1 April 2013	1,906,467	1,756,496
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Balances Carried forward @ 31 March 2014	1,968,298	1,906,467
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2014

	2014		2013	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Investments		1,945,169		1,881,103
Current Assets				
Debtors	14,521		10,998	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	21,549		26,801	
	36,070		37,799	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12,941		12,435	
Net Current Assets		23,129		25,364
Net Assets		1,968,298		1,906,467
Funds				
Unrestricted Funds;				
General		372,051		367,185
Designated - Jersey Education		344,236		338,396
Restricted Funds;				
Permanent Endowment		1,252,011		1,200,886
		1,968,298		1,906,467

Approved by the Council on 12 July 2014 and signed on its behalf by:

PM Russell
President

NEW CHURCH COLLEGE

Names of people who have successfully completed accredited Courses, other than those who have been recognized as Ministers.

Certificate holders

Ruth Duckworth	1979
David Fitzjohn	1979
Margaret Presland	1989
Geoffrey Cunningham	1990
Renée James	1999
Alan Bowie	2002
Bev Johnson	2004

Diploma holders

Raymond Kennion	1990
Mrs Rebecca Jarratt	2014

Swedenborg Open Learning Centre

Certificate in Swedenborgian Studies (Level One)

Marion Curry	2004
Bev Johnson	2004
Lenka Machova	2004
Judith Wilson	2004
Thelma Wilson	2006
Peter Wilson	2006
Leslie Hurst	2006
Anna Woofenden	2007
Trevor Millar	2007
Stephen Thomas	2008
Helen Newton	2009
Rebecca Jarratt	2010

Graduate in Swedenborgian Studies (Level Three)

Alan Bowie	2006
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LAST 40 ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Year	Place	President/ Senior Minister/ Spiritual Leader	Preacher	Members
1975	Bromley	J.O.Booth	M.W.Stanley	81
1976	Stirling	J.O.Booth	B.Kingslake	68
1977	Birmingham	J.O.Booth	J.M.Sutton	94
1978	Chester	J.O.Booth	L.Chambers	86
1979	Clacton-on-Sea	J.O.Booth	R.A.Gill	84
1980	Radcliffe	C.V.A.Hasler	C.V.A.Hasler	93
1981	Leeds	C.V.A.Hasler	T.A.Moffat	97
1982	Swanwick	C.V.A.Hasler	C.H.Presland	92
1983	Southampton	C.V.A.Hasler	I.P.Johnson	86
1984	Swanwick	C.V.A.Hasler	F.Clarkson	95
1985	Clacton-on-Sea	N.Ryder	N.Ryder	91
1986	Swanwick	N.Ryder	J.O.Booth	85
1987	Manchester	N.Ryder	J.C.Duckworth	91
1988	Hoddesdon	N.Ryder	J.E.Elliott	77
1989	Durham	N.Ryder	B.R.Jarvis	82
1990	Swanwick	R.A.Gill	R.A.Gill	86
1991	Birmingham	R.A.Gill	C.V.A.Hasler	82
1992	Swanwick	R.A.Gill/N.Ryder	J.D.Allsopp	80
1993	Glasgow	N.Ryder	J.M.Sutton	72
1994	Hoddesdon	N.Ryder	B.J.Presland	77
1995	Swanwick	N.Ryder	B.M.Talbot	78
1996	Lancaster	J.M.Sutton	J.M.Sutton	83
1997	Hoddesdon	J.M.Sutton	O.C.E.Jackson	81
1998	Swanwick	J.M.Sutton	N.Ryder	72
1999	Swanwick	J.M.Sutton	G.Clarkson	79
2000	Hoddesdon	J.M.Sutton	D.A.Moffat	77
2001	Swanwick	I. Russell	R.P. Brugler	83
2002	Swanwick	I. Russell	I. Russell	68
2003	Swanwick	I. Russell	C. Curry	76
2004	Hoddesdon	I. Russell	M.E. Duckworth	70
2005	Swanwick	I. Russell	R.A. Gill	79
2006	Swanwick	M. Duckworth	G.L. Gordon	86
2007	Swanwick	M. Duckworth	J.C. Duckworth	98
2008	Swanwick	M. Duckworth	R.A. Gill	87
2009	Swanwick	M. Duckworth	D. Lomax	88
2010	Swanwick	M. Duckworth	M.W. Stanley	88
2011	Swanwick	M. Duckworth	G.Gordon/D.Gaffney	82
2012	Swanwick	G.Gordon/D.Gaffney	J. Dunion	74
2013	Swanwick	G.Gordon/D.Gaffney	R.Russell	76
2014	Swanwick	D.Gaffney	C.Curry/C.Bank	72

