**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),Phil Challis, Rosemarie Clarke, Linda Davies, Rosemary Davies, Roger Hides, Richard Hodgson, Graham Illingworth, Barry Jordan, Leslie Noon, Nick Oborski, Gordon Greswell, Bob Thomas, Margaret Webber, and substitutes: Alf Williams for Paul Donnison, Janet Hughes for Pat Preston

Apologies: Martin Boyce, Sandra Hanbury, Martin Lougher, Phil Poole, Judith Powell, Flis Randall, Paul Donnison, Pat Preston

**27/19 Opening devotions** were led by the Chair.

**28/19 Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chair. with one correction at 21/19(d) action point replacing Osborne with Oborski.

**29/19 Matters Arising** 21/19(d) The churches of the Synod will not incur liability for shortfalls in the Presbyterian Pension Fund in respect of Presbyterian ministers who have worked in the Synod’s churches.

**30/19 Implementing Synod policy**

1. **The Financial Accounts** for the year ended 31st August 2019 were presented to and accepted by the committee. The Reserves Policies for Synod Funds were agreed. Thanks were expressed to Mr Richard Hodgson, Synod Treasurer, for his informative and accessible presentation of the financial information.

The report of the **Synod Advance Fund** for the year ended 31st August 2019was received by the committee. The committee asked for a letter of greeting to be sent to Mr Jack Healey as he retires as Synod Schemes and Grants Officer. **Action: Graham Illingworth**

**Trust 14508** supports the work of Higher Education Chaplaincy in Cardiff and the Synod Enabler (Culturally Diverse Congregations)**,** The financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2019 were presented to and accepted by the committee. The reserves policy was agreed by the committee.

**ii)** **Matters relating to Property** –

a) **Update on Zion Methodist Church, Aberfan** An update was given in the progress made in selling Aberfan Methodist Church centre to the Local Scouts Association which is taking time to come to a conclusion. It had been necessary to reduce the price after a survey. The Aberfan Memorial Fund will be transferred by a block grant to the Scouts within the terms of the Trust thus satisfying the requirements of the Charity Commission. Final Service 9th November 2019 at 2.30pm.

**31/19 SPC Business**

1. A **Sabbatical proposal** from Rev Lorette Hinson were approved. Reports of sabbaticals from Revs Phillip Poole, Siperire Mugadzaweta, Sue Lawler, Flis Randall and Deacon Lisa Rathbone were received.
2. **University of South Wales Chaplaincy**

The committee approved the Synod’s involvement in a CIO which included a financial commitment at a level not less than the current level (£4,000pa). The Synod would be represented by the Superintendent minister of Mid Glamorgan Mission Circuit.

1. **Permission to cease to meet was granted to:**

Mount Zion Methodist Church, Fleur de Lis (MGM) final service 26th July 2020

Wesley Methodist Church, Dowlais (MGM) final service end November 2019

Albert Road Methodist Church (Vale of Glamorgan) final service July/Aug 2020 tba

And in principal Christchurch LEP, Fairwater, Cardiff with a final service at the end of the year, subject to a future meeting with the URC.

1. **Local Preacher.** Applications to extend the time ‘On trial’ beyond 5 years were approved for Sue Raad (Swansea and Gower) from December 2019 to March 2021 for pastoral reasons, and in the Vale of Glamorgan for Cathie Steele and Nona Hexter, both with significant commitments and for whom submissions went astray for 6 months to March 2021. The last date for submissions on the Faith and Worship course is March 2021

**32/19 Chairs Business**

1. **Stationing Update** 3 appointments in the Wales Synod in stationing for 2020, the Welshpool & Bro Hafren superintendency and Presbyteral appointments in Buckley & Deeside and Newport & Lower Wye and 5 colleagues in stationing. Presbyter shortfall of approx. 20 but it is anticipated that a significant number of ministers from other Conferences may be available.
2. **Pastoral matters** The Chair reported the death of Rev Laurie Smith (NLW) and Margaret Evans (Circuit Steward MGM), Roger Palmer to step down as Lay Stationing Representative at the end of the year, and Rev Donald Wright was very poorly.

**33/19 Matters to and from related bodies**

1. **Methodist Council/Conference**

Margaret Webber shared something of the agenda for the forthcoming Methodist Council including EDI concerns in stationing and the proposal to review the number of Districts.

1. **Matter to/from Connexion**
2. **Synod** – nothing to report
3. **Synod Leadership Team-** Revised arrangements regarding bookkeeping and the role of Treasurer were proposed. The committee enthusiastically approved the extension of the responsibilities of the Synod Administrator to include the bookkeeping element of the role, with Richard Hodgson continuing in the role of Treasurer for the time being.
4. **Y Cyngor –** Detailed plans for the visit of the President and Vice President of Conference on 7th-10th February 2020 will be formulated at the next meeting of Y Cyngor.

**34/19 Ecumenical Matters**

New Bishop of Monmouth, the Venerable Cherry Vann, has been appointed. SPC was pleased to hear that Rev. Roy Watson was willing to continue serving on the Wales Committee of Christian Aid notwithstanding his recent retirement.

**35/19 Ministry Matters –** An overnight meeting between Superintendents and SLT will take place at the Commodore Hotel, Llandrindod Wells on 13th and 14th November.

**66/19 Date of next meeting:** 15thFebruary 2020, 10.30am at Newtown Methodist Church