

The Methodist Church in Wales: Wales Synod

Minutes of Synod Policy Committee meeting in Newtown Methodist Church on 9th February 2019

Present: Rev Dr Stephen Wigley (Chair), Martyn Boyce, Phil Challis, Rosemarie Clarke, Linda Davies, Rosemary Davies, Paul Donnison, Gordon Greswell, Sandra Hanbury, Roger Hides, Richard Hodgson, Graham Illingworth, Barry Jordan, Nick Oborski, Judith Powell, Pat Preston, Flis Randall, Bob Thomas, Roy Watson

Apologies: Martin Lougher, Leslie Noon, Phil Poole, Margaret Webber

In Attendance: Bob Gilston (Property Officer)

1/19 Opening devotions were led by the Chair with a reading from Luke 5: 1-11, comment linking the reading to vocation and prayer

2/19 Welcome The Chair welcomed new member of the committee, Gordon Gresswell

3/19 Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

4/19 Matters Arising and Any Other Business No matters arising not covered by the agenda were identified but three items were added to the agenda in relation to Albert Rd, Penarth, the extension of the period on trial for three Local Preachers and the employment of the Chair's PA.

5/19 Invitation of Synod Chair Mr Graham Illingworth took the Chair to deal with this item of business and Revd Dr Stephen Wigley left the room. The recommendation of the Nomination Committee, together with a reasoned statement had been previously circulated to members of the meeting in accordance with the notice required. No objections had been received. The committee voted unanimously (17/17) to accept the recommendation.

6/19 Establishing Synod Policy

i) Update on Synod Cymru and Wales Synod discussions. The report of the Steering Group which had been previously circulated was received. After some discussion the meeting paused to prayer for colleagues in Synod Cymru.

ii) Provisional plans for the Synod on 30th March, which would not now be held jointly with Synod Cymru were shared. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of using a smaller venue in Newtown.

7/19 Implementing Synod policy

i) General

- a) **The appointment** of Mrs Heather Cox as Accounts Examiner was agreed.
- b) **The full Synod Accounts** were presented to the meeting, and agreed with one minor amendment to the wording in note 8.
- c) **The Synod budget** for 2019/0 was presented and agreed. The assessment allocation to circuits was agreed. Thanks were expressed to Mr Richard Hodgson, Treasurer, for his work on these matters.

Notice was given that it is anticipated that the name of someone to succeed Mr Hodgson as Treasurer would be brought to the June meeting

- d) **Connexional Grants to affirm our calling.** One potential project was identified with its focus on Plas Dwr housing development in Cardiff. The meeting agreed that the Chair explore further with the Cardiff Circuit the possibilities for shaping an application.

ii) Matters relating to Property –

- a) **Update on Aberfan** No further development has taken place on the sale of the building to the Scouts, who await news of grant applications.
- b) **Albert Road, Penarth** Details of a collapsed ceiling and the proposed use of local church funds was shared. Project to be reviewed by Synod Schemes and Grants Committee in accordance with Synod's usual practice.

iii) Trust 14508 Advisory Committee – no report

- iv) **Manses Committee** Report previously circulated was received. It was agreed that the schedule of inspections needed to be reviewed in the light of the anticipated movement of ministers between stations.

8/19 SPC Business

- a) **Call to Prayer** – A paper detailing the circuit taking the lead in this initiative each month between March 2019 and May 2020 was received. Each Circuit was asked to notify Rev Paul Donnison of their Circuit Champion for this endeavour.
- b) **Sabbatical proposals** from Revs Siperire Mugadzaweta and Catherine Lewis were approved.
- c) **Requests to cease worship:** The meeting received and approved requests to cease worship at Bistre and Bryn Churches in the Buckley and Deeside Circuit. In addition a request to cease worship at Tregaron in the Ceredigion Circuit, subject to the Circuit Meeting giving approval at their meeting on 14th March, was approved. The Chair led the meeting in prayer

- d) **Lay membership of Synod 2019/20.** A paper detailing the proposed number of lay representatives from each circuit (previously circulated) was approved.
- e) **Invitation of HW Chaplain Cardiff** The process was agreed for the review of this invitation. An invitation Committee consisting of the Chair, Mr Roger Palmer and Cardiff Circuit Steward, Marie Edwards was appointed to manage the process and bring a recommendation to the next meeting.
- f) **Local Preacher.** Applications to extend the time 'On trial' beyond 5 years were given for three local preachers in the Buckley and Deeside Circuit: Sylvia Davies to September 2020, Patricia Earlam to September 2019 and Michele Jones to September 2019, in line with the recommendation of the group appointed to consider the matter.

9/19 Chairs Business

- i) **Stationing Update** Of the 6 appointments in the Wales Synod in stationing for 2019, only one remained unfilled being a half time appointment in Neath Port Talbot. The Chair reminded the meeting that there were no candidates for ordained ministry in the Wales Synod this year and encouraged the enabling of vocational exploration.
- ii) **Pastoral matters** Appreciation was expressed for the Chair's PA, Judy Lister who had died just before Christmas alongside concern for her family and for Rev Irfan John who was recovering well from recent surgery.

10/19 Matters to and from related bodies

i) **Methodist Council/Conference**

Margaret Webber had been unable to attend the last meeting of the Methodist Council due to illness and so there was no report, but the Chair advised that details of what had transpired at the meeting were available on the Methodist website.

ii) **Matter to/from Connexion**

The EDI Symposium at the beginning of March will focus on racial justice. The Wales Synod will be represented by the Chair, Gauri Taylor-Nayah, and Professor Tim Phillips.

iii) **Synod** – nothing to report

iv) **Synod Leadership Team**- nothing to report

v) **Y Cyngor** – The meeting was informed that discussions are taking place regarding a joint visit of the President and Vice President of Conference in February 2020.

11/19 Ecumenical Matters – A change of personnel at Christian Aid was reported.

12/19 Ministry Matters – nothing to report

13/19 Date of next meeting: 15th June 2019 at Newtown Methodist Church at 10.30am