MINISTERS, WORSHIP LEADERS, LAY PREACHERS AND CELEBRANTS

1 MINISTERS

The following are the Ministers recognised by the Conference:

*Retired or not in active service

#Overseas

Ordaining Ministers	ORDAINED	INDUCTED
* Christopher Vincence Alexander Hasler	June 20,1951	July 19,1980
* Norman Ryder	June 24,1964	July 30,1985
* Robert Arthur Gill	June 30,1970	July 25,1990
* Ian Russell	July 22,1983	July 23,2001
* Mary Elizabeth Duckworth, B.A	July 10,1996	July 27,2006

Ministers	ORDAINED
* John Edward Elliott, B.A., B.D.	June 23,1954
*# John Emanuel Teed	June 23,1954
* Leslie Chambers, B.A., Ph.D.	June 27,1956
*# Ian Allan Arnold	June 30,1965
*# John Maitland Sutton, B.Ag.Sc. (served as an Ordaining Minister 1996 to 2001)	June 30,1970
* Michael William Stanley, M.Sc., Ph.D.	June 27,1971
*# Trevor Alexander Moffat, B.A.	July 15,1978
# Julian Clayton Duckworth	July 19,1980
# Richard John Keyworth	June 23,1982
Clifford Curry, B.Sc	July 22,1983
* Bruce Roger Jarvis	July 30,1985
* Brian Mark Talbot, B.A.	July 26,1989
* Geoffrey Clarkson, B.A.	July 26,1989
*# David Allan Moffat, B.Mus.	July 23,1997
* Gillian Lindsey Gordon	July 5,2000
* Rita Mary Russell	July 25,2001
David Edward Gaffney, B.Sc	July 29,2004
Christine Anne Bank	July 31,2008
Helen Thelma Brown	July 30,2009
Jack Dunion	July 30,2009

(Ministers in the following categories are not entitled to vote at General Meetings of Conference)

Geoffrey Turner	1992
Willie Huggins	1992
Kathryn Mary Brooks	1993
Phillip Nicholas Brooks	1993
Frances Mary Burnley	1993
Maurice Garnett	1993
Alan Christopher Misson	1994
Recognised as a Lay Pastor	2013
Pamela Joy Moffat	1995
Clive Goalen	1995
James Alan Bowie	2001
Constance Thelma Wilson	2001
Peter Michael Wilson	2001
Judith Margaret Wilson	2003
Pauline Ann Grimshaw	2004
Jan Millar	2004
Trevor Millar	2004
Recognised as a Lay Pastor	2008
Madeleine Mary Josephine Taylor	2004
Stephen Thomas	2005
Recognised as a Lay Pastor	2009
Kittie Methuen-Jones	2006
Jean Mrozek	2006
Nigel Sutton	2006
Richard Lines	2007
Helen Newton	2007
David Haseler	2007
Rebecca Jarratt	2008
Gwendolen Rowe	2013

Accredited Worship Leaders

Derrick Pearce	1999
Bev Johnson	1999
Mary Brigg	2000
Enid Nicholls	2000
Diane Lewin	2002
Jonathan Armitage	2003
George Hunt	2003

Janet Benson	2003
Dorothy Margison	2004
Howard Turner	2004
Linda Wells	2006
Grant Brackley	2006
David Brooks	2006
Michael Hindley	2006
Janet Jessop	2007
David Sharrock	2008
Tonia Jarvis	2012
Susan Wilson	2012
Liz Regan	2013
John Harris	2014
Phillipa Peacock	2014

Lay Preachers recognised for service in Mauritius

	Authorized
Jacques Danjoux	1991
Clifford Phanjoo	1991
Evelyne Eynaud	2005
Yves Radhanauth	2005

4 CELEBRANTS

The following are the Authorised Celebrants for the Sacraments and Ceremonies recognised by the Conference:

