



THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH

CONFERENCE COUNCIL MEETING

**held on Friday 27th September 2024 at 10.00am
Via Zoom**

Trustees Present:	Mrs M Cowie	Chairperson
	Revd B Jarvis	Vice-Chairperson
	Mr N Sutton	
	Mr B Friend	
	Mr T Millar	

Also in attendance:	Ms N Welch	Company Secretary
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Start time: 10.00am
Finish Time: 11.00pm

14	Opening Revd Bruce Jarvis opened the meeting with a reading from Johns' Gospel:1, followed by a short prayer.	
15	Apologies Apologies were received from Sue Chesworth	
16	PA Media Fourteen years ago, the Marketing & Resource Group asked Stephen Russell - Lacy to arrange the domain name and setting up of the Spiritual Questions eZine website. He did so with a company now called Netnerd. The server hosting was subsequently transferred to the Conference Server to save money and enable Conference's Digital Information manager to do regular backups. The website domain is still linked to Stephen's personal email address on behalf of Conference, but he receives reimbursement for the cost of renewal each year. PA Media wrote to Stephen Russell-Lacy on 14 th August 2024, as the editor of Spiritual Questions eZine, demanding £792.50 for an image that had been used 12 years ago. PA Media pointed out that images are copyright-protected from the moment of creation and images are often added to sites incorrectly believing them to be free to use. Stephen did remove the image as soon as he heard their claim. This was brought to the attention of the Company Secretary who contacted the Solicitors for advice. The Solicitors spoke directly to Stephen Russell-Lacy to get the full picture of the	

	situation, and they strongly advised against allowing it to reach a court hearing because of the high costs of barristers, saying it was better if the claim was paid in full. Natalie Welch brought the matter to the Conference Council for discussion. The Conference Council present discussed this issue and all agreed that The General Conference would pay PA Media in full, in order to relieve the stress on Stephen Russell-Lacy. However, it was also agreed to send a letter to them, explaining the reason for paying the charge and stating that it was done with reluctance.	
17	Property in Auckland New Zealand – Roof Revd John Sutton, who resides at the property in Auckland that is owned by the Conference, had emailed the Council to explain that the house roof has been leaking for several months. Recent inspections have been carried out on the roof and they say that the tiles are very old and are likely to have needle holes of rust in them. Due to their age, they were made with a profile that has been superseded and at a time when asbestos was included in their composition. John has obtained 2 quotations, one quotation, NZ\$ 21000 = £9,907.00 for new tiles and another quotation was NZ\$16000 = £ 7,548.00 for long run coated corrugated steel. John wanted to ask the Conference Council for permission to engage a roofer to replace the present roof with long run coated corrugated steel. <i>Resolved:</i> The Conference Council discussed and agreed that they would pay the £9,907.00 = NZ\$21000 for the new roof tiles.	
	The meeting closed at 10.40am with a short prayer from Revd Bruce Jarvis.	