

Please note that these minutes are, as yet, unapproved

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

Minutes of the meeting held at Newtown Methodist church
Saturday 26 February 2011

Present: Rev Stephen Wigley Chair
John Atkinson, Pauline Barnett, Margaret Chapman, Pam Cram, David Easton, Richard Gillion, Brian Ham, Jack Healey, Graham Illingworth, Alan Jenkins, Andrew Matthieson, Verity Phillips, Sandra Powell, Trevor Pratt, Richard Sharples, Gordon Sollis, Ann Thomas, Roy Watson, Alf Williams, Linda Woollacott
Ann Cashmore Minute Secretary

Opening devotions were led by Rev Stephen Wigley.

01/11 Apologies: Richard Hodgson, Peter Holwell, Richard Hodgson

02/11 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 23 October 2010 were amended as follows:

Attendance – add Sandra Powell and Margaret Chapman

Add 'r' in Pauline Barnett's name

Page 4, paragraph 34/10(iii) – *Sentence 'The governing body was'* to be replaced with '*The English ecumenical officers were'* with this sentence ending after "Scotland".

With these amendments the minutes were signed as a true record.

03/11 Matters arising

23/10 Visit of Zambian choir

The meeting agreed John Atkinson could send a letter of invitation to the choir for visa applications. The final concert would be hosted by Woking church before the choir's return home.

17/10b Membership of Synod Policy Committee

Graham Illingworth confirmed that membership of SPC was an annual Circuit appointment with the 6 year rule re: appointments applying, but the SLT would continue to monitor membership to ensure a reasonable balance of lay/ordained/gender. The position of minute secretary was that the person was non-voting, non-trustee except where they were appointed by their Circuit as a representative, they would be a trustee and full voting member.

34/10(iv) Consents to sharing agreements

Jack Healey referred to SO334 – Sharing agreements will require consent through the Connexional Consent System but, before the Synod Consents giving body can give this, the consent of the Connexion to the ecumenical aspect of agreements will need to be signified by the Asst. Secretary of Conference or his/her nominee'

Blaenrhondda

Verity Phillips reported that the congregation had moved out of the church and were seeking new premises for worship.

04/11 Establishing Synod Policy

Synod policies were now available on the website.

5/11 Implementing Synod Policy

(i) Finance

(a) Connexional Assessment

Brian Ham reported the Connexional assessment was the highest for some years and a request had been made that future figures should be much clearer to enable members to understand how the assessment was calculated. Figures **ACCEPTED**

(b) Reserves Policy

APPROVED

(c) Trust 14508

AGREED

The Standard form of Accounts was approved and authorised. The report for the Charity Commission, which had been previously circulated, was **AGREED**.

Caewal Road manse is used by the Mission Enabler – Rev Irfan John – and there are several large items of work needed including damp treatment and kitchen and bathroom up-grades. The meeting was requested for their approval in principal to the expenditure of approximately £35,000 on the works on the manse, which would be paid from Trust 14508.

APPROVED

The Chair thanked Brian for all his work as Treasurer.

(e) Charity Commission Report – 1128205

There were two amendments to the previously circulated report.

Paragraph 3, last line: “University of Glyndwr in Wrexham” to change to Wrexham/Glyndwr University.

Paragraph 5, line 4, add “r” between “h” and “o” in word before Y Cyngor.

Jack Healey agreed to supply the necessary and appropriate Statutory Statement at the foot of the section headed “Section C” etc.

(ii) Property

The Synod office was in use and communications were nearly ready. Video conferencing was available and everyone involved was pleased with the scheme. Pictures of the new office were available on the website.

(iii) Manses Committee

All the manses had been inspected.

(iv) Assistant Chairs

Graham Illingworth reported on the response to the questionnaire sent round Circuits. Twelve had responded; 10 were positive; 1 was neutral and 1 negative. He gave a brief summary of some of the responses and concluded that it was a generally positive exercise. The model of three assistant chairs was recommended as the permanent model for the Synod but it was Synod’s decision. Stephen Wigley stated that he found having 3 assistants helpful and supportive and the geography was managed efficiently. Rev Linda Woollacott would leave Synod in August and the proposal was that a new appointment would be made, initially for 1 year with a probably extension for a further 2 years. SPC were asked to decide in principal and the SLT would agree the procedures. The meeting **AGREED** unanimously to the proposal.

(v) Sabbaticals

2010/11 – retrospective approval was given to Rev A Huxtable and Rev D Rigby.

