

**The Methodist Church in Wales  
Synod Policy committee**

Minutes of the meeting held at Newtown Methodist church  
Saturday 16 February 2013

**Present:** Rev Stephen Wigley Chair  
John Atkinson, Martyn Bryce, Rosemarie Clarke, David Easton, Richard Gillion,  
Chris Gray, Richard Hodgson, Peter Holwell, Graham Illingworth, Alan Jenkins,  
Gwyneth Leigh, Andrew Mathieson, Verity Phillips, Sandra Powell, Gordon Sollis,  
Roy Watson, Ian Waugh, John Wiseman  
Ann Cashmore Minute Secretary

**01/13 Apologies:** Jack Healey, Martin Lougher, Richard Sharples, Ian Walton

**02/13 Welcome**

Rev Stephen Wigley welcomed members and led the meeting in opening devotions

**03/13 Minutes**

These were agreed and signed by the Chair.

**04/13 Other business not covered by Agenda**

There were no matters arising. One additional item added under section 7 SPC Business - (e) Sabbaticals.

**05/13 Implementing Synod Policy**

**(i) General**

(a) Budget previously distributed paper

Richard Hodgson outlined the proposed budget. An addition to the budget relates to the Synod Safeguarding role Rev S McIvor undertakes  $\frac{1}{3}$  time, amounting to £10,000. This is paid to Cardiff Circuit to acknowledge her part time Synod role. This will be partly off-set by rental income from the Synod manse and a contribution from Trust 14508. Additionally, Trust 14508 will contribute to the Synod Enabler and University Chaplain posts, thus reducing the amount Circuits will have to cover. Assistant chairs retained at three.

(b) Circuit Assessments previously distributed paper

Connexional contribution had been held to last year's figure. As deployment figure in Circuits have reduced, even though there is a reduction in the money required, there will need to be an increase in some Circuit Assessments of 3½%.

Verity thanked Richard for the clarity of his presentation and all the proposals were ACCEPTED.

**(ii) Property Matters**

After some discussion, the proposal in the previously circulated paper namely that 'Where Circuits/Churches are seeking purchase, lease or dispose of property, formal Synod consent will only be given once all necessary legal requirements have been met' was AGREED as Synod policy

**(iii) Trust 14508**

The accounts were ACCEPTED.

It was AGREED that Richard Hodgson be an additional signatory.

The Bonner Trust had recently received a large increase in capital due to a bequest. The trust was for work with young people and the interest only could be used for this purpose

## 06/13 SPC Business

### (a) Trinity, Cardiff

Rev Peter Holwell reported that the Circuit had approved the application to cease to worship and the viability of a specific project in the area was being investigated. Peter stated that there could possibly be a retrospective application to Synod for cease to meet if the project(s) did not materialise. The meeting AGREED that Peter should continue to work through the process with the Circuit to find a way that will work best for the church and people concerned.

(b) St Johns Uniting church, Colwyn Bay previously distributed paper  
Gwyneth Leigh reported that initial negotiations between Rydal School and the church had broken down and the Circuit had taken over the responsibility for the building and were in the process of re-negotiating with the school. SPC APPROVED the circulated paper and gave permission for worship to cease.

### (c) Youth Work Action Group

Verity Phillips gave a resumé of youth activities to date, including attendance at the 3Generate event, sleep-overs and general enthusiasm. Two members of Buckley & Deeside Circuit have been elected to attend Methodist Conference this year. The next sleep-over would be held on 11 May. Nominations forms for SPC Youth Representatives were available and elections would be held at the Youth Forum during Synod. Facebook use had increased.

A One Programme worker was scheduled for Wrexham and a new application would be available in July. Without the Cardiff Youth Worker and the uncertainties regarding Amy Adams role, concern was expressed about the difficulties of resourcing youth Work in the Synod

### (d) Authorisations

#### New applications:

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Bangor & Holyhead   | Howard Jackson (lay) |
| Gwent Hills & Vales | Catherine Lewis      |
| Pembrokeshire       | Lorette Hinson       |

#### Continuing:

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Cardiff             | Catherine Reynolds                               |
| Neath Port Talbot   | Christopher Jones and Clement Raymond (both lay) |
| Gwent Hills & Vales | Leslie Jones.                                    |

#### Awaiting Probationers committee:

|            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| Ceredigion | James Patron Bell |
|------------|-------------------|

### (e) Sabbaticals

#### Approval had been given for:

|                       |   |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Richard Hall          | April to June   | working alongside members of the scouting movement                             |
| Deacon Lorraine Brown | mid April to mid June   | MA degree  |
| Verity Phillips       | May to July   | Painting and working on physical fitness and walking                           |
| Malcolm Chester       | postponed to August and September with a further month to be agreed |  |
| Robin Fox             | December 2013 to March 2014   | The work of the church with HIV/AIDS communities, visiting churches in America |
| Trevor Pratt          | April to June (possibly taken later dependent upon surgery)         |  |
| Barry Smith           | Said to be away from June 2014, but no information available,       |  |

matter to be perused by Sabbaticals officer  
Alan Jenkins due 2015.

