



**THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH**

**CONFERENCE COUNCIL MEETING**

**held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Via Zoom**

Trustees Present Via Zoom: Mrs M L Cowie      Chairman  
Mr N K Sutton      Vice - Chair  
Mrs P Grimshaw  
Mrs S Chesworth  
Mr R Taylor  
Revd R A Gill  
Revd B R Jarvis

Also in attendance Via Zoom: Ms Natalie Welch      Company Secretary  
Mrs R Jaggs      Company Accountant  
Mr C Chambers      President New Church College  
Revd H Brown      Spiritual Leader  
Revd J Dunion      Spiritual Leader  
Revd B Talbot      Secretary to the Committee of Ministers

18<sup>th</sup> November 2022 Start: 19.00 - 21.00  
23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 Start: 19.00 - 21.00

<b>26</b>	<b>Opening</b> The Revd Jack Dunion opened the meeting with a reading, Numbers 13:30-31, 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading, John 16:33 and offering a prayer.	
<b>27</b>	<b>Welcome</b> The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new Company Secretary Natalie Welch who started work on Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2022.	
<b>28</b>	<b>Minutes</b> <b>28.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022.</b> The minutes of the last meeting were approved by all as an accurate record of the meeting.  <b>28.2 Matters arising from the Minutes</b> Articles and Rules - This is still being worked on and will be reported back at a later date.  <b>28.2.1 Conference Programme 2023</b> Margaret Cowie explained that the subgroup is still working on the programme and will report back to the Council at a later date once all the information is ready. <i>Action: The subgroup will continue work on the conference programme.</i>	

	<p><b>28.2.2 Zoom at Conference 2023</b></p> <p>Margaret Cowie explained that she had a meeting with Gemma Mclean (IT manager) to see what the possibilities were for having Zoom at the conference in 2023. As this would be the first attempt at live streaming, it was decided that only the Keynote Speech, Business Day and Conference Service would be streamed. Permission would be needed from all the members appearing on Zoom. A volunteer with experience of using Zoom would be required to monitor the laptop throughout the conference and it was suggested that Muriel Morgan would be the right person for this role.</p> <p><i>Action: Margaret will discuss with Muriel to see if this is something she would be willing to do at the conference 2023.</i></p>	MLC
29	<p><b>Company Accounts Report</b></p> <p>The Company Accountant produced figures for the Council to consider. These were the Conference Income and Expenditure Account forecast for the year 2023/2024. The Council discussed the figures, and it was agreed that Rachael Jaggs will bring the full detailed accounts to the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 for the Council to discuss and approve.</p>	RJ
30	<p><b>Rachel Gilsenan Holidays</b></p> <p>Mrs Rachel Gilsenan is unable to use all her annual leave before the end of the year and has asked the Council if possible, to carry the annual leave over into the following year.</p> <p>Margaret Cowie explained that she had contacted Croner (employment law advisors) who strongly advised against carrying holiday entitlement into the next year. The problem seems to be that Rachel is a hard worker who struggles taking annual leave, not having an assistant who can cover all Rachel's areas and roles. The Council agreed to offer to pay 4 days out of the 8 days of the annual leave to Rachel although the Council will look further into this to prevent this situation from re-occurring.</p> <p><i>Action: MLC will speak to Colin Skinner to pay the 4 days into Rachels Gilsenan's account</i></p>	MLC
31	<p><b>Purley Chase Summer Camp Subsidies</b></p> <p>The Council discussed the rates for the summer camp and the matter was raised of students still in full education or apprenticeship aged 18+ who are having to pay full adult rate with the current pricing structure at Purley Chase which could cause financial problems to the students. It was suggested that a Youth and Family subcommittee is formed to investigate the options and bring it back to the Council meeting at a later date.</p> <p>It was agreed that the subcommittee will consist of Sue Chesworth, Rachael Jaggs, Robert Taylor.</p>	SC/R J/RT
32	<p><b>Company Secretary</b></p> <p>The Council expressed their thanks and appreciation to Muriel Morgan who did a fantastic job helping with secretarial duties for the council until a new Company Secretary was recruited.</p>	
33	<p><b>Confirm Price position for Conference 2023</b></p> <p>The 2023 rates are due to be released to the General Conference of New Church at the beginning of the year of 2023 although if we agree to the contract with Hayes Conference Centre before then they will secure the rates for the conference 2023 the same as 2022 prices which is all-inclusive charge per adult of £246.00 per person inc VAT.</p> <p>The Hayes Conference Centre have asked for confirmation on dates in 2025. The dates they have are 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025. If we wish to secure the dates in 2025 we have to pay a deposit of £1,000.00. It was agreed by all to book the 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and pay the £1,000.00 deposit to secure the booking.</p> <p><i>Action: MLC will confirm 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at Hayes Conference Centre and authorise the deposit to be made.</i></p>	MLC

