

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

Minutes of the meeting held at Newtown Methodist church  
Saturday 27 October 2012

**Present:** Rev Stephen Wigley Chair  
John Atkinson, Rosemarie Clarke, David Easton, Richard Gillion, Chris Grey, Jack Healey, Graham Illingworth, Gwyneth Leigh, Andrew Mathieson, Verity Phillips, Sandra Powell, Gordon Sollis, Roy Watson, Ian Waugh, John Wiseman, Judith Powell (substitute Cardiff)  
Ann Cashmore Minute Secretary

Opening devotions were led by Rev Stephen Wigley.

**25/12 Apologies:** Richard Hodgson, Peter Holwell, Alan Jenkins, Martin Lougher, Richard Sharples,

**26/12 Minutes**

These were agreed and signed by the Chair.

**27/12 Other business not covered by Agenda**

Under SPC Business there would be a report from the Youth Action Group.

**28/12 Matters Arising**

Review of reconfigured circuits/mapping a way forward – Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit had begun their own local review. As regards the more general review, the Superintendents/SLT meeting at Lindors would be discussing the topic and would have a chance to reflect and review the process.

Safeguarding – Connexional decisions were now under consideration for implementation. Rôle of Safeguarding Officers – the Synod officers were working to the guidelines.

**29/12 Implementing Synod Policy**

**(i) General**

**(a) General Finance Paper**

The report by the Treasurer distributed with the Agenda was ACCEPTED by the meeting.

**(b) Financial Report and Accounts**

These were ACCEPTED by the meeting.

The Chair expressed his thanks to Chris Randall for auditing the accounts.

**(c) Reserves Policy**

This was ACCEPTED by the meeting.

**(ii) Property Matters**

JH reported that CAF levies were down over the year but there is an increase from the Connexional Priority Fund into the Synod Advance Fund. SAF balances have been kept at the same levels in order to accommodate future projects.

It was proposed that the cap on grants for property schemes be increased to £10,000 with immediate effect. The meeting AGREED

Small scheme grant applications were welcome up to £1,000.

TMCP had re-issued their guidance notes for leases and licenses. New guidance notes would be in place from 2013 at the latest. Standard clauses were to be inserted into any lease for TMCP approval.

EU directive on the re-use of glass containers for the sale of home-made jams and pickles etc was illegal and the enforcing body was the local authority in each case. The fine was £5,000.

### **30/12 SPC Business**

#### **(i) Sabbaticals**

Reports from previous participants had been received and circulated. A report was outstanding from Martin Freeman.

Those taking sabbaticals during year 2012/2013:

Rev S D Wigley	April-June 2013	Researching the Welsh contribution to theology and further developing spoken Welsh by attending Welsh language courses
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Rev T J Pratt	April-June 2013	Wider picture of ecumenical trends. Methodist/Anglican conversations. 7th century Synod of Whitby.
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Rev V Phillips	May-July 2013	Principal approved.
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The meeting ACCEPTED all these applications.

#### **(ii) Cease to Worship**

##### **(a) Caerleon**

Rev Richard Gillion reported that the building at Caerleon was in poor repair and that although the congregation had a good relationship with the community and Cytûn they had decided to leave and go to other churches. The church council and Circuit meeting had agreed the decision. Andrew Matthieson expressed his regret, as an historian, that the heritage would be lost and that an attempt should be made to retain members' memories. The meeting gave APPROVAL for the closure.

##### **(b) Trinity, Newport Road/Four Elms, Cardiff**

The Chair gave an up-date of the situation, where the congregation had requested permission to cease and this would go to the forthcoming Circuit meeting in November. Members were not volunteering to be officers and funds were low. There was support from the congregation for local projects and they were yet to decide where they would worship. The Grade II listed building was on a good site and suited for community use and the Circuit were looking at future possibilities including "Space for You". This report was intended as background to the SPC for future requests.

##### **(c) Extension of period for Local Preacher Training**

Richard Gillion reported that Alexis Mahoney of Caldicot church had taken time out from his LP training to explore his calling and as a result the five year period had expired. A further 18 months' extension was requested to complete his studies.

The meeting AGREED.

##### **(d) Youth Work Action Group**

Verity requested that the election of young people to attend synod be deferred to next September.

£500 was available from the Synod for those going to 3Generate in November. There would be an opportunity for reports back to SPC (and Synod) .

