**The Methodist Church in Wales: Wales Synod Minutes of Synod Policy Committee meeting held via Zoom on 13th February 2021**

**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, Chris Randall, Janet Rees, Margaret Webber.

**Apologies:** Martin Lougher, Sandra Hanbury

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Chris Randall as Treasurer designate.

**01/21 Opening devotions** were led by the Chair.

**02/21 Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2020 were agreed.

**03/21 Establishing Synod Policy** The Synod safeguarding policy was reviewed and agreed

**04/21 Implementing Synod policy**

**i) General**

**a) Finance** The statutory accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020 had been prepared but were still being independently examined. It was agreed that once that examination was complete they would be circulated electronically for the approval of members of the meeting.

Mr Richard Hodgson presented the budget for the year ended 31st August 2022 (previously circulated) which was agreed by the meeting. The allocation of assessment for the 2021/22 (previously circulated) between circuits was agreed.

Thanks were expressed to the Treasurer, Mr Richard Hodgson.

**b) Arrangements for Spring Synods**

It was confirmed that both Presbyteral and Representative Synods in Spring 2021 would be conducted virtually via Zoom.

It was agreed that two meetings would be arranged in the week before Representative Synod to re-engage with the Conference report, *God in Love Unites Us,* in preparation for Synod.

**c) Conversations with Synod Cymru** There is recognition connexionally that Synod Cymru is not sustainable in its present form. The meeting heard that it was hoped that a simple outline proposal and principles for working as one Synod might be brought to the Spring Synod on 24th April 2021.

**05/21 SPC Business**

**i) A Sabbatical proposal** from Revd Richard Parkes was presented and agreed.

Amendments to the agreed dates for the sabbaticals of Revd Dr Stephen Wigley and Deacon Jonathan Miller were approved.

**ii)** A report was received from **Momentwm** (previously circulated ) was received.

**iii)** An further **Application for a Lay Authorisation to Preside at the Lord’s Supper** was approved for John Harbon (Welshpool & Bro Hafren)

**iv)** The **appointments** of Chris Randallas Synod Treasurer designate and Dr Alun Hughes as Lay Stationing Representative designate were agreed.

**v**) The meeting was informed that Rhosddu (Wrexham) was becoming a class of Wrexham Methodist Church

**vi)** The allocation of circuit **lay representatives to Synod** for 2021/22 according to the agreed formula was accepted:

Bangor and Holyhead 2

Bridgend 3

Buckley and Deeside 4

Cardiff 8

Ceredigion 2

Conwy & Prestatyn 4

Gwent Hills and Vales 7

MGM 3

Neath Port Talbot 3

Newport and Lower Wye 7

South West Wales 5

Swansea & Gower 4

Welshpool & Bro Hafren 2

Wrexham 4

Vale of Glamorgan 4

**06/21 Chair’s Business**

**a) Stationing Update.** The meeting was informed that five of the six appointments in stationing this year were agreed by the end of stationing matching three, currently leaving the superintendency of South West Wales to be filled from September 2021.

**b) Pastoral matters** The meeting noted the recent death of Revd Alan Cliff, and the sadness that we have not been able to mark his death and those of others who have died during the pandemic as we would have wished. The meeting shared a moment of quiet and prayer at this point.

**07/21 Matters to and from related bodies**

**a) Methodist Council/Conference**

Margaret Webber presented a report re the business discussed at the ‘Council January 2021 was (tabled).

**b)** The meeting noted the election of Daud Irfan (Cardiff) as **Youth President** for 2021/22, and that of Rachel Barwise as **Youth Representative to 2021 Conference**

**c) Zoom licences:** Information was shared regarding a saving on Zoom licences which would be dependent on a take up equivalent to the number of licences in place across circuits. This was welcomed by the meeting.

**d)** The meeting agreed that the Synod become a partner organisation to *Climate.Cymru* .

The Chair closed the meeting in prayer

**08/21** Date of next meeting: 19th June 2021, 9.00am via Zoom