



	<p>anticipated that the changes to signatories will shortly be completed by the bank.</p> <p>59.2.5 Safeguarding (see Minute 29.2.6) Document 5 has now been received from Accrington.</p> <p>59.2.6 Youth Team (Minute 29.2.10) Mrs Sally Field did not attend the meeting as she was waiting to hear back from them whether they thought it would be useful. They will be at Purley for the Spring Rally at the end of March and she will talk to them then.</p> <p>59.2.7 Membership of the Council (Minute 29.2.11) Unfortunately one of the potential new Council members, Mrs Margaret Cowie, was not able to attend the March meeting.</p> <p>59.2.8 Finance Advisory Committee (Minute 35 and Confidential Minute 53) Resolved: that Mrs Charlotte Rowlands be appointed a member of the Finance Advisory Committee.</p> <p>59.2.9 Conference Programme (Minute 37) The Conference programme produced by Mrs Lara Nicholls was approved. Mrs Judith Wilson will deal with the printing.</p> <p>59.2.10 Lee Differ(Confidential Minute 51) A paper from the Revd David Gaffney regarding Mr Lee Differ's future activities was considered. The Council was excited by the proposals it contained. Mr Differ will be ordained in July 2020. <b>Resolved:</b> that if after further investigation Mr Gaffney and Mr Differ are satisfied that it is worth pursuing, the Council will fund a Master of Arts degree in Religion and Philosophy for Mr Differ.</p> <p>59.2.11 Paul Morgan (Confidential Minute 54) Mr Paul Morgan became an ordination student on 1 January 2019.</p> <p>59.2.12 Purley Management Team (Confidential Minute 55) Mr Chris Woodhouse has accepted the appointment to the Purley Management Team and attended his first meeting in January.</p> <p>59.2.13 Young Adults at Purley (Minute 41) Mrs Sue Chesworth is the person to be approached for financial support for young people undergoing further education when attending events at Purley.</p>	<p>SGF</p> <p>SGF</p> <p>MDH JZB</p> <p>LKN JMW</p> <p>DEG</p>
<b>60</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF DECISIONS MADE BY E-MAIL</b> There have been no decisions made by email since the November meeting.	
<b>61</b>	<b>MINISTRY ISSUES</b> Gathering Leaves will take place at Purley from 28 to 31 August 2020. The Council agreed in principal to supply funding for things such as a marquee and the hire of a coach. The audio-visual system at Purley appears to be at the end of its life and the Council felt that the Purley Team should look into this.	SGF
<b>62</b>	<b>COMPANY ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT</b> The Company Accountant produced five sets of figures for the Council to consider. These were the Conference Income and Expenditure Account for the nine months ended 31 December 2018 which showed a surplus of £48K (compared with a surplus of £52K in the previous year), the Conference five year forecast, which showed an operating deficit of £58K for the year to 31 March 2019 and surpluses of £70K, £79K, £52K and £36K for subsequent years, the Purley Chase Account for	

	<p>nine months ended 31 December 2018 which showed a deficit of £47K (compared with £37K in the previous year), the Common Investment Fund Income and Expenditure Accounts for the nine months ended 31 December 2018 and information on the Youth Leader Fund, the Ministers' Fund, the Publishing Fund, and the Programme Leader Fund. As usual Mrs Field provided comprehensive notes with these accounts.</p> <p>Mrs Field also provided information about investments.</p> <p>The Company Secretary expressed concern that although the next few years showed surpluses if these surpluses continued to decrease at the rate indicated we would be back in the red by 25/26 and that as the Company Accountant had said at more than one Conference we needed to find new income streams. Mrs Field had in fact tried to put together a Fund Raising Team but nobody had been willing to join.</p> <p>There was also the fear that as we were in receipt of funds from the sale of church premises Conference would be perceived as no longer being in need of Society contributions, which is most definitely not the case.</p> <p>Investment income is important to us but we need other regular income and as our congregations close the old patterns of Society based contributions go with them. There is a real need to be aware of this, especially as far as the Ministry is concerned. When Ministers hold events they should look towards inviting donations from those attending, although probably not as formally as in the way traditional churches include an offertory within the service. However, it is important that it is on their radar. It is particularly relevant when we are trying to reach out in new ways.</p>	CAB
63	<p><b>PAY INCREASE FROM 1 APRIL 2019</b></p> <p>The average increase in earnings is 3.125%.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> that the pay increase for all employees, other than the domestic staff at Purley, the increase in pensions and the increase to be offered to retired self-employed ministers and the person doing DBS checks be 3.5%.</p>	SGF
64	<p><b>BUDGETS FOR THE YOUTH WORKERS AND THE PROGRAMME LEADER AT PURLEY</b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> that the Youth Worker budget and the Programme Leader budget each be set at £10,000 for the year to 31 March 2020.</p>	
65	<p><b>BOOK ALLOWANCE</b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> that the book allowance be £140 for the year to 31 March 2020.</p>	
66	<p><b>COUNCIL MEETING ON THE TUESDAY OF CONFERENCE</b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> that this should commence at 10.00 am.</p>	
67	<p><b>RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>Mrs Judith Wilson will stand again but Mr David Haseler is undecided.</p>	
68	<p><b>MRS RACHEL GILSENAN</b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> that Mrs Gilsenan's probationary period be regarded as having been satisfactorily completed and that her appointment as Manager of the Purley Chase Centre be confirmed.</p> <p>A letter will be sent as soon as her line manager has been informed.</p>	SGF JZB
69	<p><b>SEABURN DENE</b></p> <p>Some work has been done but more is still required.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> that a letter be sent detailing the work that needs to be done and</p>	