- Mr Geoff Cunningham - Baptism, Holy Supper, Marriages and Funerals.
- Mr Pat Johnson - Holy Supper and Funerals.
- Mr Alan Misson - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.
- Mrs Mary Burnley - Holy Supper and Funerals.
- Mrs Anne Clarkson - Holy Supper.
- Mr Maurice Garnett - Holy Supper.
- Mr Phillip Brooks - Holy Supper and Funerals.
- Mr Stephen Russell-Lacy - Holy Supper and Funerals.
- Mr David Sharrock - Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mr David Friend - Holy Supper.
Mr Trevor Millar - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.
Dr Geoffrey Bentley - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.
Mr Michael Clubb - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.
Mr Peter Wilson - Holy Supper and Funerals.
Mrs Thelma Wilson - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.
Mrs Madeleine Taylor - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.
Miss Gwendolen Rowe - Holy Supper.
Mrs Kathryn Brooks - Funerals.
Mrs Pauline Grimshaw - Baptism, Holy Supper, Funerals and Marriages.
Mrs Jean Mrozek - Funerals.
Mrs Marion Curry - Holy Supper and Funerals.
Mr Stephen Thomas - Holy Supper and Funerals.
Mr David Brooks - Funerals.
Mr Alan Bowie - Holy Supper.
Mr Nigel Sutton - Baptism and Holy Supper.
Mr Gordon Kuphal - Holy Supper.
Mrs Liz Regan – Holy Supper
Mrs Rebecca Jarratt – Holy Supper and Baptism

LAND AND BUILDINGS HELD IN TRUST BY CONFERENCE

Insurance of buildings (excluding contents)

A Allianz	B Conference Block Policy
C Congregational & General	M AMP

- + Index Linked
- # Held in trust for the Emsbay Fund
- * Last year's figure

Conference maintains with Ecclesiastical a combined insurance policy for employers, public and products liability on the properties listed below and also for other Societies and associated institutions

In London and the South of England

Bournemouth. Church and rooms at Tuckton Road, Southbourne.	B	£1,211,523	+
House at 101 Tuckton Road, Southbourne.	B	£221,144	+
Brightlingsea. Church and rooms at Queen Street.	B	£859,497	+
Greenhill. Church and rooms at 177 Leicester Road, New Barnet.	B	£1,350,727	+
Kensington. Church and rooms at 5 Pembridge Villas, London, W11 3EN	B	£2,141,523	+
Southend-on-Sea. Church and rooms at Sutton Road.	B	£480,316	+
West Wickham. Church and rooms at High Street.	B	£429,992	+

General Conference.

House at 18 Pollard Road, Whetstone, London N20. Freehold.	B	£685,095	+
Bungalow at 80 Broadway, Southbourne Bournemouth. Freehold.	B	£246,607	+
House at 6 Atwater Court, Faversham Road, Lenham, Kent. Leasehold.			Insured by freeholder

In the Midlands and West

Bristol. Church at Cranbrook Road, Redland.	B	£1,013,901	+
Derby. Church and rooms at Horwood Avenue. House at 409A Burton Road, Derby.	B	£924,391	+
	B	£163,729	+

General Conference.

Bungalow at 215 Coventry Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire. Freehold.	B	£477,122	
+ Purley Chase Centre, Atherstone. Freehold.	B	£5,374,551	+

In North Lancashire

Accrington. Church at Hargreaves Street.	B	£635,993	+
Burnley. Church and rooms at Briercliffe Road.	B	£312,423	+

General Conference.

House at 5 Whittycroft Drive, Barrowford, Nelson. Freehold. #	B	£195,906	+
House at 126 Mercer Crescent, Haslingden, Rossendale. Jointly owned freehold.	B	£186,128	+
House at 6 Dunkirk Avenue, Fulwood, Preston. Jointly owned freehold.	B	£214,722	+

In North-West (Manchester) and Cheshire

Chester. Church and rooms at Brook Lane, Newton.	B	£394,202	+
House at 51 Woodlands Drive, Newton.	B	£137,411	+
Kearsley. Church and rooms at Bolton Road.	B	£1,277,740	+
Radcliffe. Church and rooms at Stand Lane.	C£1,050,646*		+

General Conference.

