

Important Information - Minutes of Synod / Future dates / Future process

In the course of conversations outside of the business of Synod, numerous views were conveyed to various members of the Synod Leadership Team expressing a concern that the first Sunday in September was not the best date for Synod to meet. At its meeting on 16th September, the SLT agreed that these views merited attention and accordingly:

the date of Synod in 2011 will be 10th September

the date of Synod in 2012 it will be 8th September.

The venue will continue to be Hope Community Church in Newtown.

These minutes are circulated at this time in response to an agreed request from Synod members. They will be considered for approval by Synod at its meeting on 10th September 2011.

It is the intention to not distribute further copies except where so requested

It is intended that the minutes of future Synods shall be distributed by e-mail and shown on the Wales Synod website except where there are specific requests for paper copies to be made available.

This approach will offer both environmental and economic benefits.

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN WALES – WALES SYNOD

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of Synod held on Saturday 4 September 2010

at Hope Community Church, Newtown, Powys

Present: Rev Dr Stephen Wigley (Chair) Rev Trevor Pratt (Synod Secretary)
114 members and numerous visitors as reported

Apologies/Dispensations: As received and recorded by the Secretary

Opening devotions were led by the Rev Irfan John and members of the Urdu-speaking Methodist communities in South Wales.

1. WELCOME

Rev Ian Waugh, Superintendent Minister of the Welshpool & Bro Hafren Circuit, welcomed Synod to the Circuit.

The Chair, Rev Dr Stephen Wigley, welcomed the following new ministers to Wales Synod:

Rev Philip Buckland (Cardiff) Rev Anne Ellis (Newport & Lower Wye)
Rev Robin Fox (Buckley & Deeside)
Rev Andrew Williams (Gwent Hills and Vales)
Rev Peter Taylor (Vale of Glamorgan) Deacon Samantha Taylor (Vale of Glamorgan)
Hugh-John Wilson (Pembrokeshire)

The Chair also welcomed those ministers who were already serving in Wales Synod but whose appointments had changed:

Rev Delyth Liddell (Cardiff, University Chaplain)
Rev Philip Poyner (Mid Glamorgan Mission)
Deacon Stephen Roe (Bangor & Holyhead / Cylchdaith Cymru / Chaplain to Bangor University)
Revd Andrew Walker (Swansea & Gower)
Rev Philip Buckland replied on behalf of those ministers so welcomed. .

2. ADMINISTRATION

(a) Rev Trevor Pratt announced notices of a general and administrative nature.

(b) Envelopes had been provided for the offering for the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association and members were encouraged to Gift Aid their contribution. The collection amounted to a total of £211.44 of which £91.50 would be subject to the benefit of Gift Aid.

(c) Synod **AGREED** the appointment of Gareth Edwards, Delyth Liddell, and Soba Sinnathamby as scrutineers for the meeting. It was noted that the Convenor of Scrutineers, Rev Roy Watson, was unavoidably absent.

(d) Members were requested to collect the Circuit bags before leaving. Much information had been received which needed circulating to Circuits including amendments to the Synod Handbook, post-Conference materials. Details of Advent posters and an accompanying book from Magnet Magazine were also available,

(e) Synod was informed of the availability of "The Crown and the Cross" a book by Rev Andrew Goodhead. The Chair recommended "A Guide to Balthasar's Trilogy" -available at a discount with the advertising leaflet at the meeting for £12.99.' The author is Rev Dr S D Wigley

(f) Correspondence - Synod **AGREED** to send letters of greeting to:
Rev Peter Noble, URC Moderator, following his recent illness

Rev Alan Cliff (Conwy & Prestatyn Circuit) *congratulating him on attaining a First Day Cover by the Bala Lake Railway of his alter ego "Jack The Station Cat" to mark the 10th anniversary of Jack's first appearance.*

Rev Ian Whyte and his wife Shirley (Buckley & Deeside Circuit) *on Ian's on-going illness*

Brian Ham, (Synod Treasurer) *on his recent illness*

Rev John Boakes (Swansea & Gower Circuit) *who was unwell.*

Rev Stephen Hill and his wife Kath *concerning her illness.(formerly Cardiff Circuit)*

Rev Dr Roger Peadar (Bangor & Holyhead Circuit) *for a speedy recovery following a heart attack*

Jean Kirkwood (Swansea & Gower Circuit) *who had been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday honours in June 2010, in recognition of her "voluntary service to vision impaired people in Swansea".*

Rev Felicity Jepson-Randall and her husband Chris (Llanelli & Carmarthen) *on his illness.*

Nina Ping (Action for Children) *on her marriage that very day.*

3. APPOINTMENTS TO SYNOD

Synod **AGREED** to the appointments of representatives and officers as set out in the Handbook with addition to the Ministries Panel of: Rev Chris Acher, Rev Brenda Leigh, Deacon Stephen Roe, Mr John Harbron, Mr Graham Kelly, Mr Roger Palmer.

4. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONFERENCE 2010

Representative requirements were: 4 lay people, 3 presbyters; and 1 deacon.

