



E-News



The General Conference of the New Church

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<https://lomondradio.co.uk/shows/rise-and-shine>

The link below allows you to catchup Rise & Shine programs:
www.mixcloud.com/RevJack/



Consultation on Same-Sex Marriage: Stage 1 Results and Next Steps

As many of you will know, members of the church and the wider congregation were invited to participate in the first stage of a consultation concerning an important and prayerfully considered question: whether Ministers and licensed marriage celebrants within The General Conference of the New Church should, if they felt called to do so, be able to conduct same-sex marriages.

The purpose of this first stage was to gauge whether there was sufficient willingness within the church to consider the matter further. As explained when the consultation began, if there was sufficient willingness, a second stage would follow in the form of a confidential ballot of church members.

We are grateful to everyone who took the time to participate in the consultation. A total of **403 consultation cards** were distributed: **313** to church members and **90** to regular attenders. A total of **182 cards** were returned, with **179 valid responses** recorded, representing a response rate of approximately **45%**.

Participants were first asked:

"My personal opinion on same-sex marriage is:"

- I agree – **99**
- I don't agree – **54**
- I am not sure – **26**

Overall, **55%** of respondents indicated that they personally agree with same-sex marriage.

Participants were then asked:

"Should there be some provision within The General Conference of the New Church for same-sex couples to be married?"

- Yes – **109**
- No – **39**
- Undecided – **31**

Overall, **61%** of respondents indicated that there should be some provision within The General Conference of the New Church for same-sex couples to be married.

It is also noteworthy that some respondents distinguished between their own personal views and the question of whether provision should be available within the church. A number of those who did not personally agree with same-sex marriage, or who were unsure, nevertheless supported there being provision within the church.

In accordance with the consultation process communicated at the outset, these results mean that the consultation now moves to **Stage 2**.

Church members will receive their confidential ballot pack through the post from Friday. The pack includes a letter explaining the consultation results in more detail, a ballot paper and instructions for completing and returning it. As previously communicated, this stage of the consultation is open to **church members only**, with each member entitled to one confidential vote.

The ballot asks one question:

"Should there be provision within The General Conference of the New Church for same-sex couples to be married?"

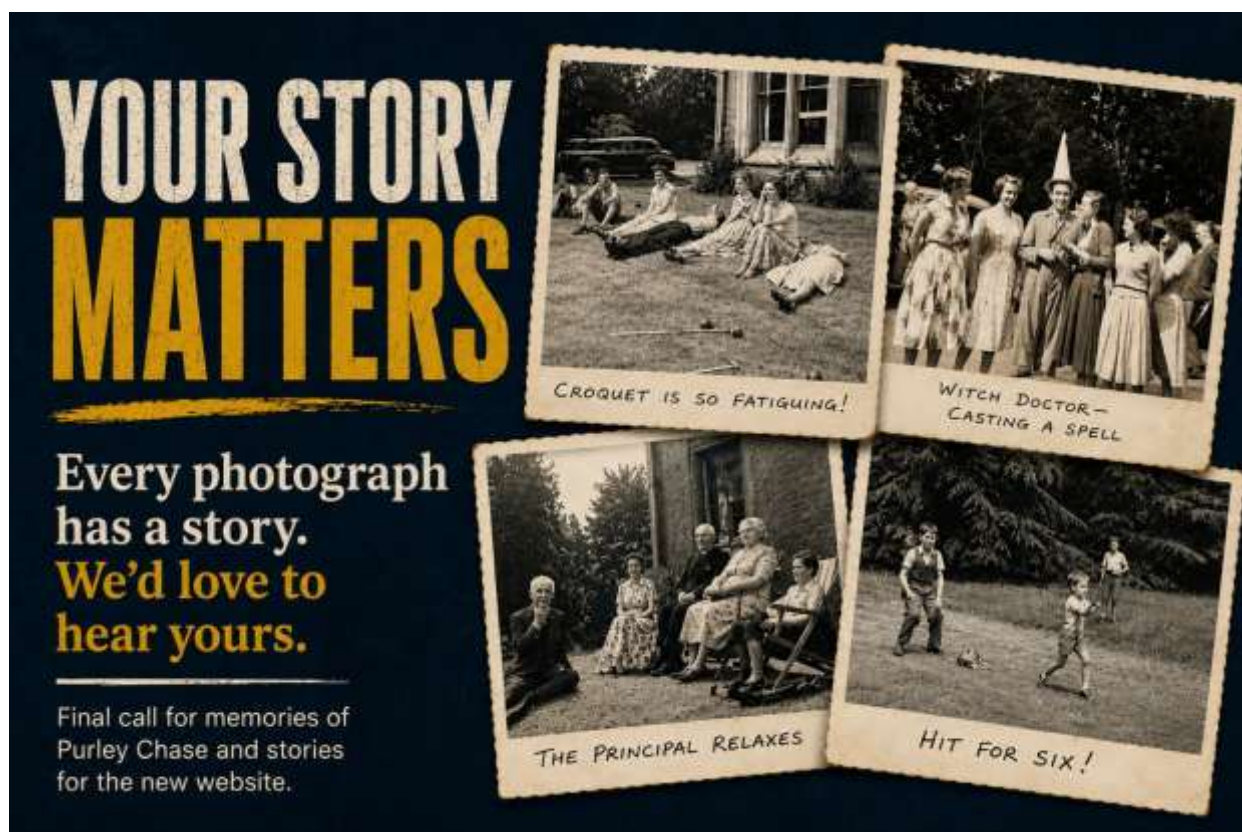
The outcome of the ballot will determine the next stage of the process. If a majority of members vote **No**, there will be no provision within The General Conference of the New Church for same-sex couples to be married.