Any further information should be passed to Dorothy Cresswell. The meeting AGREED these sabbaticals.

### **07/13 Chair's Business**

(a) Stationing

Those coming into Synod:

Presbyters:

Ceredigion  
Conwy & Prestatyn  
Swansea & Gower  
Neath Port Talbot

Roger Hides - Superintendent  
John Anderson  
Leslie Noon and Siperire Mugadzaweta  
Kofi Amissah

Probationers:

Cardiff  
Gwent Hills & Vales  
Pembrokeshire

Jaril Robinson-Brown  
Catherine Lewis  
Lorette Hinson

Deacon:

Ceredigion Sara Windsor Hides (exploring MHA chaplaincy).  
Also, Hugh John Wilson will take over as Superintendent in Pembroke Circuit.

Those leaving Synod:

Alan Jenkins  
Deacon Janet Jenkins  
Louise Gough  
Richard Hall  
John Wiseman

Colchester  
Tendring  
Bramhall & Wythenshaw  
Shropshire & Marches  
Hazel Grove & Poynton

Due to illness Tony Willey has had to finish his role as Lay Stationing Rep. Thanks were expressed for the work he has undertaken. David Tilley would take over for one year and lead the briefing meetings on 11 May in South Wales, with Keith Tewkesbury and Rosemarie Clarke leading the N Wales meeting on 1 June.

(b) Chair's Sabbatical

Stephen would be on sabbatical from April to June inclusive and would return before Conference. The Synod Leadership Team was prepared and the Assistant Chairs ready to act. Points of contact were Rev Lin Healey, Rev Keith Tewkesbury and the Synod office in Cardiff. Authorisation was covered whilst Stephen was away.

### **08/13 Matters to and from related bodies**

(i) Methodist Council

GI reported the following topics:

- Methodist Heritage Report – developing partnership with Uni. Of Manchester re: archives
- Wesley College, Cambridge future – College Trustees working on developing a Theological Centre of Excellence in partnership with Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network (DMLN)
- Interfaith Relations – referred from Conference to consider dedicated post – not recommended
- Larger than Circuit Working party – exploring the roles & responsibilities of District Chairs, watch this space

- Central Services Budget – working on a 3 year plan, consolidated accounts on Church web site
- Methodist Missionary Society – being integrated into Methodist Church in Britain, more work being undertaken

GI reminder SPC that both the calling papers for Council and the minutes are available on the Methodist Church Web site.

(ii) Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network

Stephen gave an up-date on the work.

Luke Curran, from Wales Training Network, and Richard Andrews have been appointed as Project Managers following the resignation of the original post holder. The following has been completed to date:

- (a) work underway for practice-based learning
- (b) agreement on English regions; Wales and Scotland were each a region
- (c) meeting for all current training staff arranged for the end of February.

(iii) Synod Leadership Team

- (a) Purpose and pattern of Synod previously distributed paper

The proposal has been fully discussion in a variety of meetings and there appeared little support for regional Synod meetings. The meeting RECEIVED the report.

- (b) Mapping a Way Forward etc previously distributed paper

There had always been the intention to hold a review of the amalgamated Circuits and the paper set out the proposed make-up of the group to progress the review, the time frame envisaged and possible questions to be asked. The meeting APPROVED the report.

(iv) Y Cyngor

Rev Jennie Hurd would be the new Chair of Synod Cyrus.

Graham confirmed that with regard to the Fruitful Field proposals, Luke Curran is employed by Y Cyngor.

“The Gathering” consultation documents had been distributed by Rev Trevor Pratt to all Circuits and the response required by the September Y Cyngor meeting. The next meeting of the Commission would be held week beginning 18 February 2013.

**09/13 Ecumenical Matters**

- (i) Methodist/URC Liaison Group

Barry:

Porthkerry Road and Windsor Road were now meeting as a joint church in the Windsor Road building and awaiting clarification of the sharing agreement. John Atkinson thanked the Ecumenical officers for their help. The constitution needed the agreement of the Synod Policy Committee, the meeting AGREED.

Milford Haven:

This was a similar situation to that in Barry and the sharing agreement was in hand with the possibility of being ready for the next Connexional year.

**10/13 Other Business**

MHA Anniversary would be commemorated at the Autumn Synod.

**11/13 Next Meeting**

*Saturday 15 June 2013 at Newtown Methodist Church commencing at 10.30am.*