The correct number of people in each category had been nominated and Synod **AGREED** that they should all be appointed. Those elected are:

Mrs June Bennett (Cardiff)

Mr Graham Illingworth (Vale of Glamorgan)

Mr Derek Scanlon (Buckley & Deeside)

Mr Matthew Collins (Newport)

Rev Rosemarie Clarke (Buckley & Deeside)

Rev Cathy Gale (Gwent Hills & Vales)

Rev Peter Holwell (Cardiff)

Deacon Lorraine Brown.(Vale of Glamorgan)

The meeting was reminded that Mrs Norma Boocock was, for this year only, a Conference Elected representative.

5. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO YOUTH CONFERENCE

Three nominations had been received for the 2 Synod representative places: Emily Barry (Mid Glamorgan Mission), Matthew Collins (Newport) and Paul Parker (Bangor & Holyhead).

Synod **AGREED** that Emily Barry and Paul Parker would be District Representatives to the Youth Conference, that Matt Collins be fully funded and that other attendees would receive some financial assistance to enable them to attend.

Luke Curran suggested that the young people of the Synod should be involved in the voting of representatives to the Youth Conference. The Leadership Team would consider this and bring recommendations to the Policy Committee.

6. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 5 SEPTEMBER 2009

The minutes were **AGREED** and signed by the Chair. The Synod Secretary undertook to ensure that the minutes were available soon after the meeting of Synod in line with the decisions made in September 2009.

7. REPORT ON CONFERENCE 2010

Rev Trevor Pratt presented the Conference Report.

Memorials from Synod

The responses of the Connexion had been issued to the meeting previously. MC10/37, 9.2 point (c) raised some concerns. The Chair stated that there was the possibility of a visit to Wales from the new Safeguarding Officer and Graham Illingworth agreed to raise this point at the next meeting of the Methodist Council.

Justice for Palestine and Israel

There was some discussion on this sensitive, on-going issue. The directive from Conference that members be encouraged to develop a greater understanding of the issues was emphasised. Rev Barry Smith asked that people should look at the new website of Methodist Friends of Israel. The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme was commended to Synod.

Living Wage

This was now set at £7.14/hour minimum - Conference had agreed that all employees within the Methodist Church should be paid at this rate as a minimum. Exceptional exemptions could be considered by the Synod Policy Committee.

Personnel Files

These would be introduced using information, initially, that was already held and expanded gradually. Files for Deacons would start as a pilot scheme. The Chair noted comments from Rev Alan Jenkins concerning continuing, and confusing use of the term 'ministers', a confusion that Conference had sought to end in 2008.

Deferred Special Resolution under Standing Order 126(3) to (7)

The nomenclature of presbyters/deacons/ministers was subject to a directive from Conference 2010. A discussion paper had been distributed with the agenda. The order of finalising this legislation so that changes could be made to the Deed of Union was that Synod would pass information via Circuits to Church Councils who would express their approval / disapproval of the proposed changes by recorded vote. These votes would be reported to the Circuit Meeting who would also vote. The votes of the Church Councils and Circuit Meetings would be then reported for consideration by the meeting of Synod in September 2011. At that point, Synod would vote to express its approval / disagreement with the proposal. The votes at each point of the process would be reported in time Conference 2012.

Leading and Presiding: Developing the Presidency of the Conference

A brief summary of the distributed report was given by The Chair and several members commented on the changes and system generally. Synod then broke into small groups to discuss the issues. Rev Alan Jenkins proposed that the vote be "not put". This proposal was lost. Voting on the Resolutions was as follows:

Resolution 8/3:	For: 2	Against: 112	Abstentions: 2
Resolution 8/4:	For: 12	Against: 97	Abstentions: 7
Resolution 8/6:	For: 5	Against: 106	Abstentions: 5
Resolution 8/7:	For: 10	Against: 94	Abstentions: 12
Resolution 8/8:	For: 93	Against: 15	Abstentions: 8.

116 members were recorded as present and eligible to vote.

As a result of the discussions, Rev Alan Jenkins seconded by Rev Alf Williams, proposed the sending of a memorial to Conference. The wording was developed over lunch and as presented to Synod reads:

"The Wales Synod accepts the need to re-define the way we express leadership in the church and to the world. In the light of the overwhelming rejection by the Wales Synod of all but one of the proposals put to Synods by Conference with regard to the Presidency, Wales Synod wishes to state that this rejection does not imply acceptance or affirmation of the status quo, and asks Conference to re-examine the re-shaping of the Presidency to fit the 21st Century, and to come forward with further, and different, alternative models of Presidency."

Following discussion, the voting on the memorial proposed was:

For: 62 Against: 43 Abstentions: 7 Possible votes: 112

There was a proposition (made by Rev Alf Williams, seconded by Rev Alan Jenkins) that there be a second memorial to Conference. This memorial would have called for a one-person Presidency open to Presbyteral, Diaconal and Lay members of the Methodist Church and that where the President was not a presbyter automatic dispensation be granted for presidency at services of Holy Communion. It was clear that much discussion would be required to properly examine the substantial issues within this memorial and time for such discussion was not available, The Chair declined to accept the proposition.

