

# SUTTON COLDFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

## Church Members Meeting Minutes

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

Attendance: 94 Quorum: 81

**1. Welcome and Prayer.**

Donald gave an introduction from John 12:46. "I have come into the world so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness".

Matthew 7:15. "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves." Donald prayed.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting.**

Mark presented the minutes of the last meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> November, which were agreed and accepted.

**3. Finance Update.**

**2021**

Income - £661,061.27

Expenditure - £498,241.13

Fund Transfers - £144,473.97

In year balance - £18,346.17

2021 Opening Balance -£8,266.42

General Fund Closing Balance - £10,079.75

Mark also confirmed the following:

- Utilities will be handled in their own fund going forwards
- Audit Fee will now be accounted for monthly
- Expenditure for 2021 is in line with the set budget
- Income for 2021 is below budget by around £5500

**2022**

Income - £51,118.61

Expenditure - £42,804.10

Fund Transfers - £13,558.31

In year balance - -£4,235.80

2021 Opening balance - £10,079.75

General Fund Balance - £5,843.95

Donald prayed for the finance of the church.

**4. Outreach worker.**

Donald explained that the Leadership team have been talking about future plans and have decided not to employ an outreach worker until after Cath has left. Further plans will be brought to a future church meeting in May.

**5. Church Governance**

**CIO – Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

We propose to move the name, status and type of charity that we are as a church to become a CIO – a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

A link containing information will be issued to all members next week.

Each member will receive an email / letter outlaying plans which will commence a consultation period. On 5<sup>th</sup> May, we will have another church meeting, and a vote will be held.

Donald thanked John Williams for all of the work that he has previously done on this.

Mark looked at the current legal structure of the church.  
We are currently a charity registered with the Charity Commission  
Governed by a constitution.

Six Trustees (4 Elders, the Minister, the Church Administrator)

Under charity law, trustees have legal responsibilities and a duty to further the charity's purposes, and we are currently an unincorporated Association.

Mark confirmed that the change would mean the trustees would no longer be personally liable. Currently they are open to direct legal action.

CIO is a new type of charity, and the church would have its own legal identity.

Mark read a statement from the Baptist Union that confirms they think that the structure of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation is better.

Donald confirmed that the Baptist Union are trustees of the church property (physical building) and that will continue.

### Why now?

Donald confirmed that CIO's were brought in around ten years ago, therefore a period of time has elapsed to see it tried and tested.

The Baptist Union has worked with Anthony Collins Solicitors to develop a framework to simplify the legal process.

The Baptist Union, our insurers and our current trustees are advising the change, which will make recruiting new trustees easier in the future.

The majority of new charities are CIOs.

Mark explained what is involved.

- a) We will have a new constitution.
- b) Members meeting resolution
- c) TUPE process for the employed staff members. Everything will stay the same for all staff.
- d) The Church Constitution Additional Practices and Procedures document remains unchanged.

### Key differences

- a. Wording to reflect being a CIO
- b. Updated to reflect digital technologies
- c. Layout is different
- d. Some clarifications

### What's Next?

- a. A letter to all Church members including:
  - i. Existing constitution
  - ii. Proposed constitution
  - iii. Document highlighting comparisons
  - iv. (unchanging) Additional practices and procedures document
  - v. Upcoming Church meeting resolution
- b. Questions and comments can be addressed to:  
Mark Maybury, Donald Campbell Judy Hyde and Mark Maybury

### The Resolution

At the next meeting, approval of...

- a) Incorporation of the Church as a CIO with the new constitution
- b) Transfer of members to the CIO
- c) Transfer of assets (other than property), liabilities and activities of the Church to the CIO.
- d) Authority to the trustees of the Church and the property holding trustees to recognise the CIO as being the Church

Anthony Collins will prepare new letterheads for us.

Donald ended the meeting with a time of prayer.