

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

Minutes of the meeting held at Newtown Methodist church
Saturday 15 June 2013

Present: Rev Rosemarie Clarke Chair
Martyn Boyce, Paul Donnison, David Easton, Richard Gillion, Chris Gray, Richard Hodgson, Graham Illingworth, Gwyneth Leigh, Andrew Mathieson, Judith Powell, Sandra Powell, Gordon Sollis, Roy Watson, Ian Waugh, John Wiseman
Ann Cashmore Minute Secretary

12/13 Apologies: John Atkinson, Peter Holwell, Alan Jenkins, Martin Lougher, Verity Phillips, Ian Walton, Stephen Wigley

13/13 Welcome

Rev Rosemarie Clarke welcomed members and led the meeting in the opening devotions

14/13 Minutes

These were agreed and signed by the Chair.

15/13 Matters Arising

07/13 Lay Stationing representative

SPC noted Tony Willey had died in February following a short illness. David Tilley, who had agreed to cover on a temporary basis for this year recently had major surgery and was recovering well. It is anticipated he will be able to continue his duties.

08/13ii Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network

Amy Adams would continue in the new model and Luke Curran will transfer from being employed by Y Cyngor. There was one part time bilingual vacancy, to be based in North Wales.

08/13iiib Mapping a Way Forward review meeting

Arrangements were in hand for a meeting on 26 October 2013 in Abergavenny for the re-organised circuits. Circuits had been contacted and questions as agreed at the last SPC circulated. Two representatives from each Circuit would be attending, one lay and one ordained. Rev Roger Bignell and Amy Adams would act as facilitators. Reports would be presented to the SPC next year and circuit representatives were being encouraged to consult locally so they would be able to present informed circuit views at the review day.

16/13 Implementing Synod Policy

(i) General

(a) Up-date on Synod expenditure

Income etc was on budget for half year. Safeguarding costs were higher than last year, but some of the costs would come out of next year's budget. Manse repairs were on-going.

(b) Dispensation to administer communion

With death of Rev. Bill Rees there was a need in the Bangor & Holyhead Circuit for a further dispensation. The meeting APPROVED an application for Mr Royce Warner

(c) Extension of Local Preacher studies

A situation of a Local Preacher not completing full training within the required time frame was presented with the request extra years be added to enable the necessary study to be completed. SPC AGREED that the Synod policy for seeking extension had not been fully followed and requested the Assistant Chair for the South East organise a group to assess the situation and report to the October SPC.

(d) Lay membership of Synod previously distributed paper
The list was amended for Ceredigion Circuit and Neath/PortTalbot Circuit. Presbyteral vacancies were included as "establishment". The allocation was for year commencing September 2014.

SPC discussed the definition of 'Lay Worker' and how this would be implemented in the Synod

SO570 outlines all Lay Workers are eligible to be members of Synod and SPC AGREED the following definition:

- Posts to be linked to pastoral, evangelistic, youth/children's work
- Circuit Administrator
- Both paid and unpaid roles
- Role to be agreed by Circuit Meeting
- Post must have contract if paid or a Voluntary Service Agreement if not.

The wording for such an agreement would be forwarded by Richard Sharples to Rosemarie.

(e) Safeguarding

Susan McIvor and Peter Ackerley tabled a document which outlined the forthcoming changes including the implementation of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Local officers were directed to ask to see the report because under the new system, if there were no problems they would not receive any correspondence following an application.

Susan's appointment was to 2014 and there could be a vacancy in the South. Funding would be needed to provide IT support for record keeping and data protection. This could have an effect on Assessments and the SLT would be looking at this. The Connexional Safeguarding Conference would be held in Cardiff in 2014.

(ii) Property Matters

Schedules A, C and D had been replaced with a new online property returns system which was promised for July. Schedule D would be completed automatically from information provided on electronic schedules A and C. The same log-on system would be used as that for the Consents procedure. The meeting asked Jack if he could ascertain whether the information would be available for historic researchers to access. At present Wales Synod did not exist on the web map.

