

Association of Christians in Counselling and Linked Professions

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2025 (online)

Saturday 12 July 2025

Members: 51 members attended

The meeting opened in prayer led by Chris Williams

The meeting was led by Sue Moncton-Rickett (SMR), Chair of ACC

Apologies: received from Tony and Maureen Ruddle and Sarah Armitage

Minutes of previous AGM held on 12 July 2024

- There were no corrections to the minutes
- The minutes were accepted as a true record of the previous meeting. 25 attendees (who attended in 2024) accepted the minutes.
- There were no matters arising.

Annual Report for 2024

Peter Roberts (PR), ACC Finance Director, presented the Annual Report for 2024.

PR explained that report includes company information, the director's report, the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the accounting notes and the independent examiner's report.

With regard to the company information there had been only one change in that ACC's postal address has been changed to be the same as the registered office.

ACC's bank has been for many years CAF bank. PR mentioned that there had recently been reports in the press about CAF making system changes resulting in a number of problems for charities. ACC had experienced some difficulties, but nothing major. ACC had been in communication with CAF Bank and to ensure that all our banking transactions can be completed on time.

ACC is registered as a company with Companies House and a registered charity both with the Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Register. So once the

Annual Report has been adopted at this meeting, it will be submitted to the three bodies.

With regard to the director's report, there were a number of changes to the board in 2024 with Peter Barraclough, Janet McNish and Sharon Hastings resigning for various personal reasons. On behalf of ACC PR thanked all board members who had resigned during the year and those who continue to serve. We were delighted to welcome Kate Pozzo onto the Board at the AGM in July 2024.

Included in the director's report is a review of the year and that includes developmental changes, ongoing activities and future plans, which will be addressed later in the AGM.

With regard to the financial position, at the end of 2024 ACC General Fund income was £295,039 which was boosted by £72,527 of income from the National Conference (held every two years). Fees and subscriptions increased by just over £8,000 due a slight increase in membership and from the increase in fees during 2024. There was a slight decrease in training fees and levies, but the pastoral care courses increased by just over £1,600. Gift aid income increased by just over £1, 000.

General Fund expenditure was £314,410, with an increase due to the National Conference (overall the Conference had made a small surplus). The amount spent on development reduced by £8,500 due the new database and website being finished in 2024. Staff salaries increased by just over £17,000 as a result of growing the staff team and travel costs increased by nearly £3,000, as although ACC does not a physical office, we encourage staff to meet monthly in person, and we are very pleased to meet the travel expenses. There was a reduction in training cost, due to providing less online courses during the year of our biannual conference.

The General Fund net expenditure was £19,371, resulting in the General Fund decreasing from £120,287 to £100,916. ACC were thankful for the funds that exist and the reserves built up in previous years that have enabled development.

Restricted funds had no income in 2024, but funds brought forward from the Benefact Trust and Garfield Western, both charitable trusts, were used towards developing the new website and pastoral care training.

PR said that the Annual Report has been independently examined by Sarah Crispin at Stewardship (report on Page 18) and no issues had been raised.

Questions from members:

A question was raised with the costs of Accord. PR confirmed that the costs had reduced greatly since 2023 and were now just over £15,000 due the change to on-line production. The costs included the cost of the editor and the electronic production. In order for Accord to be accessible there are a small number of people who receive a printed PDF (paper) version which is posted to them.

A question was raised about the fact that ACC had made a lot of investment in recent years and whether this accounted for the reduction in funds? What were the plans to either reduce spending or increase income? PR said that the investment in the database and website had reduced funds considerably. There was an intention to increase income and ACC were looking for various avenues of funding. In 2025 funds had been received from the Jerusalem Trust (£2,000) for development of pastoral care courses and the Joseph Rank Foundation (£12,500 for each of three years) to be used for the development of pastoral care, coaching and mentoring and spiritual direction membership. Sourcing trust funding has become increasingly difficult and often funding has to be for a very specific project rather than ongoing costs. We are thankful for the work of Liz Neve in working on fundraising.

New membership streams would also increase income. The Board try to balance keeping increases in membership fees low with the financial needs of ACC including to remunerate staff fairly and invest in the future.