8. REPORT FROM SYNOD POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr Graham Illingworth presented the previously distributed report which was **ACCEPTED** by Synod. He asked that representatives to Synod ensure that information was passed back to Circuits.

9. REPORT FROM Y CYNGOR

Mr Graham Illingworth again spoke to a distributed report which was **ACCEPTED** by Synod. Y Cyngor met three times a year, chaired by Rev Trevor Pratt who was now Y Llywydd (*President*) and with Rev Sue Lawler as an additional co-opted member. The Connexional representative on Y Cyngor would be Mark Wakelin.

10. RECOMMENDATION ON COMMISSION OF COVENANTED CHURCHES

The proposal that Wales Synod accepts the recommendation from Y Cyngor and the Synod Policy Committee that the Commission of Covenanted Churches continues for a period of five years from 2011 and that the situation be reviewed in 2016 was unanimously **ACCEPTED** by Synod. Y Cyngor, assisted by the ecumenical officers of Wales Synod and Synod Cymru, will draw up suggestions for the future agendas of Commission of Covenanted Churches.

11. REPORT FROM SYNOD ENABLER

Rev Irfan John gave a presentation of his work with asylum seekers, refugees and ethnic minority congregations which culminated in a brief BBC Wales News clip about his life and work since arriving in Wales.

12. BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

Michael Harvey gave a lively, down-to-earth presentation on how congregations in any church may be doubled in one day. Synod was both amused and challenged by the points made in the issues of just inviting a friend to worship.

13. NETWORK

Mrs Gillian Pengelly reported on the creation of the new women's movement from the coming together of Women's Network, and the British unit of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW). The new grouping will be known as "Methodist Women in Britain" and will undertake the functions of the British unit of WFMUCW as well as being under the aegis of, and accountable to, Conference. Because the new organisation will be a little different, training days will be available for treasurers and Gillian can provide further information. The administrator of Women's Network is now part-time, working from home, and her address was given on the post card distributed to the meeting. The Annual Conference would be held at Swanwick on 15-17 April 2011 and there would be a formal launch of "Methodist Women in Britain" at Conference 2011 in Southport.

14. ACTION FOR CHILDREN

In the absence of Nina Ping (South Wales Area Fundraiser) Rev Chris Pritchard reported on the celebrations planned to mark 100 years of Action for Children (NCH) in Wales. It was hoped that celebrations would be held across the Synod and there were information packs available to provide ideas. Chris also informed Synod that until Nina Ping's new address and phone number were available she should be contacted through the Wales Office in Cardiff.

15. DEVELOPMENTS IN WALES SYNOD

Conwy & Prestatyn Circuit

Rev Keith Tewksbury reported on the special service planned to celebrate the inauguration of the new Circuit. It would be held in Old Colwyn Methodist Church on the afternoon of Sunday, 5 September 2010.

Youth Participation Strategy

Luke Curran reminded Synod that they had agreed to the appointment of a young person for 15 hours per week as Youth Enabler. He was happy to report that the appointment process was in hand and it was hoped, subject to formalities being completed, that someone would commence in approximately two weeks' time. The name of the appointee would be announced as soon as was possible. [N.B. On 13th September the appointee was identified as being Ms Carrie-Anne Judge).

16. BIBLEFRESH INITIATIVE

2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible. Biblefresh is a project launched by the Evangelical Alliance and partners, of whom the Methodist Church is one. The celebration is being used as an opportunity to encourage Christians in Britain to read the Bible together, to encourage more Bible training, to support further translation throughout the world and to help people experience the Bible in new and creative ways.

Several ideas were reported including the Cardiff Passion Play and an Ecumenical Nativity Play. It was suggested that the whole Bible could be read across Synod and it was agreed that something media attention-catching was needed. The Chair asked that ideas be passed to the October Synod Policy Committee for consideration, and requested someone to act as link person across the Synod, liaising with Connexion and ensuring that dates/times/venues didn't clash where possible. [N.B. Since the meeting of Synod, Rev Rosemarie Clarke had offered to undertake this role.]

17. A WORLD CHURCH PERSPECTIVE

Rev Lin Healey and Mrs Gilliam Pengelly spoke to a distributed paper, recognising that we were all partners together in inter-dependence. "Giving thanks" had been the theme of the opening devotions by the ethnic community churches and this, together with joy, enthusiasm, trust and generosity was what was needed in the Synod World Church partnership.

After group discussion on the questions presented in the paper, Lin asked for any ideas which had come out of the discussion to be passed to her so that the work of the World Church Group might develop appropriately. A questionnaire would also be distributed to all churches with similar questions about the value/relevance of a Synod World Church Group. It was hoped the questionnaires would be back to Lin for collation in time for the Spring meeting of the Group.

18. THANKS

The Chair thanked all who had participated in Synod, especially Simon Curgenvan, Conference Manager of Hope Community Church who had provided so much help and IT expertise, also the ladies from Newtown Methodist Church who had staffed the kitchen throughout the day.

Synod closed with devotions led by Rev Lin Healey, Rev Cathy Gale and Rev Soba Sinnathamby using World Church material.