

Annual Review 2020



The events of 2020 could not have been forecast by anyone. The Covid-19 pandemic and other circumstances, have brought both challenges and opportunities for ACC and its members.

CHALLENGES

The main challenge for ACC members was how to continue to provide counselling and pastoral care within the changing Covid-19 restrictions. ACC assisted and supported members by providing an immense amount of written guidance, forums to enable members to share experiences and process the impact of the changes and online CPD events.

For some members, both individuals and affiliates, the pandemic seriously impacted their income and we felt that the knock-on impact may be for membership numbers to decrease, but membership has in fact increased during 2020 and members have expressed how much they have valued the support that ACC has provided.

ACC Head Office was closed at the start of the pandemic and staff had to move to remote working overnight, which meant that processes and working practices had to be adapted. This shift has worked well and proved that our disaster recovery response was resilient. It has also led us to reassess our future needs for an office and the decision was made that the office will close on 30 June 2021 and all ACC staff will move to remote working on an on-going basis.

The pandemic meant that we delayed the recruitment of a CEO, with the appointment of Kathy Spooner not occurring until December 2020. Following Kathy's appointment, in 2021 we have continued to look to grow the team with a Head of Membership Services and appointments in Communications, Pastoral Care and Assessors.



OPPORTUNITIES

The pandemic and the changes that it has brought about also created opportunities. In response to the pandemic ACC established a counselling service providing no fee counselling to NHS staff, residential care home staff and the bereaved. The service was staffed by volunteer registered counsellors, mainly ACC members, acting as counsellors, supervisors, case managers and service co-ordinators. The service operated for 9 months providing over 2,000 counselling sessions to people in great need of support and has received excellent feedback. It has continued into 2021 just providing counselling to NHS and paramedic staff working with Covid-19 patients. It has also raised awareness of ACC within the NHS and the importance of faith in the well-being of individuals.



Like many other organisations we had to move to online training events, but this has provided a great opportunity for ACC to hold many more training events than in the past for counsellors and pastoral carers at a lower cost and not limited by location. The increased use of technology has also enabled ACC to establish support forums and to hold the AGM online, enabling a much larger number of members to attend.

In response to Black Lives Matter and the issues regarding racism that were highlighted by the death of George Floyd, ACC have established a forum for members, called ACC Ethnic Tapestry (ACCEnT). The forum meets regularly and attends Board meetings on a regular basis. The forum has set out its aims and intentions to increase the inclusion amongst minority ethnic groups and break down the barriers accessing both training and careers in counselling and mental health and counselling support.

ACC's standing within the counselling profession continues to grow, which has been highlighted in 2020 by:

- ACC being invited to be an equal partner in the SCoPEd project, which is a project across the counselling profession looking at training requirements and practice standards;
- ACC Accredited Counsellors being accepted for employment within NHS IAPT.

ACC have also been called upon to contribute into the Christian Community during the pandemic including regular interviews with Premier and Trans World Radio on mental health and well-being related issues and providing online seminars for Spring Harvest, particularly related to the pandemic.



One consequence of the pandemic is that our National Conference had to be postponed from 2021 to 2022, however we have continued to explore the planned conference theme of inclusion and diversity through our Accord journal featuring articles on working with issues of disability, faith and ethnicity. A full e-book version of

Accord is also now available for all ACC members and an extract version to members of the public via the ACC website.

Once again ACC successfully renewed our Accredited Register status with PSA with no

conditions placed upon us and a commendation for the counselling service established in response to Covid-19.

Outside of the UK, the PCUK Resourcing Pastoral Care Course continues to be delivered in Kenya and in 2020 Pastor Samuel travelled to Uganda to train church members there and it is hoped that in 2021 further training will be developed in both countries.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

In 2021 we will seek to implement our new structure, which will enable us to continue to implement our strategy and build on the achievements of 2020. This will include:

- An extensive programme of online training for counsellors and pastoral carers;
- Building online support networks and forums for counsellors and pastoral carers;
- Redeveloping our website Find a Counsellor facility, to increase the accessibility and information available to people looking for counselling services;
- Continuing our work with SCoPEd;
- Planning for our National Conference in October 2022;
- Developing new membership categories.

Financially, 2020 was a good year with a surplus of nearly £35,000 for the year. We are grateful to God for His provision in these difficult times and also to our staff and volunteers, who have carried the organisation, whilst recruitment was delayed.

Our thanks go to the very many people, both staff and volunteers, whose incredible commitment and hard work have enabled ACC to achieve so much in 2020 and will enable us to continue to develop in 2021.

We also want to acknowledge that 2020 was a time of immense personal tragedy for both some members and the many people that they have supported through these difficult times.

We pray that we will all find new hope for 2021 and beyond and for ACC and PCUK and that God will guide us in all that we do.



Sue Monckton-Rickett

Chair
Association of Christian Counsellors

Financial Review

The Accounts for 2020 show an overall surplus of £36,103 for the year, compared with last year of £21,994. This resulted in the General Funds increasing from £113,532 to £149,635 (see next page).