17/13 SPC Business

(a) Trinity, Newport Road/Elms Road, Cardiff previously distributed paper
The meeting gave PERMISSION to cease worship.

(b) Splott, Cardiff

The notification from Splott that they would probably cease to meet in the near future was NOTED by the meeting. The letting had recently stopped due partly to business rate charges being enforced and other increasing problems. Jack would discuss with Judith and report back to SPC.

(c) Penparcau

David Easton reported that the church was unable to comply with a recent quinquennial inspection and they had agreed to sell and SPC was asked to agree to them ceasing to meet. The meeting AGREED.

(d) Cwm

Roy Watson reported that the congregation had not used the building for some time and had rented the local band room. The old church had been demolished and the final service of the Society would be held at the end of July. He sought permission for them to cease to meet as a Society. The meeting AGREED.

(e) Youth Work Action Group

Richard Sharples reported that Verity Phillips had retired from the group and Peter Taylor from Barry had joined.

A sleep-over was arranged in the South West for 13 July 2013.

The Youth Forum would again run in parallel at Synod and details had been circulated to Circuits. The event would include Bongo Clive.

3Generate would be held in Shropshire again this year.

ONE Programme continues with Carmarthen having a Connexionally funded place which had been filled by Katherine Freeman. Wrexham had a self-funding schools worker and Abby Watterson from Buckley & Deeside Circuit had been successfully appointed. Bangor & Holyhead had a continuing student worker post.

Richard requested a subsidy for all those young people attending 3Generate and Greenbelt. The Youth Worker Budget would be discussed with Jack, Richard and two youth representatives.

Youth Representatives to SPC would be voted for at the Youth Forum in September.

(f) Synod Children's Officer role previously distributed paper

All descriptions to be changed to Children's and Youth Officer. Travel costs would probably be provided by the Youth Work Action Group.

Item 2, point 2 SPC responsible for oversight of the budget.

Responsibility would be to the Chair or appropriate person appointed by the Chair.

The document was AGREED with the amendments.

(g) Methodist Heritage

Andrew Matthieson gave a brief report on relevant matters.

18/13 Report from Synod Enabler – Culturally Diverse Congregations - Wales

Rev Irfan John gave a presentation on the culturally diverse congregations within his remit and his work with them. He touched on Asylum seekers; the Urdu fellowship in Trinity Church, Cardiff; his advocacy role; the privilege of leading worship as an ordained minister. He also mentioned the social activities that were organised during the year and his involvement in helping people through the Home Office system.

The Chair thanked Irfan for his enthusiastic and committed work within the Synod.

19/13 Matters to and from related bodies

(i) Methodist Council previously distributed paper

GI spoke to the presented paper, indicating that much of what was discussed at April Council was in preparation for discussion at Conference 2013. Key items were the budget, the implementation of the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network and the paper on 'Larger than Circuit'

(ii) Y Cyngor

Y Cyngor would be collating the response to the questionnaire on "The Gathering". A conversation took place, with representatives sharing their approach to and progress with the consultation and response to the proposals for a Uniting Church in Wales within their Circuit. Representatives confirmed that a major item on 'The Gathering proposals' at the September Synod would be unnecessary.

Rev Jennie Hurd would be replacing Rev Patrick Slattery as Chair of Synod Cymru. Prayers for Jennie were requested and her welcome service would be held on Saturday 7 September 2013 at 2.30pm in Horeb chapel, Colwyn Bay.

Doug Swanney was the new Connexional representative and would attend the next meeting to be held in July.

Y Cyngor hoped that the WTN resources would be kept in Wales for future use in the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network.

20/13 Farewell to those leaving Wales Synod

David Easton, Alan Jenkins and John Wiseman were given SPC's good wishes for their new appointments. Verity Phillips was standing down from SPC and the meeting AGREED that a note of thanks be sent to her.

221/13 Next Meeting

Saturday 12 October 2013

at Newtown Methodist Church commencing at 10.30am.