**The Methodist Church in Wales: Wales Synod**

**Minutes of Synod Policy Committee meeting in Newtown Methodist Church on 15th June 2019**

Present: Rev Dr Stephen Wigley (Chair),Carol Challis, Rosemarie Clarke, Linda Davies, Rosemary Davies, Paul Donnison, Roger Hides, Richard Hodgson, Graham Illingworth, Barry Jordan, Leslie Noon, Nick Oborski, Pat Preston, Bob Thomas, Roy Watson, Margaret Webber, and substitutes: Wendy Barwise for Judith Powell, David Murfin for Flis Randall

Apologies: Martin Boyce, Sandra Hanbury, Martin Lougher, Phil Poole, Judith Powell, Flis Randall,

**14/19 Opening devotions** were led by the Chair.

**15/19 Welcome** The Chair welcomed Wendy Barwise and David Murfin, attending as substitutes for members of the committee.

**16/19 Greetings** It was agreed that a letter of greetings be sent to Janice Ross **Action: SDW**

**17/19 Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

**18/19 Matters Arising and Any Other Business** A **c**andidate to undertake the role of Synod Treasurer had not been identified, although some interest had been shown. Synod Leadership Team is looking to reconfigure the role to enable someone to take it on a different basis. An individual had agreed in principle to become Secretary of the Synod Schemes and Grants Committee.

**19/19 Establishing Synod Policy**

i) Further to Synod Cymru and Wales Synod discussions: Synod Cymru are undertaking a review of each Ardal (Area), church and ministerial provision in Synod Cymru in order to produce a circuit/synod mission plan. In the light of that information a plan and budget for ministry will be brought to their Spring Synod 2020.

**20/19 Implementing Synod policy**

1. **Review of Synod Safeguarding Policy** The Chair explained the restructuring of safeguarding meetings in the Synod and the oversight of casework now provided by a connexional appointee.

The Synod Safeguarding policy was agreed.

Members were reminded that they needed to undertake safeguarding training in the form of both the foundation module and the advanced module, and were asked to provide the dates of their training to the Synod Secretary. **Action: All members**

**ii) Matters relating to Property** –

a) **Update on Aberfan** An update was given in the progress made in selling Aberfan Methodist Church centre to the Local Scouts Association. No date has yet been determined for the closure of the church. Approval in principle was given for the discontinuance of worship at a date to be decided.

**iii) Trust 14508 Advisory Committee** – no report

**iv)** **Manses Committee** A schedule of planned inspections was tabled – attached to minutes. Members were reminded that the Synod Charitable Trust has the capacity to give grants for work on manses. (contact David Tilley).

Thanks were expressed to Mary Williams for her work in arranging manse inspections.

**21/19 SPC Business**

1. **Call to Prayer –** Paul Donnison gave a report on progress to date, and the passing on of the baton between circuits, in the form of a scrapbook of events that had taken place. Circuit Prayer Champions are encouraged to photograph the pages they have completed and send to Wendy Barwise and Paul for inclusion on the Synod website and facebook page. Bookmarks and posters were distributed.
2. **Sabbatical proposals** from Revs Carol Challis, Phil Challis, Robin Fox and Alf Williams were approved. A sabbatical proposal from Rev Les Jones was anticipated and it was agreed to circulate this once it was received for consideration and approval by e-mail communication. Reports of sabbaticals from Revs Teddy Kalongo and Keith Tewkesbury attached to the minutes.

It was agreed that the Sabbaticals Secretary be asked to provide a more detailed report annually, including details of sabbaticals due and any overdue.  **Action: SDW**

1. **Invitation of HW Chaplain Cardiff** The meeting agreed unanimously to invite Rev Delyth Liddell to serve for a further five years commencing 1st September 2020.

Thanks were expressed to those involved in the process.

1. **Bridgend United Area – Baptist Pension Deficit**

The Baptist church deal with any shortfalls in their pension fund by calling on the churches where the minister concerned has served to make up the deficit. As a result the Bridgend United Area (BUA) are facing a liability in the region of £26,000. After an extended discussion the committee endorsed an outline approach offered by the Chair which included conversations with the other denominations involved, and investigation of the opportunities for supporting ministry in BUA which meeting this liability could compromise.

Noting the different treatment of pension fund deficits by the denominations, concern was expressed about other ecumenical situations (including historical ones) which might give rise to similar liabilities. Nick Oborski undertook to investigate the arrangements operated by the Presbyterian Church. **Action: N Osborne**

1. **Associate Presbyters** Application for Rev William Habib Steele (Bridgend) was not to be progressed

Application for Rev Andrew Pearce (Church in Wales) in Swansea and Gower Circuit was approved.

1. **Synod diary dates** paper tabled with clarification that Y Cyngor would meet on 21st November and not 14th - attached to minutes.
2. **SO 438 Reductions in the number of ministers** were agreed as follows:

Buckley and Deeside 3 to 2 from 2020

Conwy & Prestatyn 4 to 3 from 2019

Gwent Hills and Vales 6 to 5 from 2019

Swansea and Gower 4 to 3 from 2020

Vale of Glamorgan 31/2 to 3 from 2020

1. **Local Preacher.** Applications to extend the time ‘On trial’ beyond 5 years was approved for Janice Ross, Gwent Hills and Vales.

**22/19 Chairs Business**

1. **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.

Stationing briefings have taken place in preparation for appointments from 2020. Critical appointments will be identified according to criteria to be provided by Connexion, which will be ‘matched’ first. As yet it is unclear how many appointments are likely to be in stationing in 2020.

1. **Pastoral matters** The Chair reported the death of Rev Dan Parry (Wrexham) and invited the committee to remember those working in the Conference Office. As Roy Watson sits down following 50 years in the active ministry, he was thanked for his twenty-three years service on this committee and for his commitment and colleagueship during that time.

**23/19 Matters to and from related bodies**

1. **Methodist Council/Conference**
2. **Matter to/from Connexion**
3. **Synod** – nothing to report
4. **Synod Leadership Team-** nothing to report
5. **Y Cyngor –** A joint visit of the President and Vice President of Conference will take place 7th-10th February 2020.

**24/19 Ecumenical Matters**

**25/19 Ministry Matters –** nothing to report

**26/19 Date of next meeting:** 12thOctober 2019, 10.30am at Newtown Methodist Church