SMR said that the board reviews management accounts at the monthly board meetings and so are very conscious of ACC's income and expenditure and whenever decisions are made about any significant changes, the board always take into account the financial impacts.

SMR thanked PR for his work in preparing this report and also for the regular financial reporting to the Board and maintaining of financial controls. She also thanked Keith Payne, (ACC bookkeeper), for his work.

The following votes were taken:

- **The Annual Report was accepted and the Accounts approved for the year ending 31st December 2023 with 42 votes in favour and none against.**
- **Stewardship was approved as Independent Examiners for period to 31 December 2025 with votes 44 in favour and none against.**
- **The Board were authorised to fix the remuneration of the Independent Examiners for 2025 with 45 votes in favour and none against.**
- **No proxy votes had been received for any of the above.**

Appointment and Election of Trustees to the Board of ACC

SMR said that there were two existing Board members who wished to stand for re-election and two new nominations.

She explained that trustee stand for a three-year term and can be re-elected twice so serving a maximum of nine years before needing to step down. Sean Charlesworth and Christine Pinder were standing for re-election.

Wien Fung, who had been a board member for six years and was due to stand for re-election this year had chosen to step down. SMR thanked Wien for his work as part of the board and Ethnic Tapestry group for his contributions to ACC.

Jennie Fytche and Lynn Smailes are the new nominations for Trustees.

With four nominees standing and ACC Board having more vacancies than that, there will not be competition between nominees, but there would still be a vote for each. If, a majority of members were to say "NO" to a nominee, then they would not be elected. The online voting poll that members were invited to take part in was anonymous.

The voting for the four candidates was as follows:

- **Sean Charlesworth: 42 for YES. None against.**
- **Jenny Fytche: 42 for YES. None against.**
- **Christine Pinder: 45 for YES. None against.**
- **Lyn Smailes: 42 for YES. None for against.**

SMR confirmed that all the nominees had been duly elected, and she looked forward to working with them. She re-emphasised that it would be good to have some new board members and encouraged anyone who was interested to contact her or Chris Williams for more information. She said that ACC members have so many skills and experience from all walks of life that could be valuable, so she encouraged members to reflect whether joining the Board was something that God might be prompting.

ACC 2024 Achievements and Plans for 2025 - Sue Monckton-Rickett (SMR) ACC Chair

SMR highlighted the following achievements in 2024:

- The national conference had been a very good event with many different trainers and workshops and really good times together worshipping and listening to keynote speakers.

- The launch of Partnership of Counselling and Psychotherapy Bodies (PCPB), which is the evolution of the SCoPEd partnership.
- The completion of the new website, database and the membership system. It was hoped that members had found the website more engaging and easier to navigate and found improvements in the applications and renewal system helpful.
- Significant increase in social media presence. SMR encouraged members who use social media to follow ACC and to share post.
- The review and refreshment of our pastoral care training and developing new training courses. In 2024 and into 2025 their popularity has grown. SMR thanked all those involved in this and the pastoral care resources team who deliver the courses. This has financial benefits to ACC but is also part of ACC's ministry into the church.
- Increased participation in NHS England's psychological profession stakeholder group projects. Work within this group has resulted in ACC being listed by the NHS as body whose members can be recruited. This group has also raised the profile of counselling and psychotherapy within the NHS.
- Focus on providing a good service to all of members by:
 - responding promptly and individually to concerns and requests.
 - fortnightly emails providing updates of events and relevant developments in the profession, information about resources, requests from researchers, job adverts and placement information. We hope that members find them informative and value the effort to produce them.
 - free to attend forums and training events that always seem to be well attended and valued. ACC are thankful to all who have delivered and facilitated these events.
 - supporting communities of practice, with a new one launched in April 2025 for disability and neurodivergence. ACC is always interested to hear from members involved in a particular area of work where a such a community may be helpful.
 - supporting peer supervision and support groups for counsellors and pastoral carers
- Increased liaison with churches to deliver pastoral care training, but this is also an area that ACC would like to grow.