Due to there being no biennial conference during 2020, there was a decrease in both income and expenditure and the main reasons are shown below.

Income decreased by £128,250 due to the following decreases:

- £134,036 conference income from the biennial conference held in February 2019;
- £4,131 for Pastoral Care courses;
- £1,243 affiliation fees;
- £3,503 training fees.

Expenditure decreased by £142,359 due to the following decreases:

- £94,024 due to a National Conference not being held in 2020;
- £7,908 travel expenses due to the Covid-19 restrictions;
- £38,781 in the Executive Allowance as the new positions of CEO and Head of Membership Services were not filled during 2020;
- £5,194 in training courses with no in person courses being held during lockdown;
- £3,206 in staff costs due to less use of contractors;
- £1,477 in office expenses due to Covid-19 limiting office use;
- An increase in professional legal fees of £1,203.

In 2021 we are expecting a deficit as the biennial conference has been delayed until October 2022 and the increase in staffing levels.

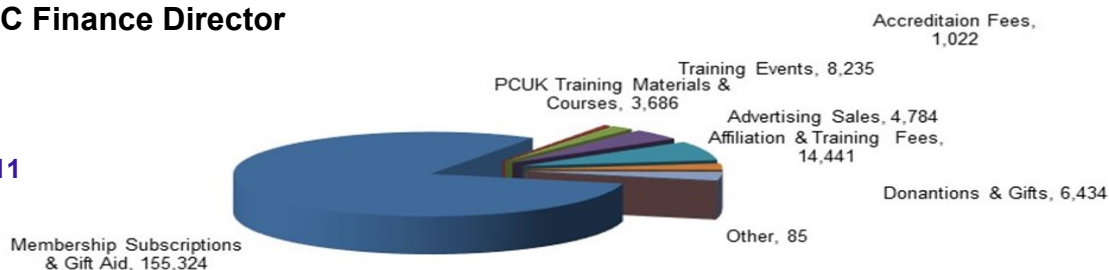
Once funds are available, we plan to invest strategically in the following:

- The development of ACC infrastructure, so that it is equipped for potential growth and new membership categories including Coaching and Mentoring;
- Improvements to the ACC website to promote membership connection and interaction.

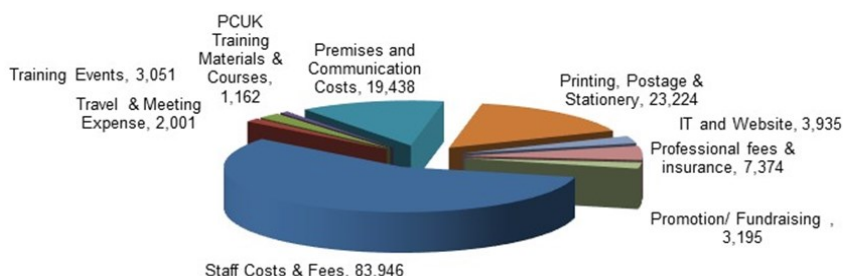
All of these will be reviewed by the ACC Board to ensure that investment is made wisely and the best developments for the organisation, its members and the service delivered to the public are determined.

Peter Roberts, ACC Finance Director

ACC analysis of revenue 2020: £194,011



ACC analysis of expenditure 2020: £157,908



**ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELLORS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

| | General Fund (£) | Restricted Funds (£) | Total Funds (£) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM | | | |
| Donations and Legacies | 20,236 | - | 20,236 |
| Charitable Activities | 168,906 | - | 168,906 |
| Other Trading Activities | 4,784 | - | 4,784 |
| Interest Income | 85 | - | 85 |
| TOTAL | 194,011 | - | 194,011 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Raising Funds | 5,167 | - | 5,167 |
| Charitable Activities | 152,741 | 1,181 | 153,922 |
| TOTAL | 157,908 | 1,181 | 159,088 |
| Net Income/(Expenditure) | 36,103 | -1,181 | 34,922 |
| Total Funds Brought Forward | 113,532 | 5,280 | 118,812 |
| Total Funds Carried Forward | 149,635 | 4,099 | 153,734 |

**ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELLORS
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

| | Total Funds (£) | Prior Year Funds (£) |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| FIXED ASSETS | | |
| Intangible Assets | | |
| Tangible Assets | - | - |
| Investments | | |
| Total Fixed Assets | - | - |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Debtors | 6,553 | 9,992 |
| Cash at bank and in-hand | 170,333 | 121,029 |
| Total Current Assets | 223,785 | 129,226 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Creditors: amount falling due within one year | 23,152 | 12,209 |
| Net Current Assets | 153,734 | 118,812 |
| THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY | | |
| Restricted Income Funds | 4,099 | 5,280 |
| Unrestricted Income Funds | 149,635 | 113,532 |
| Total Charity Funds | 153,734 | 118,812 |