House at Church Street, Kearsley. Freehold.	B	£258,460	+
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In Yorkshire and the North-East

Bradford. Church and rooms at Ashfield Avenue, Frizinghall.	B	567,850	+
Dalton. Church and rooms at Grove Place, Dalton, Huddersfield.	B	£1,064,153	+
Flats at 111 and 113 Long Lane, Dalton, Huddersfield.	B	£772,069	+
Keighley. Church and rooms at Braithwaite Road, Braithwaite.	B	£248,185	+
Seaburn Dene. Church and rooms at Shields Road, Seaburn Dene, Sunderland.	B	£462,001	+
General Conference.			
House at 22 Wimborne Drive, Keighley. Jointly owned freehold. #	A	£300,000	
Kildwick New Church Centre, Main Road, Kildwick. Freehold. #	B	£680,544	+

In Scotland

Paisley. Church and rooms at 17 George Street,
together with library and creche contiguous. B £1,542,981 +

New Zealand

59a Balmain Road, Birkenhead, Auckland, 1310 M NZ\$354,010
(Conference share 86.7647%)

Property of the New Church College

25 Radcliffe New Road, Radcliffe, Manchester. B £569,151* +

LIST OF SOCIETIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
(For addresses and telephone numbers see Address List)

City, Town, etc.	Situation of Church	Minister or Lay Leader	Treasurer	Secretary
Accrington	Hargreaves Street Accrington BB5 2BB		Mr.D.H.Sharrock	Mr.A.Duckworth
Bournemouth	Tuckton Road, Southbourne BH6 3HT	Rev.C.Curry	Mrs.J.Pike	Mrs.L.Pierpoint
Bradford and Saltaire	Ashfield Avenue, Shipley W Yorks BD18 3AL	Contact Secretary	Ms.P.Blomfield	Mrs.J Millar
Brightlingsea	Queen Street Brightlingsea Essex CO7 0PH		Mr.N.A.Skinner	Mr.G.S.Kuphal
Burnley	Briercliffe Road Burnley Lancs BB10 1XH	Rev.M.W.Stanley *	Mr. T.Mitchell	Mrs S Wilson
Chester	Dicksons Drive Newton Park Chester CH2 2BN	Rev.N.Ryder *	Mr.R.Pulsford	Mrs P Ryder

LIST OF SOCIETIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
(For addresses and telephone numbers see Address List)

City, Town, etc.	Situation of Church	Minister or Lay Leader	Treasurer	Secretary
Clayton-le-Moors	Arthur Street Clayton-le-Moors BB5 5NY	Rev.L. Chambers *	Mr.D.Sagar	Mrs C.Sagar
Dalton, Huddersfield	Grove Place, Dalton Huddersfield HD5 9LH	Mr T Millar	Mrs.J.Jessop	Mrs J Mrozek
Derby	Horwood Avenue Derby DE23 6AN	Mrs.C.Sutton	Mr.N.K.Sutton	Mrs R.F.Delderfield
Greenhill	177 Leicester Road, New Barnet, Herts., EN5 5EB	Contact Secretary	Mr.N.K.Sutton / Mr.T.Cook	Mr.J.Shepherd
Kearsley (07913 121119)	Bolton Road Kearsley Lancs BL4 9DD	Contact Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw	Mr.D.Ormes	Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw
Keighley	Braithwaite Road Braithwaite Village Keighley BD22 6PX	Rev.C.Bank	Mr.M.Pepper	Mrs.Y.Higgins
Kensington (020 7229 9340)	5 Pembroke Villas Kensington London W11 3EN		Mrs.L.F.Wells	Mr.D.R.A.Friend

LIST OF SOCIETIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
(For addresses and telephone numbers see Address List)

City, Town, etc.	Situation of Church	Minister or Lay Leader	Treasurer	Secretary
Paisley	17 George Street Paisley PA1 2LB	Rev. J Dunion	Mr. CA. Macpherson	Mr N.R. Laidlaw
Radcliffe	Stand Lane Radcliffe Manchester M26		Mrs H Eastwood	Mrs. M. Burton
Seaburn Dene, Sunderland	Shields Road Seaburn Dene, Sunderland SR6 8ND	Rev. B.R. Jarvis*	Mr. G. Nicholls	Mr. W. Griffiths
Southend-on-Sea	Sutton Road Southend-on-Sea SS2 5HX		Mr. B. R. Smith	Mr. P. Cunningham
West Wickham (07534 702887)	142 High Street, West Wickham Kent BR4 0LZ	Mr. A. C. Misson	Mr. C. V. Skinner	Mr. and Mrs D. E. Brooks
Mauritius	Remono Street, Curepipe Road and 2 Rue Champ de Lort Port Louis		Mr. R. Sookkeah	Mr. C. Phanjoo
* Retired Minister	** Supervising Minister			

LIST OF GROUPS AND STUDY CIRCLES IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

The information given is liable to change, and potential visitors are advised to check with the Secretary or Contact concerned. For addresses and telephone numbers of the Secretaries, Ministers, etc., see the Address List