SMR highlighted the following as plans for 2025:

SMR said that ACC had been planting a lot of seeds: financially, resourcing, staffing, and planning, etc. over several year and it felt like the bearing of fruit was now really starting to be seen.

- Membership was growing. Partly due to our membership of things like the PCPB improving our reputation and visibility.
- Developing new core training to open up different ways to become SCoPEd B members and various routes to SCoPEd B, accreditation and SCoPEd C to give people different ways to access progression.
- Developing a core training around the integration of faith and spirituality in our practise.
- Developing more modular pastoral care training.
- Enhancing our work in consultancy and helping churches with specific challenges in pastoral care and providing more pastoral care resources on the website.
- The revision of ACC's articles of association, which are the organisations governing documents. The board has conducted a major revision in 2024 / 25, and the revised version had been submitted to the Charity Commission to approve. Once this is completed an Extraordinary General meeting will be held for all members when the changes will be explained and members will be asked to approve them.
- The staff team has increased creating well defined roles and an increase in the breadth of knowledge and experience, which will enable ACC to grow. In 2024, Gillian Stuart our Head of Membership Services left ACC for a new role after nearly four years. SMR expressed thanks to Gillian for all that she contributed to ACC. In 2025 Heather Bennett, also left ACC after nearly ten years to take-up a role within her church and SMR thanked Heather for all her service and especially for her work regarding the new website and system.
- Involvement of ACC staff (Dani Wilson) and ACC's website designer in the development of the PCPB website (which was a shared project and investment). This means that the public can go to one place to access information about the professional bodies, what the partnership is about and explaining counselling and psychotherapy. It also has links to each of the professional body websites.

SMR talked about the benefits of the PCPB to ACC:

- Increased awareness, visibility and reputation of ACC.
- Working as partners to advocates for client safety.
- Working as partners with much larger counselling bodies, who treat us as equals, but have so much more resource to keep us informed of things like government legislation, consultations, etc. Raising issues / speaking to the NHS, employee assistant.
- Programmes, legislators are much more powerful when done as one voice representing 75,000 professionals.

A member asked if membership fees have increased because of being part of the PCPB? PR said that it had not as the larger organisations provide much of the resource and the costs of any specific pieces of work are shared is proportionate to membership numbers, so ACC will always pay only a small proportion.

- ACC's new complaints policy will be finished by the end of 2025 / beginning of 2026 to be sent out for consultation.
- Begin work on revising ACC's Code of Ethics and Practice.
- ACC's first joint publication will be launched called "The Well-Being Zone", which Sarah Armitage has written and has worked with ACC and our Accord editor, Claire Musters, to produce.
- Ensuring that training being delivered by our training associates is SCoPEd compliant and includes all the necessary competencies. We will need to work with our training organisations and our partners within the PCBPB on this.
- Expanding our professional membership to coaches and mentors and then to spiritual directors. SMR said that she wanted to address any concerns or fears that existing members may have about this expansion, whether the service to them will be decreased, ACC will lose something, etc?
 - The board has carefully assessed the potential impact of new membership streams, before deciding to do so, looking at the risks to ACC, benefits and costs, the impact on our current membership, ACC's reputation, etc.
 - The board sees expanding membership as a continuation of the ministry of ACC, not something entirely new and separate, but just as pastoral care and counselling are different aspects of our ministry, so we believe coaching and mentoring and spiritual direction are different aspects of that same kind of the ministry.
 - The board believe that by providing people, who are looking for help or support or for guidance, with a one stop shop where ACC is an umbrella and accountable body will be very advantageous.
 - The board sees this as building on the foundation of over 30 years of managing counselling membership, maintaining ethical practice and, accountability, processing complaints, providing guidance and support for members and training etc.
 - The board believes that having other membership should increase ACC's income to provide greater stability and sustainability.
 - The infrastructure website and membership systems were specifically designed so that they could support new membership streams.
 - The Board feel that there is space for the different types of membership to learn from and be referral sources for each other and in doing so to know that each profession is working to a standard of ethics, accountability, etc.

