

## **INFORMATION SHEET FOR CHURCH MEMBERS**

A review has been underway to seek better ways in which we can use the limited resources we have locally, regionally and nationally.

A number of recommendations have been made, at both regional and national level, which it is hoped will enable us to steward our resources well whilst still offering excellent support services to churches.

The one which affects us most directly here in the North West is that those few Associations, like ours, which has a Trust Corporation, are being encouraged to transfer their Holding Trustee responsibilities to the Baptist Union Corporation at Baptist House in Didcot. This is a rationalisation exercise seeking to make best use of the expertise of the excellent staff team at BUC rather than each Trust Corporation needing a separate employee.

Our North Western Trustees, after long and careful thought, have come to the conclusion that it is in the best interests of our churches to follow this recommendation and to transfer our Trust Corporation work to BUC.

We have had a number of conversations with the BUC team as part of our decision-making process, and we recognise that the services and expertise they offer exceeds that which can be offered locally. We therefore have no hesitation in recommending this course of action as the most beneficial way forward for our churches. The BUC already provides trustee services to Baptist churches and associations around the country, and we have obtained warm independent recommendations from those already using these services.

I should stress at this point that the work of the Association will continue, with your regional team supporting and resourcing our churches. It is our Trust Corporation, which deals with legal and property matters for our churches, which will be affected by these changes.

Each church will need to formally agree with the decision for BUC to take over the Holding Trustee role for their church properties (and trust funds if any). This is the strong recommendation of ourselves as the present trustees, because BUC is uniquely placed to offer legal and property services tailored to the needs of Baptist churches. There are no other organisations or individuals who would be able to match what BUC can offer. Our own Trust Corporation will not continue to offer holding/property trustee services, so doing nothing is not an option.

We hope that this explanation will be helpful in enabling you to understand what it is you are being asked to do. In many ways this is a purely administrative exercise; the work of your church in your community will be unaffected.

If you have any questions or concerns, it would be helpful to raise them with your deacons/church leaders before the Special Church Meeting, as they may not have the answers at their fingertips. If you have detailed questions or queries please email Mandy at [admin@nwba.org.uk](mailto:admin@nwba.org.uk) who will be able to find the best person to answer them or talk them through with you.