

Policy on Communication for the Wales Synod (February 2009)

1) As part of Our Calling, the Methodist Church affirmed as its central priority; “to proclaim and affirm its conviction of God’s love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God’s presence and action in the world and in the Church.”

2) In addition the Synod Policy statement committed the Wales Synod to “encourage and enable the development of Circuits, local Churches and individuals to engage more effectively in worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism”.

3) In light of these statements we recognise that communication is an important part of the Synod’s role and commit ourselves to communicate as effectively as possible.

4) We recognise there are different groups with whom we communicate, which include:

- Synod Officers and members about meetings, agendas and minutes
- Superintendents and ministers about meetings, policies and decisions
- Members of the Methodist Church about Synod developments and news
- Synod Cymru and Y Cyngor about developments in Wales
- wider Methodist Connexion about Connexional policy and developments
- the wider public about the Methodist Church & general requests

5) We recognise there are a variety of forms of communication available to us, which include:

- Printed media (reports, minutes, handbooks and letters)
- Electronic media (email and attachments)
- Web-site (at www.methodistwales.org.uk)
- Telephone (through the Synod Office)
- Meetings (of Synod, SPC, SLT and other committees)

6) Our aim is to communicate as efficiently and economically as possible; to that end we will endeavour to do as much as possible using electronic media (emails and attachments.) However, we recognise that not everyone has access to electronic media and so we will also use printed media for those who request it and also for the sessions of Synod itself.

7) We will produce an annual Handbook and book of Reports in hard copy which will be available to all members of Synod and ecumenical partners. The Handbook will contain the Synod Diary for the year. However since it also contains contact details for a range of people across the Synod, it will not be made generally available or sent to commercial or other interested parties.

8) We will endeavour to provide an agenda and calling papers for sessions of Synod and meetings of the SPC two weeks before the meeting and likewise to circulate minutes within two weeks of the meeting which has taken place. Copies of the agenda and minutes will be available to all members of the meeting and also to Circuits through circuit superintendents.

9) We will through the Synod Office offer a contact point for telephone queries about the life of the Synod, the diary and meetings of the Synod Chair and queries about the wider Methodist Church.

10) We will through the Synod Chair send occasional pastoral letters giving an overview of developments across the Synod and raising awareness of events across the Connexion.

11) We will through the Synod website seek to share news of events in local churches and circuits, to inform people of Synod structures and officers, to have available details of current Synod policies and to enable enquirers also to contact the main Methodist Church website. As part of this policy we will also urge those churches and circuits to whom we have given grant support to provide for us publicity material to use on the Synod web-site.

12) We will review this policy annually in light of further developments in the life of the Synod.