- In the revision of the articles of association, the Board had ensured that the importance of being a counselling body has been maintained with clauses that say that the majority of board members must be counsellors, and the chair must be a counsellor. The board has done this because as the holders of a PSA register, any decision-making and the impact on counselling must always be central.
- ACC is professionally anchored in the PCPB, which is about advancing the counselling and psychotherapy profession.
- Dedicated resource has been recruited for counselling. Marie Hooper is the new Head of Professional Standards for Counsellors and Registrar.
- ACC has drawn on people skilled and experienced in coaching to help us to develop our coaching and mentoring membership, which has mostly been funded by grants.
- ACC wants to want to do more for pastoral care members in terms of support, providing pastoral care forums, etc.

There is a desire from within the Christian coaching /mentoring world to have a place of belonging, a publicly accessible directory and a place where they can feel supported and resourced. Work is already being done to develop a training course about the integration of faith into coaching and mentoring.

Over the break KS invited members to think of one or two words to sum up their experience of ACC and type them into chat.

Responses included: EMBRACING FAMILY, ANCHORING, VALIDATING, CARE, SUPPORTIVE, TRUSTED, SECURE, TOGETHER, FEEL HELD, ACKNOWLEDGES THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH, KINGDOM, ENHANCING, REASSURED, UNITY, ETHICAL, RELATIONAL, LOYAL

ACC Team and Core Function - Kathy Spooner (KS) ACC CEO

KS said that ACC team summarises what it does using the acronym **CARE** - connect, accompany resource and engage.

• CONNECT

- Clients with safe counsellors through the website or people contacting the office.
- Supervisees with supervisors, both ACC and non-ACC members, who are looking for a Christian supervisor.
- Trainees with training organisation and placement providers, often meeting with people considering becoming a counsellor.

- Connect people looking for pastoral services or advice via the website and drawing on the experience of the pastoral care resource team.
- Connect members to each other through the emails, the website, communities of practice of which we have a growing number: children and young people, couples counselling, ethnic tapestry, church leader and counsellor group, and a disability and neurodiversity group. We are hoping to set up a group for people who manage counselling centres. We have peer support and peer supervision groups.

KS then invited representatives from the various communities of practice to share about the groups.

Presentation from Children and Young People's Development Group (CYP) by Christine Pinder (CP)

The group is led by Vicky Bell and was set up a few years ago to raise the profile and awareness of counselling for CYP. CYP mental health is in such a dire situation. Every year the Children's Society produce a well-researched report called the "Good Childhood Report" and each year it says that teenagers in Britain have one of the lowest life satisfaction scores in Europe and at the same time the provision of help from the NHS is incredibly overstretched. So, there is a huge need for counsellors who work with CYP, and this group is about encouraging and supporting them.

The group meets on-line and is for counsellors or pastoral carers working with CYP or who wish to develop and train to do so, connecting with each other share our experience. We run wider forums two or three times a year to look at a specific topic, raise questions and share experiences. It is important that people have specific training when moving from working with adults to CYP and we are hoping to develop a minimum standard for counsellors who work with CYP and being able to signpost to training providers. Developing standards of practise is important because there are a number of issues that are different when working with CYP; safeguarding, autonomy complexities, working with parents, etc.

As part of ACC, we look at the unique role that faith plays in our work with CYP.

Our next forum will be in the autumn and hopefully looking at loss and bereavement in CYP.

Members of the group write articles for Accord.

If you would like to know more, please contact Vicky Bell, whose ACC email was shared.

KS thanked the group and said that members had been very helpful in being able to connect members who need support about work that they are doing with CYP or people trying to set up a children's services.

Presentation from Couples Counselling Group - by Sean Charlesworth (SC) on behalf of Helen Wightwick

Helen Wightwick leads the group, which has grown to over 80 members on the mailing list. The group meets every other month for about an hour and discusses various topics including this year: addiction, contracting, using of TA and internal family systems, when working with couples. Someone from the group leads initial thoughts for about 20 minutes and then we break into smaller groups to discuss our own experiences, etc. Between 25 and 35, attend each meeting. The group includes people that want to start counselling couples and those with varying years of experience.