	informing them that no people should be allowed to stay there again until the work is completed.	JZB
70	<p><b>REVIEW OF POLICIES</b></p> <p>Our insurers have stated that where a building has a lightning conductor it must be inspected and tested.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> that a further item be added to Conference's Health and Safety Policy as follows</p> <p><b>“C11. <u>Lightning Conductors</u></b></p> <p>Where a building has a lightning conductor installed, it shall be inspected and tested every eleven months by a qualified person.”</p> <p>Conference's Policies on Health and Safety Legionella, Asbestos, Bribery, Risk Management, Financial Procedures, Data Protection and Safeguarding were reviewed. Miss Gemma McLean will be asked for a report on her Data Protection Manager role.</p> <p>It was decided that for Safeguarding a new poster was required and that document 2 needed amending. The idea of supplying individuals' mobile numbers for contact in connection with Safeguarding was rejected.</p>	<p>JZB</p> <p>RHC</p> <p>RHC</p> <p>LKN</p>
71	<p><b>POSSIBLE NEW POLICIES AND ADDITIONS TO STAFF HANDBOOKS</b></p> <p>Policies on Absence Management and Bullying and Harassment were considered by the Council. It was decided that some amendment was required to both of these and that the Absence Management policy be referred to Mr Grant Brackley to customise so that it was suitable for the staff handbook for hourly paid staff and that Ms Zoë Brooks be tasked to deal with the more general Bullying and Harassment policy.</p> <p>It was also decided that the paper detailing possible additions to staff handbooks be held over until the May meeting.</p>	<p>SGF</p> <p>JZB</p> <p>JZB</p>
72	<p><b>FUTURE STRATEGY</b></p> <p>A paper asking if Conference was meeting its basic objective of ‘...disseminating the ... doctrines’ was presented by Mr David Haseler. He said that, in the past, the Council carried out the administration and Ministers and Societies led on outreach, and wondered whether the Council should now take on outreach in view of the reduction in numbers of Ministers and Societies. He questioned whether there ought to be a new outreach team and whether there could be a regular agenda item on outreach. These suggestions did not meet favour.</p> <p>Mr Haseler pointed out the support and enthusiasm that the redevelopment of Purley had produced and said this showed the stimulating effect of new projects.</p> <p>There was some discussion but the role of Council was felt to be to support growth and development rather than to try and dictate how this should take place. The church is changing and something organic and positive is happening. The green shoots are there but it was recognised that not all areas are thriving and that this can lead to a sense of loss as well as excitement and anticipation of new ways forward.</p> <p>The Council again stated its policy to support financially and morally new ideas that were brought forward by members. There is considerable energy through Purley Chase particularly. We have new ministers in training and people are finding us through various routes. Being open to new ways forward as well as doing what we can to maintain existing patterns and build on the enthusiasm and energy of the young people as they explore their own ways of serving the Lord is undoubtedly</p>	

	<p>challenging.</p> <p>It was felt that the current General Conference website could usefully be refocussed as it is very much a place to get organisational information rather than to engage those searching for Swedenborgian material. Mr Richard Cunningham will look into this. It was agreed that payment could be made for additional website development.</p>	RHC
73	<p><b>PAISLEY CHURCH</b></p> <p>It is anticipated that the sale for £170,000 will be finalised on 26 April. A legal document will have to be signed by two people and our solicitor in Scotland requires a copy of the minute authorising individuals to sign legal documents.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> that Jennifer Zoë Brooks, Judith Margaret Wilson, Maurice David Haseler, Richard Harold Cunningham and Lara Kay Nicholls be authorised to sign legal documents on behalf of The General Conference of the New Church.</p>	JZB
74	<p><b>TRUST CORPORATION STATUS</b></p> <p>Our solicitor has advised that to regularise our position we should apply to become a Trust Corporation. The application has to be made in the form of a statutory declaration. The Council needs to pass a resolution authorising an individual to make a statutory declaration on its behalf.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> that Jennifer Zoë Brooks is authorised to make a statutory declaration on behalf of The General Conference of the New Church and apply for Trust Corporation status.</p>	JZB
75	<p><b>CLOSING</b></p> <p>The meeting was closed by the Revd Christine Bank reading part of AC 7038.3.</p>	

### Future meetings

May 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 2019  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> 2019 Annual Meeting  
September 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> 2019  
November 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> 2019

March 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> 2020  
May 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> 2020  
July 28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 Annual Meeting  
September 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> 2020  
November 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> 2020