<b>34</b>	<b>Review voting by email procedure</b> The Council discussed a voting procedure which would allow people to vote via email. Robert Taylor explained that Outlook have a facility which allows voting on mail and is easy to use. It was agreed that this procedure would be tested around Council. <i>Action: RT to send an email to all on the Council to test the outlook voting system</i>	RT
<b>35</b>	<b>Fix Council meeting dates for year ahead</b>  <b>2023</b> January 18 <sup>th</sup> 2023 ( Zoom meeting) March 24 <sup>th</sup> 2023 ( Zoom) April 12th (Finance Meeting via Zoom) May 12th 2023 (Purely Chase) July 25th – 28th 2023 Annual Meeting September 8th 2023 November 24th 2023 (Zoom Meeting)  <b>2024</b> March 15th 2024 May 17th 2024 July 23rd – 26th 2024 Annual Meeting September 6th 2024 November 22nd 2024 (Zoom Meeting)	
<b>36</b>	<b>Re – Appoint Financial Advisor Committee</b> Currently this committee is chaired by Andrew Bentley with Charlotte Rowlands, Nigel Sutton, David Haseler and Rachael Jaggs on the committee. The Council approved to reappoint all on the FAC.	
<b>37</b>	<b>Approve Allocation of Funds</b> The Council discussed the funds and it was agreed that Rachael Jaggs would get all the detailed figures together and present them at the Council meeting 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 for further discussion and approval.	RJ
<b>38</b>	<b>Request from Mr Wilf Woodhouse</b> Mr Wilf Woodhouse lives in the Council owned property. It has become necessary for him to convert his bathroom into a shower room for his wife whose health is poor and is asking if the council would help fund the conversion. The Council discussed this at length, and it was agreed and approved. <b>Resolved:</b> The Council agreed to finance the alterations	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meeting Closed at 21.00pm on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b>  <b>with a prayer from Revd Bruce Jarvis</b></p>	

	<b>Meeting continued 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 at 19.00pm with Revd Bruce Jarvis opening the meeting with a reading from Psalm of David 84</b>	
<b>39</b>	<b>Document Editing Via Google Docs</b> The Council discussed a way forward to be able to share documents within the council and individuals able to add comments/amendments to documents rather than emailing them back and forth to make it easier and less time consuming. Robert Taylor suggested it would be a good idea for all documents that needed comments to be shared in Google Docs. Robert Taylor gave a demonstration via screen sharing on Zoom to everyone. Google Docs would allow documents to be shared and any suggested amendments made are highlighted for the owner of the documents (Company Secretary) to approve or decline. All on the council would need to create an account in google to enable them to see the shared folders. The folders can also include all documents for minutes, so they are all located in one place and no documents get missed out. Robert Taylor will send out instructions to all on the committee on how to set up their Google Account.	RT/ NW
<b>40</b>	<b>Purley Chase Programme Director</b> Revd Helen Brown explained that Karin Baynes, Rachel Gilsenan and herself had been having meetings to discuss the duties of a Programme Director which is required at Purley Chase. They had put together a job description which was passed around the Council for comment. The Committee discussed the requirements of the role but it was decided that a subgroup should get together to look more in depth at the requirements needed for the role and the HR elements to consider. The people who will form the subgroup are Revd Helen Brown, Natalie Welch, Sue Chesworth and Karin Baynes. <i>Action: Revd Helen Brown will report back to the Council at the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023.</i>	HB
<b>41</b>	<b>Spiritual Leader Report – Jack Dunion</b> Revd Jack Dunion reported that communications within the organization continue to improve and that there is a sense that after what has been a very difficult period, things are beginning to turn around and the hard work of the past is beginning to bear fruit. Some very useful discussion was started at Ministers Seminar in early October, which led to an ongoing exploration and discussion on the topic of outreach. Before committing anymore energy and resources to an outreach project, Revd Jack Dunion felt that there was a need first to make some important changes within the Church. One fundamental change will require us to place more emphasis on the distinction between the “essentials” of the Church (the Word of God and the Heavenly Doctrines) and the various interpretations of these, what we might call the “grey areas” therein. Revd Jack Dunion suggests that it is good that we have different views in regard to these grey areas. As the Writings of our Church tell us ( <i>Heaven &amp; Hell</i> 56) “ <i>Every unity has its existence from diversity, for a unity that is not the result of diversity is not anything; it has no form and therefore no quality</i> ”. A move away from insisting on the need to present a unified view in regard to these “grey areas” will lead to less problems and disagreements, which cannot be resolved anyway, due to our diverse views. Better then to direct each individual to the essentials of the church, allow them to be free to express their own views, hence encouraging that diversity, rather than suppressing it or shut it down. To this end, a panel of Ministers will sit during Conference 2023 to take any questions and/or generate discussion around the difficult issues facing our Church today. The main shift in our approach, will be that each minister will be able to express their own personal view, as opposed to the problematic need to present a unified view, allowing others who are present to form their own, fully informed view.	

	<p>Revd Jack Dunion also highlighted that, with the best of intentions, too much energy has been put into trying to prevent the decline of Societies and “save the Church”. So much so that we have failed to recognize, embrace and encourage the growth of the many new emerging groups. There are currently, at least, 19 different groups within the organization. And, as this emerging diversity, which has been happening despite our efforts in other less fruitful areas, is encouraged and supported, then we could perhaps expect more progress in these and other new emerging areas. And this with minimum effort, since everyone will be putting their energy into whatever use or activity, they have a passion for. The more diverse the groups the more people they will attract.</p>	
42	<p><b>Line Managers</b>  The Council discussed and agreed the Line Managers on the Council.</p> <p>Company Secretary - Margaret L Cowie  Spiritual Leaders - Margaret L Cowie  Employed Ministries - Revd Helen Brown  Data and IT Manager - Margaret L Cowie  Youth &amp; Family Team - Sue Chesworth  Company Accountant - Nigel Sutton  CAM - Pauline Grimshaw  Bookings Manager - Sue Chesworth  Purley Chase Manager - Margaret L Cowie</p>	
43	<p><b>Recruitment of Trustees</b>  The Council discussed roles within the council that need filling and the option of co-opting people onto the Council to fill roles. It was suggested that inviting members to join in on a Council Meeting to let them see what is involved and how the Council operates may encourage members to stand for election on the council.</p> <p><i>Action: Sue Chesworth will invite members of the Youth &amp; Family Team</i></p>	SC
	<p><b>Meeting closed at 21.00pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022  with a short prayer from Revd Robert Gill</b></p>	