There are also 3 peer supervision groups, which are led by either a supervisor or an experienced couple's counsellor and they meet once a month / every six weeks. Members of the group bring issues for discussion into a confidential space, where they can feel supported and learn from each other. We are keen to develop more of these groups and so anyone interested in joining or being a facilitator was invited to contact Helen Wightwick.

KS thanked the group and said that members had been very helpful in being able to connect members who need support about working with couples.

Members Question:

Do you have to have a couple's counselling qualification to access the group or is it open for any counsellor?

SC replied that the group is open to anyone who is interested in or is working with couples.

Presentation from Ethnic Tapestry - Leroy Harley (LH)

The group started following the murder of George Floyd in 2020. LH wrote to ACC asking what it was doing to support people from the global majority and KS responded immediately and encouraged the founding of a group.

The work of the group includes both looking at how we can support people from the global majority and helping ACC to ensure that their policies and practises are inclusive. The group is for both counsellors and pastoral carers. As a group we support each other, but also want to expand awareness of therapy, especially within the church.

The group has run several forums in the past and looking to do more in the future. Forums have been on topics such as racism, and “why black men don't do therapy?”, which is an ongoing topic both in not feeling that therapy is for them and not becoming counsellors. LH said that having spoken to men's groups in churches, the questions that keeps coming up is “why should I talk to a stranger about my problems?” and so the group would love to go into more churches to talk about the benefits of therapy.

The group has grown, but also due to other commitments, people have had to step back. A number of the group have served as ACC board members. The group always welcome new members and LH encouraged people to contact him.

KS thanked the group for their support and for the wisdom that they bring, especially through Leroy, Wien and Gathoni Hamilton-Foster being on the Board and Charlotte Johnson being on ACC's Register Advisory Panel.

Presentation from Counsellors and Church Leaders Group (CCLG) - by Neil Blake (NB)

The group is for counsellors, who are also in a church leadership role, taking quite a broad definition of church leader. It came out of NB's wrestling with being a counsellor and a church leader and wanting to connect with people in similar roles and to draw from collective experience. NB wanted to belong to a confidential and supportive network of people. Following a conversation with KS the group started in February 2023.

The group meets monthly on a Monday morning, for about an hour and a half, alternating between peer support in small groups and on the alternate month, a discussion usually focused on different tools that we found fruitful in pastoral work or client work, or wider discussion. The peer support sessions have been really beneficial, helpful and supportive. The wider discussions have included topics like integrating faith and practise, boundaries in pastoral care, spirituality in therapy, pastoral care in a critical climate, etc.

The group has about 12 members, usually with 7 to 9 attending each month.

The definition of church leadership is broad, including those who have been in leadership but are not currently, and those who do not have overall leadership of a church, but have a significant role in the church. The group is mostly for those who wrestle with the double role of being a counsellor and a church leader because it has particular strains and stresses. It is also open to those in training, whether training for ministry or training in counselling. The group is very supportive, positive, stimulating and strengthening, and members value the meetings.

NB encouraged others to contact him to find out more about the group.

Presentation from Disability and Neurodivergent Group - by Chris Monckton-Rickett (CMR)

This is a new group started in April 2025 and so far, has had two meetings. About 20 people have attended, both counsellors and pastoral carers. The group is a mixture of people with disability and / or who are neurodivergent themselves, others with family members who are disabled / neurodivergent, and those who may or may not fall into one of these categories, but are working with people with disabilities or neurodivergence.

The group started from CMR finding that he was working with a series of clients with multiple disabilities and medical complications, SMR similarly found herself working with clients with neurodiversity or neurodivergent family members,

There is generally a lack of research and training about mental health and disability, but it is improving. Before starting the group CMR met with an organisation called Spokz People, whose founder spoke at the 2022 conference. They have developed a modular training course for counsellors working with disability, which includes looking at faith and disability.

The group provides a place for members to support and learn from each other, and to work with ACC to share experiences with other counsellors, pastoral carers and the organisation itself.

Two members of the group have written articles in Accord and others are planned. The group we are looking to create a list of resources, so that people working in this area do not feel that they are floundering without access to any support.