Three venues were being used for a sleepover on 1 March 2013, one in the North, one in the West and hopefully one in the South East.

DVD "Storykeepers" for 6-7 year-olds. A request had been made for this to be produced in Welsh but 1000 was the minimum imprint and subscribers were needed before production began. The Chair agreed that Synod Cymru should also be informed. Circuits/churches interested in following up to contact Rev Verity Phillips

### **31/12 Chair's Business**

#### **(i) Stationing**

The Chair expressed his good wishes on behalf of the meeting to Rev Dr David Easton who had been appointed Chair of Scotland District with effect from September 2013.

The Chair reported stationing would involve:

2 Superintendents - Ceredigion and Pembroke

4 Presbyters – 2 Swansea, 1 Prestatyn, 1 part time in Wrexham

2 Probationers – 1 Neath/Port Talbot, 1 Gwent Hills & Vales

1 new Probationer appointment in Cardiff Circuit

Stephen stated that there was a possible over-subscription of Presbyters and Probationers in 2013/14.

5 Synod Ministers were going forward to Stationing:

Rev Richard Hall, Rev Louise Gough, Rev Alan Jenkins, Rev John Wiseman and Deacon Janet Jenkins.

#### **(ii) Chair's Sabbatical**

The content of the sabbatical is as outlined above. Arrangements were in hand to cover his absence by the Assistant Chairs and SLT from April to June. He would be back in time for Conference in July.

### **32/12 Matters to and from related bodies**

#### **(i) Methodist Council**

GI reported on the recent meeting:

The Wed pm was joint with the URC Mission Council looking at working more closely together

Significant business from Council included reports on:

the Senior Leadership Review, strategic budget conversations and planning, Fruitful Field, Conference in 2014 would be held in the Hilton Hotel, Birmingham from 26 June to 3 July.

#### **(ii) Pattern and purpose of Synod - previously distributed paper**

The yearly pattern of holding a full Synod meeting in September was agreed. Memorials could still be presented if these were considered earlier by Circuits/churches so that they would reach the relevant committee on time. The question was raised whether Policy Committees could submit memorials, and it was agreed to write to the Memorials Committee to seek guidance on this matter. Views of youth Reps will still come to SPC.

Regional meetings were a strong possibility but the practicalities could be difficult. Agree this matter be discussed at the Super/SMT meeting in November

The meeting AGREED.

President of Conference, Rev Mark Wakelin, would be visiting from 30 November to 2 December and he would meet both Wales Synod and Synod Cymru.

A Leadership Workshop was proposed to be held in the Buckley area. Mark would preach in Bangor on Sunday morning, 2 December, and at Prestatyn in the afternoon.

The Vice President would visit Gwent Hills & Vales at the beginning of March 2013 and the "Big Sing" would be held during the visit.

#### **(iv) Y Cyngor**

The outcome of "The Gathering" held at Aberystwyth on 13 October would be discussed at the next meeting in November.

#### **(v) Wales Training Network**

A forum was being held on Monday 29 October 2012.

Fruitful Field report had been agreed by Conference. Therefore there would be two Connexional training centres and regional teams, although the geographical area of the regions is presently being worked on. Teams would consist of up to 5 staff and the Wales and Scotland models of present practice were being highlighted as models that work. The Implementation Management Team consists of 13 people including Luke Curran on a half-time basis. The Implementing Executive would have 6 people. Wales Training Network staff would finish in August 2013 and college closures would be phased over time as present student complete their courses. Y Cyngor, as the employing body of some of the Wales training staff was actively engaged in ensuring as smooth a way forward for staff as possible.

### **33/12 Ecumenical Matters**

#### **(i) The Gathering**

Feed-back was to go to Y Cyngor and would be discussed at the November meeting. Communication was recognised as vital and a request that a standard form of presentation be prepared, thus avoiding avoid personal opinion. This could be distributed to Circuits/Churches throughout the Methodist Church in Wales.

#### **(ii) Methodist/URC Liaison Group**

The first meeting had reported on joint ministries; there was a new URC team in place. Finance was crucial within the URC which could affect Methodist involvement. Cardiff Bay Chaplaincy funding was under discussion.

### **34/12 Next Meetings**

Saturday 16 February 2013

Saturday 15 June 2013

both at Newtown Methodist Church commencing at 10.30am.