

The Methodist Church in Wales Synod Policy committee

Minutes of the meeting held at Newtown Methodist church
Saturday 18 February 2012

Present: Rev Stephen Wigley Chair
John Atkinson, Pauline Barnett, Rosemarie Clarke, David Easton, Richard Gillion, Chris Grey, Jack Healey, Richard Hodgson, Peter Holwell, Alan Jenkins, Graham Illingworth, Gwyneth Leigh, Andrew Mathieson, Trevor Pratt, Gordon Sollis, Roy Watson, Alf Williams, John Wiseman
Ann Cashmore Minute Secretary

The Chair welcomed new members to the meeting – Gwyneth Leigh, John Wiseman, Chris Pritchard, representing Richard Sharples, and Rosemarie Clarke, the Synod Secretary designate.

Opening devotions were led by Rev Stephen Wigley.

01/12 Apologies: Verity Phillips, Richard Sharples and Ann Thomas

02/12 Minutes

The following amendments were proposed to the minutes of the meeting of 15 October 2011:

32/11 paragraph 2

Synod would only be supporting Higher Education Chaplaincy, not Further Education Chaplaincy and the meeting agreed to refrain from any amendment until the details had been clarified with Richard Sharples.

36/11 Fruitful Field, not "Fields"

38/11 final paragraph

Peter Noble had become The Lightship *chaplain*.

With these amendments the minutes were agreed as true and correct and signed by the Chair.

03/12 Matters Arising

Youth Worker – on-going

Children's Work – Felicity Jepson-Randall had expressed an interest and was looking at the role. The Chair would talk with Felicity and report to the meeting. **Action: SDW**

Synod Manse in Cardiff – the meeting noted the property on Estate Agent's books. No let as yet, but Agent expects better things in the spring.

04/12 Implementing Synod Policy

(i) General

(a) Finance – papers previously distributed

Ceredigion Circuit ministers were accounted for in the Wales Synod deployment figures.

Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit – Andy Williams would leave in June 2012 and the deployment at present was less 1 presbyter plus 1 lay worker. However stationing was on-going and therefore the situation could change.

The meeting AGREED that the cut-off date for formulating the following year's assessment and budget proposals would be 31 December.

The Synod assessment as presented was AGREED.

The Synod budget as presented was ACCEPTED.

The meeting AGREED that the report to the Charity Commissioners would be as previously submitted and the "Public Benefit" section would be as the Connexional report. The Chair explained the additions to the meeting.

(b) Chair's Nominations Committee – paper presented at the meeting

SDW temporarily left the meeting .GI outlined the procedure and stated that a 75% recorded vote was required

TP formally proposed and GI seconded that SDW be re-invited as Chair of the Wales Synod for a further period of five years. **This was UNANIMOUSLY agreed by the meeting.**

SDW returned to the meeting and expressed his appreciation of the recommendation

The Reasoned Statement for submission to Connexion would be amended to read "the Wales Synod" and with this amendment the Reasoned Statement was agreed. SDW thanked the meeting for its support.

(c) Pattern and Purpose of Synod – paper previously distributed

The paper questioned the pattern, purpose and role of the Synod meeting. The possibility of a "mobile" Synod, meeting one year in a place other than Newtown to enable more public attendance at the meeting had been suggested. The general feeling was that there was a lack of communication and opportunity for members of circuits to be part of Synod. The meeting AGREED that SLT would bring a paper to the June meeting of SPC for discussion, and subject to the outcome, a revised paper would be presented to Synod to decide the way forward **Action: SLT**

(ii) **Property**

Jack Healey had details of Martin Lougher's consultations with the CiW on property.

Standard form of Accounts – Schedule D – was required by JH as soon as possible.

Energy reports had been submitted by 9 churches and were of varying quality: these should be submitted by the end of February. **Action: All SPC members**

(iii) **Trust 14508 Advisory Committee**

The accounts were APPROVED.

SDW clarified the role and purpose of the trust as outlined in the paper

Irfan John's post ends in September 2013 and Synod needs to consider the continuation and funding of his role, with the possibility of available Connexional funding. The Cardiff chaplaincy ends in 2015 and the Trust money would be focussed on these projects.

A reserves policy had been prepared ready for full implementation in September 2013.

The proposal to use the Trust money as outlined in the paper was carried unanimously.

(iv) **Manses Committee**

The next meeting would be on 9 May and there was no further information available.

(v) **Rural Life officer**

Rev Ian Waugh was invited to speak to a report tabled at the meeting. IW stated that there were other ecumenical partners involved in the chaplaincy. Rural and animal health report had been received which included trading standards. IW hoped to carry on his role when he moved to the Llanelli and Camarthen Circuit with a one day per week time commitment. As at present in the Newtown area, a local presence would be provided by ecumenical partners where possible. A paper indicating how Rural life role would develop would be brought to the June SPC. **Action: SLT**

05/12 SPC Business

(a) Assistant Chairs – paper presented at the meeting

The model of three part time Assistant Chairs had received significant support in the review. . . Discussions would take place with the Assistant Chairs regarding their futures and the vacant post would be advertised at an appropriate time. **The proposal to adopt this model as the substantive one for Wales Synod was AGREED**

(b) Alcohol

John Atkinson spoke to a paper previously distributed, the purpose of which was to stimulate discussion. It was felt the appropriate way forward would be for a Memorial from the church via the Circuit meeting be prepared

(c) Fruitful Field

This is work in progress and further information would be available after Methodist Council in March. The impact on training in Wales is part of the discussion. The submissions of WTN and Y Cyngor to the Fruitful Field consultation process as available.

