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

**Minutes of Synod Policy Committee meeting held via Zoom on 17th October 2020**

**Present:** Revd Dr Stephen Wigley (Chair), Kofi Amissah, Stephen Boxall, Martin Boyce, Phil Challis, Rosemarie Clarke, Linda Davies, Rosemary Davies, Paul Donnison, Jacquie Evans, Gordon Gresswell, Richard Hodgson, Graham Illingworth, Barry Jordan, Phil Poole, Marty Presdee, Leslie Noon,Pat Preston, Flis Randall, Janet Rees, Margaret Webber.

**Apologies:** Martin Lougher, Sandra Hanbury

New members of the meeting were especially welcomed by the Chair.

**20/20 Opening devotions** were led by the Chair.

**21/20 Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2020 were agreed.

**22/20 Matters Arising**

**30/19 Aberfan,** matters were completed on 7th July 2020.

**23/20 Implementing Synod policy**

1. **General: Finances**

The accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020 were presented to the meeting. The Reserves policy was agreed. Trust 14508 accounts were received and the Reserves policy agreed. Thanks were expressed to the Treasurer, Mr Richard Hodgson. The meeting was reminded that the search continues for Richard’s successor.

Financial Assistance to Circuits: five circuits have continued to pay their Synod Assessment and there is therefore some money for redistribution to circuits who are particularly struggling financially at this time.

1. Manses Report (tabled) was received.

The meeting gave its support to the Ceredigion Circuit to purchase 1 Bryn Ardwyn, Aberystwyth in accordance with SO: 803(1) following discussion of the ground floor lay-out and the shortage of suitable housing.

**24/20 SPC Business**

1. **Sabbatical proposals** from Revds John Hughes, Delyth Liddell, Paul Martin, Philip Osborne, Janet Park, Rachel Wheeler, Dr Stephen Wigley and Deacon Jonathan Miller were approved. **Sabbaticals reports** from Revds Les Jones, Catherine Lewis, and Alf Williams were received. Information was received from Glenda Kelly, Sabbaticals Officer, regarding claims for sabbatical expenses during this time of Covid restrictions was noted (tabled).
2. Paul Donnison recalled the *Call to Prayer* initiative, and commended the weekly on-line prayer meeting organised by Connexion as part of the Methodist Year of Prayer.
3. An **Application for Associate Presbyter** was approved for Revd Betty McNiven (Swansea and Gower)
4. An **application for an extension to Local Preacher** Studies was approved for Sylvia Davies (Buckley and Deeside).
5. **The closure of churches** at Llawr y Glyn (Welshpool and Bro Hafren), Tonypandy (MGM) and Victoria Rd, Llanelli (SWW) and the disposal of the premises was agreed. The meeting paused in prayer for the members of those societies.

**25/20 Chair’s Business**

1. **Stationing Update** Shortlisting arrangements are in hand for the six appointments (including 4 superintendencies), and four ministers in Wales Synod who are involved in stationing this year. Approximate numbers in stationing are: 101 presbyter vacancies and 86 presbyters; 7 diaconal appointments and 6 deacons, not including available probationers. Of these 39 have been denoted critical appointments.
2. **Pastoral matters** The meeting noted the recent deaths of Revd Dr Wesley Parfitt (GHV) and Revd Peter Rodgers (Bangor and Holyhead). Consideration was expressed for those receiving hospital treatment and those affected by mental health issues at this time.

**26/20 Matters to and from related bodies**

1. **Methodist Council/Conference**

Margaret Webber presented a report re the business discussed at the ‘Council October 2020 was (tabled).

Conversations with Synod Cymru:

Synod Cymru will vote on two options for its future work on 7th November. Three resolutions were agreed at the Methodist Council (October 2020) requesting Wales Synod and Synod Cymru to report to Methodist Council in October 2021 with possible new arrangements for the form in which the work of Synod Cymru might continue and proposals for the continuance of Welsh language work for implementation 2022-24.

The Chair closed the meeting in prayer, remembering in particular colleagues in Synod Cymru as they prepare for their meeting on 7th November, and the Grace in Welsh.

**27/20 Date of next meeting:** 13th February 2021, 9.00am via Zoom