The group meets online on Tuesday evenings, 7.00pm to 8.30pm, about once a month and everyone is welcome. As a new group, we will see how it develops and what is going to be most helpful to people.

CMR encouraged people to e-mail him if they wanted to know more.

Presentation from Peer Support and Peer Supervision Groups - by Liz Neve (LN)

These groups came out of a survey in 2022 to find out what groups people wanted. The aim was for the groups to be part of providing holistic well-being for ACC counsellors.

Some of those groups have thrived from the outset and continue to meet and some have ended often due to members not being able to meet regularly.

Feedback has been that members value the safe space to bring particular client work or just to support each other.

New groups have also started since 2022 and if people are interested in such a group, whether peer support or supervision please contact LN.

ACC Team and Core Function - Kathy Spooner (KS) ACC CEO CONTINUED

KS said that in 2024/ 25 several new people have joined the team.

- Dani Wilson - Communications Assistant
- Caroline Cox - Administration team
- Marie Cooper - Head of Professional Standards and Registrar
- Joel Slater - Head of Membership Services.

Each staff member then provided a summary of their role, either in person or pre-recorded.

Andy Walker - member of administration team since 2023, providing support to members and members of the public, answering queries, helping with access to the website, renewals, etc.

Dani Wilson - Communications Assistant for about a year working on internal and external communications - social media posts, fortnightly newsletter, the website, etc.

Joel Slater - Head of Membership Services, working closely with Andy and Caroline since June 2025 to deliver all the services to members and make sure inquiries are met and our website and all our directories work as they should.

Caroline Cox - a member of the administration team since April 2025, particularly working on the administration of training events and practice reviews.

Marie Hopper - Head of Professional Standards and Registrar since end of June 2025, focussing on counselling. Marie will represent ACC on the PCPB Clinical Group and be involved in the development of policies, guidelines, standards, accreditation routes, etc.

Yineng Hart - Head of Training and Communication. Plans all of ACC's training events, conference, supports pastoral care resources team and was a major contributor to the content of ACC's website.

Sarah Palmer – started at ACC in February 2021 as an administrator and is now Deputy Registrar working on processing renewals and new applications for counsellor members, applications for accreditation and equivalence decisions and answering queries about ethical issues.

All the staff team apart from Andy work on a part-time basis.

KS said that in addition to the staff team, ACC was supported by

- the Board of trustees and the Registered Advisory Panel, all of whom work in a voluntary capacity and are incredibly supportive of the team of her as CEO.
- a number of assessors who deal with practise reviews and accreditations.
- a pool of people who work on complaints, as needed.
- pastoral care resource team, which is growing. KS wanted to particularly thank Claire Hardwick, who has temporarily been supporting that team, connecting with them, arranging training courses, etc.
- Liz Neve who has been writing the new pastoral care training and working on funding applications.
- Claire Musters, Accord editor, who has brought an incredible richness to Accord. KS encouraged members to write articles about their practise experience, areas of research or interest, etc. Claire has also worked as editor with Sarah Armitage to produce her book “The Well-Being Zone”, which will be published in 2026.

Going back to the acronym – ACC seeks to **ACCOMPANY** members through written guidance and meeting with members to talk through situations, etc.

ACC tries to treat members well, including in the processing of complaints, which we know is a really difficult process: trying to balance risks, explore what has happened and lessons that can be learnt and manage the associated stresses.

If members have ethical dilemmas or concerns about an aspect of their own practice, we always encourage discussion with their supervisor, but equally ACC is here to support and be a sounding board.

ACC wants to accompany members through accreditation and professional progression. KS acknowledged and apologised for the delay in implementing new routes to accreditation, but Dr Janet Penny has been working as a consultant in this in recent months and Marie will be working on it in the hope of publishing soon.

Part of the accompanying of members is to keep members safe in practice. When someone applies to join / renew as a counsellor we will ask about registration with the

ICO, having a professional or clinical will, look at websites and directory entries, etc. This is to provide advice and to help avoid problems in the future.

