14th September 2021 Issue #102

E-NEWS

The General Conference of the New Church **News**

About Us

To find out more about The General Conference of the New Church, including the locations of our Churches, visit our web site at: gcnc.org.uk

Send Us Your News

If you have any news that you would like to share in a future issue of E-News, please send it via email to: gemma.mclean@gcnc.org.uk

Share E-News

Feel free to print and share this publication.

Sign up

Sign up for E-News and E-Read email notifications at: gcnc.org.uk/signup

Local News

View local Church newsletters at: gcnc.org.uk/resources/newsletters

Home Worship

To download the latest Home Worship material please visit: gcnc.org.uk/resources/home-worship

To subscribe via email, please sign up at: gcnc.org.uk/hwsignup

Donations

E-News and E-Read are provided completely free of charge.

If you would like to donate to support this ongoing resource, please do so here:

https://www.generalconference.org.uk/resources/donations

Rise and Shine Radio Show

Revd Jack Dunion, broadcasts his own online radio show every Sunday at 9am on River Radio (formerly Leven Radio):

https://riverradio.uk/

The link below now gives access to all backdated Rise & Shine programs:

https://www.mixcloud.com/RevJack/

Moving Forward

Margaret Cowie writes:

Being the only trustees currently in office, Nigel Sutton and I have now had a Zoom meeting with the Conference's solicitor to seek his advice concerning the correct procedure for the formation of a new Conference Council.

In our last bulletin we indicated that we were not sure whether our original plan for the election and appointment of further trustees would fully comply

with our Articles of Association and Company Law. The solicitor is of the opinion that the Articles are in need of revision as they do not really meet the current situation of the Conference, which is not only a Church but also a Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. However, for the moment, we do have to proceed under the requirements of Article 33(f), which states:

"Any vacancy occurring among the Elected Members may be filled by the Council but only for the period until the next Annual General Meeting. Such persons shall then be eligible for re-election but shall not be taken into account in determining the Elected Members to retire by rotation at that Meeting. An Elected Member appointed at an Annual General Meeting either to fill a casual vacancy or to replace a person removed under Article 32 shall retire at the same time as the Elected Member who has been replaced would have retired."

The solicitor explained that this Article permits us to appoint members to fill the current vacancies on the Council. He did, however, emphasise that we may not hold any form of ballot other than at an Extraordinary General Meeting, where at least 50% of the voting members of Conference were present in person. Given the practical difficulties in calling and holding such a meeting in the next few weeks, we feel we have little alternative except to proceed with the executive appointment of new trustees.

Therefore, it is our intention to appoint the six people who have volunteered to fill the vacancies, namely Mrs Sue Chesworth, Revd Robert Gill, Mrs Pauline Grimshaw, Revd Bruce Jarvis, Mrs Muriel Morgan, Mr Rob Taylor. These people will only serve until the next AGM in 2022 when a full new Council will be appointed in the normal democratic way. All those now appointed to the new Council will be eligible for re-election in 2022.

Should there be any objections to this executive appointment of a new Council, the General Conference would need to call an Extraordinary General Meeting, consisting of at least half the voting members, and in person, as only Annual General Meetings can be held virtually. We hope that this news relieves some of the anxiety that readers may be feeling. It has taken some time to get to this place, but now we have been advised by Conference's own solicitor we feel we can progress with confidence. There is much urgent work that needs to be done by the new Council and quite a number of hurdles still to be negotiated, but we can now begin to restore some degree of normality to the work and mission of our beloved Church. We ask for the prayerful support of all Conference members as we take up our work in the coming weeks and months.

Margaret Cowie
Chair of the Council