If a majority of members vote **Yes**, the Committee of Ministers will begin the next stage of the process. This will involve prayerfully considering and agreeing the process.

In recognising that faithful and sincere members of the church hold differing convictions on this subject, we remain committed to moving forward together with mutual respect whatever the outcome of the ballot.

We thank everyone who has engaged so thoughtfully throughout this consultation and ask for your continued prayers as we continue this important process together.

The Committee of Ministers



One final call for your stories

A little while ago I asked for memories of Purley Chase and stories that could help bring our new website to life. Thank you to everyone who has already been in touch.

Before I draw everything together, I wanted to make one final appeal.

If you've been meaning to send something but haven't quite got around to it, there's still time.

I'm not looking for perfectly written articles or detailed histories. Often it's the small stories that make the biggest difference – a memorable conference, a chance conversation over coffee, a funny moment, an act of kindness, a friendship that began at Purley Chase, or simply a memory that captures what makes our **church** unique.

These personal stories help make our history wall more meaningful and our website feel more authentic. They tell visitors not just who we are, but what it feels like to be part of our community.

If there's a story you'd like to share, or an old photograph tucked away in a drawer, I'd love to hear from you.

Thank you once again to everyone who has already contributed.

Please email me at marketing.media@generalconference.org.uk

Richard Cawood

Marketing & Media Coordinator

Upcoming Events

5 th July	<u>NCYA Creative Session & AGM</u>
11 th July	<u>SOLCe AGM & Summer Gathering</u>
28 th July	<u>AGM Conference - Hayes</u>
2 nd August	<u>13-18 Summer Camp - Purley Chase</u>
29 th August	<u>Divine Sex - Wellspring House</u>
4 th -6 th September	<u>New Forest Family Bunkhouse Weekend</u>
4 th -6 th September	<u>Swedenborg Weekend - Purley Chase</u>
19 th September	<u>Where am I headed after I die? - Wellspring House</u>
5 th October	<u>Autumn Fellowship - Purley Chase</u>
9 th October	<u>A Space Apart - Purley Chase</u>
30 th October	<u>November Family Weekend - Purley Chase</u>
31 st October	<u>Divine Providence - Wellspring House</u>
14 th November	<u>Voyage of Discovery - Wellspring House</u>
12 th December	<u>Angels – Discovering the gifts they bring - Wellspring House</u>

Full details www.generalconference.org.uk/new-church-events/