One aspect of accompanying is treating people with respect, creating inclusive spaces and coping with differences. It is more than having a written strategy, it is about knowing the direction of travel, so that when opportunities come or when concerns are raised, we can be responsive. ACC valued board members Leroy Harley, Sharon Hastings, Wien Fung and Gathoni Hamilton-Foster for their respectful challenge, bringing different perspectives and being a positive influence. We know we have a long way to go, but we are grateful for their positive input.

Having a community of practise around disability and neurodiversity will similarly be helpful to look at challenges around accessibility.

We have bespoke training on EDI for complaint panels that looks not just at protected characteristics, but prejudices that we may hold about different counselling approaches. ACC are mindful of how we recruit. We try and advertise widely, and we do competency-based interviews

Many Accord articles and training in forums have addressed issues around equality and diversity, but we always welcome new articles.

ACC is part of the Coalition for Inclusion and Anti-Oppressive Practices, which seeks to look at the structural and systemic issues in the wider profession - barriers to training, training models, etc This area is a work in progress and ACC would really appreciate insight from members that can be shared with other professional bodies.

The next part of the acronym is **RESOURCE**

KS demonstrated some aspects of the website:

- information about CPD training, forums, in-person retreat, online conference. Plans for 2026 training and national conference would be underway soon and members were encouraged to contact ACC with ideas.
- how to update personal and public profiles
- the resource area with
 - details of the groups available for members.
 - guidance notes on data protection, safeguarding, managing complaints, assessing Health and Safety at Work, CPD, supervision and duty of candour.
 - practice review documents, checklists for good practise.
 - accreditation application forms, practise break notification, logs and templates,

- various other useful resources.
- the newsletter archive.
- PSA Quality Mark Toolkit with information about how to use the PSA and ACC logo.
- recorded training.
- back catalogue of E Accord journals.
- Specific resources for pastoral care members.

Our pastoral care training is part of ACC's resourcing of churches and the wider Christian community. We have postcards about pastoral care training, seeking a counsellor and about joining ACC, which we can send to members for their churches and events.

The final part of the acronym is **ENGAGE**.

There is a big challenge in the world of counselling and psychotherapy that has been in the press about people going to unregulated counsellors and the regulation of counsellors. The topic is complicated and the government has given out different messages about plans to regulate. The current challenge is that the public do not know what an accredited register, or the PSA means and why it is important to look for the PSA quality mark when looking for counselling. The PCPB is trying to work on raising awareness of the importance of accredited registers and the partnership and raise the standards of the profession to improve public safety.

Another challenge is getting access to employment in the NHS and Employee Assisted Programmes for members of all PCPB bodies. The PCPB is trying to tackle this on behalf of all the partners. We hope that the publication of the NHS approved registers for employment, of which only PCPB body registrants are included, will also assist with this. A risk is, however, that the approved register policy was devised by NHS England and with NHS England being disbanded, how it will operate going forward is uncertain. Through the PCPB, ACC can engage with many other issues as well, including writing to the government unregulated on-line counselling providers from the US, with big marketing budgets, gaining traction in the UK; looking at the impact of AI, and getting counselling to be clearly defined in law as a healthcare profession in terms of Data Protection legislation, VAT exemptions, etc.

ACC also wants to engage more with the church, to increase the acceptance and understanding of counselling or psychotherapy and to understand good practice. We would also like our pastoral care training to be better known.

The meeting was then opened to members for questions and comments

- **Could the Accord articles in the resources area of the website be indexed by subject to make it easier to search?**

KS said that it was something that could be investigated, but in the meantime, members can always contact the office if they want to find a specific article, as we may be able to search more easily.

Chris Williams expressed thanks for the amazing amount of work that is done through the office staff and how much is achieved through such a very small group. It was also only achievable with the support of members, so thanks to everyone and of course God being involved in all that we do.

SMR closed by saying thank you to all ACC members who encourage and support the team in their work and for the work that they do every day in bringing change and transformation to lives. She thanked everyone for attending the AGM and for all those who had contributed to the day. She hoped that the information shared had been helpful to understand the work of ACC and the plans for the future.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Approved



Chair of ACC

11 July 2026

Actions from Board Meeting