(d) Closures

Pontyclun - Gordon Sollis reported that there was a small, elderly congregation, and the church council had agreed that they could no longer carry on. Some members had transferred to the PCW and provision for the rest had been made within the area.

Glyncorwg - Chris Gray reported that the buildings in this former mining village were in poor condition and plans to sell the building were being considered. The church would continue at the Community Centre on Sunday afternoon. The local Congregational chapel had joined the Community Centre congregation, which had also attracted other members of other denominations creating a larger group than the 15 from the Methodist chapel.

Waterston - Alan Jenkins reported that this chapel had a membership of 4. The chapel was a daughter church of Christchurch United church in Milford Haven and permission was requested to close and sell the Waterston building and the money raised to go to Milford Haven.

Morton - AJ also reported that this chapel had agreed to close, 9 members would go to Saundersfoot chapel.

The meeting gave permission for all the above churches to close.

As an up-date, Alan reported that Pembroke Dock URC had closed on 11 September 2011 and sold at the end of January 2012..

A proposal for Wales synod and Synod Cymru to consider appointing a person to offer legal advice on sale of church properties was raised. **Action: SLT**

(e) Lay Authorisations for Communion

TP reported that he had received all necessary paper work for the following authorisations:

Cardiff Circuit	-	Catherine Reynolds (Prob)
Neath Port Talbot Circuit	-	Christopher Jones
Gwent Hills & Vales		Les Jones (Prob) – subject to appropriate paper work being received

The meeting APPROVED the authorisations.

(f) Sabbaticals

Approval was requested for the following presbyters to take Sabbaticals:

Delyth Liddell	Masters – mission in London and Lancashire
Preben Andersen	Iona
Andrew Webster	
Keith Tewkesbury	Iona – Taizé – London marathon
Gordon Sollis	World Church – Sierra Leone

The meeting APPROVED.

Members were reminded that on completion of a Sabbatical a 500 word paper was to be submitted to the SPC for possible use in the further work of the church.

06/12 Chair's Business

Stationing

Presbyter appointments:

Conwy and Prestatyn (1)	Rev Bev Ramsden - Llandudno
Conwy and Prestatyn (2)	Prestatyn vacant – but visit is currently underway from a superintendent who is moving into the area
Llanelli and Camarthen	Rev Ian Waugh
Mid Glamorgan Mission	Rev Paul Donneson

Probationer appointments:

Cardiff	Rev Catherine Reynolds
Gwent Hills and Vales	Rev Christopher Jones
Neath Port Talbot	vacant

Curtailments:

Gwent Hills & Vales	Andy Williams to America
Conwy and Prestatyn	Chris Asher Forces Chaplaincy

Rev Derek Rigby, Prestatyn, would retire to Llandudno in February on health grounds

Candidates

Presbyters:

2 from Buckley & Deeside, 1 from Conwy & Prestatyn

Diaconal order:

1 from Wrexham & 2 from Cardiff.

The Synod Candidates Committee had recommended 3 Presbyters and 2 Deacons to the Connexional Committee meeting in mid-March.

07/12 Matters to and from related bodies

(i) Methodist Council

Graham Illingworth expanded on the previously submitted paper:

Employment tribunal – outcome may have effect on employment status of ministers

Accounts and audit – completed this year on time, new finance officer in post

Pensions – three year Valuation due, Ministerial fund may need additional income from Circuits, further report to March Council

Fruitful Field – ongoing conversations – further report in March – planned recommend to 2012 Conference. WTN and Y Cyngor report received “sympathetically”.

Past cases Review – pilot scheme helpful, further report to March Council re: funding needs of Districts

Equality and Diversity – up-date on work to date. Reference Group preparing a way forward

(ii) Y Cyngor

The process for appointing a new Synod Cymru Chair is underway. David Gamble to be involved and the selection process is in place. The names, if any, are not presently known to Wales Synod. Y Cyngor meets on 20 March where an update will be presented; the Cymru Synod meets on 21 April 2012 where a name will have to be agreed for presentation to Conference 2012

08/12 Ministry Issue Ministerial Development Review

TP reported that a well received Connexional Training day meeting had been held in Bangor and MDR would begin in 2012 for presbyters in North Wales. SDW had commenced his review.

09/12 Ecumenical Matters

“The Gathering” 13 October 2012

Delyth Liddell, Kathy Gale and Gordon Sollis are involved in planning. Tickets will be available for two representatives from each Circuit, to include all SPC members and one other from Circuits with one SPC member. Other people can apply for tickets, full details to be distributed through Ministerial Synod and Synod mailing.

One Person Programme

Wrexham, Mid Glamorgan Mission and Bangor & Holyhead circuits had expressed interest. Indications were that OPP Projects would be supported for Districts that had not received a person under the scheme (Wales had previously received support) 2012 was the last year the scheme would run. The meeting discussed the possibility of grant towards funding of schemes in Wales. There was the possibility of a grant towards funding for Wales from the Synod Advance Fund. A proposal was AGREED in principal that funding for up to 2 schemes with a maximum of £8,000 in total, would be put in place.

10/12 Action for Children

Rev Keith Tewkesbury would be running in the London Marathon and supporting Action for Children. Chris Pritchard would be leaving the Synod in September and a new representative was required to serve on the Wales committee to replace him. The meetings were 4 times a year in Cardiff. Members were encouraged to send suitable names to Stephen.

11/12 Date of next Meeting

Saturday 16 June 2012 at Newtown Methodist church, meeting to commence at 10.30am.