Rev C Archer, Rev J Atkinson, Rev R Hall, Rev H Long, Rev A Williams were **APPROVED**.

Rev M Worsey would be retiring and therefore not taking a sabbatical.

Alf Williams informed the meeting that part of his sabbatical would be a sponsored walk along the Cistercian Way in aid of Action for Children.

Thanks to Deacon Denise Creed for her work as Sabbaticals Officer. As she moves in September to a new station, we welcome Rev Verity Phillips as the new Sabbaticals Officer

(vi) Youth Work Action Group

Richard Sharples reported on the Action Group. Ian Thomas was working, but Carrie-Anne Judge had not continued as Youth Enabler. There were 3 areas:

1. One programme participant
2. Youth Forum
3. Continue Matt and Carrie-Anne's work for Synod using statistical returns.

Further meetings had been arranged. They were in contact with CiW and URC youth workers.

06/11 SPC business

Lay Authorisations

Renewals after 3 years were required for: Eric Smith, Eileen Gardiner, Wendy Watts, Alec Fuller and Clem Raymond.

Renewals after 2 years were required for: Anne Ellis, Hugh John Wilson and Pete Taylor.

New application: James Patron Bell, probationer minister.

Subject to the completion of the necessary paperwork, the meeting **AGREED**

Closures

Church Stoke, Harcourt Terrace – **AGREED**. There was the possibility of a new joint church at Tredegar.

Pembroke Dock would remain open for the time being, partly due to the discovery of a URC "Manse Fund" containing a large sum.

Methodist Council

Graham Illingworth reported on his enjoyable meeting.

Rev Ken Howcroft from Sept. 11 has been appointed as presbyter at the Ponte St Angelo Church, Rome and will be the Methodist representative in Rome .

The new Safeguarding officer was Elizabeth Hall and notes for guidance would be available in Wales shortly.

Discussions were still on-going about Wesley College and 8 students involved next year would be attending the University of Bristol.

The Resourcing Mission Office – a revised paper will be present to April Council with a view to this being presented to Conference this year.

Workload and Governance – plans are being considered to work to a 2 year rolling Conference agenda. Conference would continue to meet annually.

07/11 Chair's business

(i) Stationing

Those coming to the Synod:

Presbyters:

Preben Anderson – Newport & Lower Wye

James Patron Bell – Ceredigion (Probationer)

Chris & Viv Gray – Neath & Port Talbot (Superintendent & Deacon)

Those leaving the Synod:

Phil Drake to Bradford North (Presbyter)

Denise Creed to Westminster Central Hall (Deacon)

Joseph Tembo to Derby South (Presbyter)

Linda Woollacott to Harpenden (Superintendent)

Bryan Yardy to Settle (Presbyter)

Next year there were a possible 8 or 9 Superintendent vacancies, 8 Presbyters and possibly 2 Deacons.

14 May was the date for the annual consultation with Superintendents and Circuit Stewards would attend for the afternoon session. Both meetings would take place at Newtown Community Church.

AGREED

(ii) Biblefresh

Stephen reported that Rev Rosemarie Clarke was acting as co-ordinator for Biblefresh activities.

(iii) Y Cyngor

Ecumenical involvement was to be encouraged to staff the National Eisteddfod Cytûn tent. Synod Cymru had agreed to meet once a year and Standing Order changes were being prepared to reflect the one-Circuit Synod.

Discussions on Covenanting Churches were on-going, with the vote on the amended Agenda being 11 for the proposal and 1 against.

Mark Wakelin was now a member of the meeting to provide a Connexional link.

08/11 Ministry Issues

The amended proposals for ADR would proceed and be phased in over a 3 year period.

09/11 Ecumenical Matters

Referring to his previously circulated paper, Gordon Sollis gave further brief details to the meeting.

1. The working group had not met.
2. The biblical/theology group had met once.
3. The re-statement had been agreed
4. Triennial Assembly – first meeting planned for Saturday 13 October 2012 in Aberystwyth
5. Agenda part of recommendation.
6. Ecumenical engagement covering Cymru and Wales Synods
7. Liturgical group had met once and were up-dating/revising the rite
8. A booklet would be produced and launched at the Triennial Assembly in 2012.

10/11 Mission and Social Issues

Action for Children

A celebration would be held in Wrexham in December at the close of the centenary year. Alf Williams was intending to walk the Cistercian Way during his sabbatical.

12/10 Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 18 June 2011 at Newtown Methodist Church, 10am for 10.30am.