

ACC Board Meeting

Wed 3 December 2014 The Welcome Centre, Coventry

Present: Tony Ruddle, Bill Merrington, Dave Thompson, Chris Williams, Sue Monckton-Rickett,

In attendance: Ruth Nelson, Amanda Georgiou, Phil Weare

Apologies: Peter Barraclough, David Crabb

Tony Ruddle acknowledged that this was Bill Merrington's last board meeting. He thanked Bill for all that he had done in serving ACC board.

Bill opened the meeting with a devotion based on Peter rowing in the storm through the wind and the waves and Jesus power to calm situations

Last meetings minutes agreed as correct

No matters arising not covered in the Agenda and no AOB were raised at this point

No one mentioned any conflict of interest

Executive Chair Report

Call for Information from the PSA of Friday 28 November with regard to issues around 2 of our affiliate members (Core Issues Trust and True freedom Trust). We responded to this by the 5pm deadline on Tues 2 December. Our discussions with True Freedom Trust were initially positive but the email response received on 3 December 2014 was not as forthcoming in resolving the issues.

There was a discussion around ministries to the homosexual community and Gay Affirming Therapy and Reformative Therapies. Our ethical framework is very clear on where ACC stood on this.

PCUK should be in position to direct people towards counsellors who have an ethical framework, and that was where all our affiliates should take their stance from.

Board of ACC proposes to put into abeyance the renewal of TfT until such time as it comes into compliance with the ACC January 2014 statement. Letter to TfT with this information.

All board members were in favour of this proposal.

A question raised about the PSA: was it totally unreasonable for us to have to reply in this timescale. Also have the PSA gone beyond their remit within the matter to these issues?

One comment was that there is a "cloak and dagger" approach to the process as we could not let our members know about panel meetings or even who requested the Call for Information yet we have to be transparent about board meetings. The Equality Act has protected characteristics of sexuality and spirituality but the former seems to trump all other characteristics and this cannot be right. It must be the person's right to choose.

Another comment was that we will be the one Christian voice in regulation which other bodies such as EA or CIT don't have.

The new Complaints process is now on the website as of 1 December 2014. Question: do we need to have a process for those who don't have access to website. Also we don't state

what we will do within 28 days and perhaps this needs adding later. In principle the board agreed this complaints process.

Director of Finance

Currently forecast to have £16k loss for the year. Response to appeal for donations and board gifts has come in at £4K. The Executive Chair thanked Board for their generosity and will thank members in due course.

The D of F commented that we need to think about how we drastically change what we are doing. E.g. Double EPC sales, get 400 new members, double RPCC courses

We still have £15K to pay for register if we get it.

D of F proposal is that board need to go away and bring proposals to next meeting. It was then proposed and agreed next board meeting have an added day as a Business Planning Meeting.

Conference is going to break even, but doesn't cover staff costs. We need to make sure that we communicate the benefits of belonging to ACC. We need to sell the advantage of being the Christian voice in the Register arena as we have sacrificed a lot to get there.

Director of Counselling

Fundamental changes once the register is in place

- All new counselling members will be required to be on the register. Not clear about students at the moment. A question about Affiliate's counsellors getting onto the register. A draft letter to Affiliates was tabled and read. Discussion around benefits of affiliate membership and also what current affiliates perceive regarding the benefits of membership. Affiliate membership is about the organisation. D of C said as part of our application that all counsellors within an organisation will become individual members.

Change "new" to "prospective" practicing counsellors in letter the Board approved this

- All new application for accreditation need to be from registered members Board approved this - possibly change new to prospective.
- Existing accredited members will need to apply for the register separately. Board approved
- Screening procedure on Find a Counsellor that they comply with our E&P. Also all websites needs to be checked and board members have agreed to check out a share of the websites.

Director of Operations

Performance data discussed, but in principle our membership numbers have stayed similar over the past few months.

Conference

- 3 training streams and 5 workshops have been cancelled due to low numbers for these
- Technical helpers need to be rearranged
- Musical worship leader

Website and database update

- Clarify what is happening on Friday's meeting when there will be a full run through with Image+ on progress so far
- Aiming for a going live date of mid-January.

Meeting dates for next year agreed. Need for extra strategy day at beginning of year, so February meeting extended by a day.

Media discussion forum

- Using Facebook and Twitter for ACC and PCUK. Some questions were asked around the governance of this and exploring how Facebook would work. CW suggested a user guide to be used.
- Proposed and agreed by board

Director of Pastoral Care

A Board member was appointed to advise about progress with work in Romania. It needs to be a broad church approach and not just a diocesan approach. Suggested we make sure that we are clear what the priorities are

- Network Reps priorities for Pastoral Care. Board happy with this approach.
- Letter to members in changes in pastoral care approved but review how expressed in writing.
- Network forum discussion. D of F raised question on the functionality and purpose of Network committees and how these representatives work. This would be something that we could commission for how the regions could develop. Proposed that we appoint a sub-committee of board. Board member for Networks to chair this and to approach members and affiliates for this.
- In future all pastoral care membership should be called Pastoral Care UK Membership.
- A brief feedback with meeting at St John's Nottingham and the development of work there. Next meeting in 6 months, but work to do in between. All parties wish to meet with ACC to talk about developments. We are providing a central focus.
- D of Op to develop a project on finding a capacity building officer to promote ACC around the regions.

Board only

Complaints

Malcolm Brookes was suspended by NCS for 5 years. This suspension would also apply for ACC. It was not clear whether he had lost his membership. Chair to check with NCS and clarify with PSA on this point.

Policy needs to be clear if someone is suspended from another register then they would automatically be suspended from ACC. This needs to be considered how best to approach.

Complaint 2. HA has been appointed as an investigating officer.

Complaint 3. Couple counselling. Chair is in conversation with FS from RAP committee.

Evangelical Alliance – agreed that we would reflect on their offer to continue membership for no fee.

Memorandum of Understanding of Conversion Therapy in UK. A Board member attended meeting 2nd December. Copy of this has been circulated. Next meeting on 14th Jan and we will attend. Need to look at how contracts are worked out and also how training of understanding is provided in these areas. It was suggested that we put examples of contracts on website – Agreed.

It was suggested that when this was launched that there could be a possibility of negative publicity to catch out a Christian Counsellor. We need to advise our members to be diligent.

CIT have made no response to letter that was sent. Correspondence sent to say that we have not received an appropriate response and therefore assume they will not renew membership

Conference and Training:

Discussion about having Summer School and Conference. Training across the regions has been patchy. NW conference has run successfully with around 90 delegates attending on other years. Suggestion to approach LST, Moorlands and St Johns to look at how some joint working could be done. Chair asked a member of Board to write a report on how he saw future of training provision for ACC, taking into account Conference, Summer School and Regional Training learning.

Response from PSA on application

Returned with 2 conditions

1. Resolve issues with CIT and Tft
2. Have website ready with register to go.

Agreed that we would write to CIT on their lack of response and say that we are not renewing their membership and effectively ending it immediately and not later than 31st December 2014 and all reference to us on their website must be removed. We will write to Tft and point out that we believe they are not compliant with E&P plus the January 2014 statement following their email of today and therefore we cannot renew their affiliation at the end of the year and asking them to remove reference to us from their website by 31st December 2014 so ending their membership.

Timetables for the register to be ready were discussed.