City, Town, etc.	Usual Meeting Place	Minister or Lay Leader	Secretary or Contact Name	Usual Day and Time of meeting
Blackpool			Mrs.E.Morrison	
Dumbarton	Members' homes	Rev.J.Dunion	Rev.J.Dunion	Monthly
East Sussex	Member's 'home (Eastbourne)	Mr S Thomas	Mr.A.Bula	Consult contact
Edinburgh	Members' homes	Rev.R.A.Gill	Mrs.H.Laidlaw	Sept-Dec and Feb-June (first Monday of the month 7.30 p.m.)
Preston	23/25 Guildhall Arcade, Preston PR1 1HR	Mrs A Whittle	Mrs L Hale	First Sunday of the Month at 10:45 a.m.
Southampton	Members' homes	Rev.C.Curry		Consult contact (monthly 2.30 p.m.)
Stockport	Members' homes		Mr.J.D.Lomax	Usually fortnightly

**SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS OF
NEW CHURCH INSTITUTIONS AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

	Secretary	Treasurer
Area Councils:-		
London & Southern	Mr.B.Brown	Mr.B.Brown
North-West (Manchester)	Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw	Mr.J.E.Ford
Scottish Association	Mrs.N.Laidlaw	Mrs.R.Johnstone
Yorkshire & North-East	Mrs.J.E.Millar	Mr.P.Brooks
Broadfield Benevolent Fund	Mr.R.G.Pulsford	Mr.R.G.Pulsford
New Church College	Mrs.C.Mahmood	Mr.R.J.Nicholls
Committee for Auxiliary Ministry	Mrs.J.E.Millar	
Examining Board (College Education Committee)	Leader of Studies	
Home Worship Scheme	Mrs.S.Fay (Organiser)	
Honorary Life Members	Ms.J.Z.Brooks	
Library & Archives Committee	c/o 5 Pembridge Villas, Kensington, London W11 3EN	
Jeggins Trustees	Mrs.D.Mullock	
Kildwick Committee	Mr.K.Sandiford	Mr.K.Sandiford
Marketing and Resources	Mr.S.Russell-Lacy	Mr.N.K.Sutton
Ministers' Committee	Rev.C.A.Bank	
New Church Children's Society	Dr.G.C.Bentley	Mr.D.Thomas
New Church Historical Society	Mrs.M.Hawkins (Convenor)	Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw (Sec/Treas)
New Church Youth Association	Miss.A.Presland	Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw
North of England New Church House	Mrs.M.Kidd	Mr.N.K.Sutton
Overseas Secretary	Rev.N.Ryder	
Purley Chase Centre	Mr.M.D.Haseler	Miss.S.Ross
Swedenborg Society	Mr.R.Lines	Mr.A.Morley
Women's League	Mrs.M.Liversedge	Mrs.A.Walton
League Benevolent Fund	Mrs.A.Walton	
Yorkshire Missionary Association	Mrs.J.Millar	Mr.P.Brooks

AREA COUNCILS

These Councils comprise a Secretary, a Treasurer and as many Ministers and Lay Members as are deemed necessary.

The numbers in brackets after the names of the Societies denote the number of representatives which the Society is entitled to send to the Annual Meeting of the Conference.

An asterisk indicates that the property of the Society is in Conference Trust.

London and Southern

Ministers: Rev.C.Curry, Rev.G.L.Gordon, Rev.R.Russell, Rev.H.Brown

Secretary: Mr.B.Brown

Treasurer: Mr.B.Brown

*Bournemouth (2); *Brightlingsea (2); *Greenhill (1); *Kensington (1);

*Southend-on-Sea (1); *West Wickham (2)

North-West (Manchester)

Secretary: Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw

Treasurer: Mr.J.E.Ford

*Chester (2); *Kearsley (2); *Radcliffe (1);

Scottish Association

Ministers: Rev.R.A.Gill, Rev.J.Dunion

Secretary: Mrs.N.Laidlaw

Treasurer: Mrs.R.Johnstone

Registrar of Isolated: Rev.R.A.Gill

*Paisley (2)

Yorkshire and North-East

Minister: Rev.C.Bank, Rev.B.Jarvis

Secretary: Mrs.J.E.Millar

Treasurer: Mr.P.Brooks

*Bradford and Saltaire (2); *Dalton (2); *Keighley (2); *Seaburn Dene (2)