**The Methodist Church in Wales: Wales Synod Minutes of Synod Policy Committee meeting held via Zoom on 19th June 2021**

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

**Apologies:** Phil Poole

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**09/21 Opening devotions** were led by the Chair.

**10/21 Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2021 were agreed.

**11/21 Implementing Synod policy**

**i) General**

**a) Trustees Annual Report** The Trustees annual report and statutory accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020 having been circulated to members of the meeting had been duly filed with the Charity Commission.

**b) Finance update –general** Updating on the current financial situation Richard Hodgson, Synod Treasurer, reminded the meeting that Circuits had been invited not to submit the Synod Assessment to ease the financial challenges in circuits. Some circuits had elected to continue to pay the assessment and those amounts had been redistributed to circuits who are in particular need. Reviewing the 2020/21 Synod budget it was concluded that the anticipated underspend of travelling costs may equate to the shortfall in the receipt of Synod Assessment.

The Connexional assessment originally budgeted for 2021/22 has been reduced by 2.7%, which will be passed on to the circuits.

Thanks were expressed to the Synod Treasurer, Mr Richard Hodgson, as he retires after ten years of service in the post.

**b) Feedback from Spring Synod**

Appreciation of the lack of need to travel was expressed alongside regret about the inability to meet and speak with others. The format didn’t seem to restrict debate, and it appeared that number were similar to recent meetings in Newtown but possibly with some different people present. It was suggested that some thought be given to providing local hubs so that those without the necessary equipment need not be disenfranchised. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the Learning Network in hosting the Synod and the meetings associated with it.

**c) Conversations with Synod Cymru** The April Synod agreed an outline proposal with five principles for Cymru Circuit to become a circuit within a new Wales Synod. Further work is taking place to prepare more detailed proposals which will be presented to the September Synod. Synod will be asked to appoint an implementation group to take the work forward in 2021/22. Work on mission planning is taking place alongside the process to enable the Synod to take advantage of new funding streams.

ii) Matters relating to Property

The Synod Schemes and Grants Committee is having a special meeting to consider grant applications to the new funding streams (New places for New people and Church at the Margins). Superintendents who are interested in these funding streams for planned projects within their circuits are invited to contact the Chair.

Recommendation was given for the forthcoming TMCP Property Roadshow was given (14th July 10am-1pm)

iii) Manses Committee

Dates for inspection of manses were received (previously circulated). Members were reminded that those responsible for manses in their circuit should be apprised of that information.

**12/21 SPC Business**

i) **A Sabbatical proposal** from Revd Judith Holliman was received and agreed.

ii) A report was received from **Momentwm** (previously circulated). Links to ‘tune ins’ as follows: [www.facebook.com/m omentwmcymru](http://www.facebook.com/m%20%20omentwmcymru) twitter@momentwmcymru

instagram: momentwmcymru

iii) An **application for a Lay Authorisation to Preside at the Lord’s Supper** was approved for John Birch (South West Wales).

iv) **Nicholas St Church, Pontypool (Gwent Hills and Vales)** A request to cease public worship in their current building but continue as a ‘church without walls’ was received and agreed.

v) A request to cease to worship at **Newbridge Church (Gwent Hills and Vales)** was received and agreed. The circuit/church wish to explore possibilities for developing affordable housing.

vi) A request to cease worship at **Emaus Methodist Church, Flint, (Buckley and Deeside**) was received and agreed.

The meeting paused to pray for the communities of the above three churches; their life, worship and fellowship over previous years and their future.

vii) The meeting was encouraged by a report on work at **St Clears,** South West Wales(previously circulated) and a verbal report of Forest Church beginning at **Ty Sign.** Link for the church without walls: [www.facebook.com/EglwysHebfuriau](http://www.facebook.com/EglwysHebfuriau)

viii) Annual **safeguarding report** (previously circulated) was received

ix) Synod **invitation committee for Synod Enabler** was appointed as follows: The Chair, Lay Stationing Representative and a circuit steward from the Cardiff Circuit.

x) **Extension of Local Preacher Training** for Sue Mansell. A report was received and the committee unanimously approved an extension of twelve months. Sue was interviewed about responding to God’s call as someone with additional needs – <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/local-preachers-and-worship-leaders/worship-leading-preaching/wlp-additional-needs/sues-story/>

**13/21 Chair’s Business**

a) Revd Dr Robert Beamish (local Baptist minister) has been appointed chaplain at **Rydal Penrhos School**. Approval was given for an application for him to become an Authorised Presbyter.

**a) Stationing Update.** The meeting was informed that it is likely that the Synod will be seeking to make 9 appointments in stationing for 2022, of which 5 will be superintendencies. The superintendency of South West Wales Circuit for 2021/22 remains unfilled from this year’s stationing round; the Chair will be titular Superintendent with some support from supernumerary ministers from September 2021.

**b) Pastoral matters** The meeting recognised that it has been a challenging year for many individuals and churches. Revd Hee Gon Moon (South West Wales) has sadly had to request retirement due to ill health. The meeting paused to offer prayer for all feeling challenged at this time.

**14/21 Matters to and from related bodies**

**a) Methodist Council/Conference**

A Report (previously circulated) from Methodist Council meeting 20-22 March 2021 was received.

Methodist Retention schedule was commended: [www.methodist.org.uk/media/21513/retention-schedules-12-april-2021-v4.pdf](http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/21513/retention-schedules-12-april-2021-v4.pdf)

**b) Methodist Conference 2021.**

The meeting heard that the Methodist Conference had had to reduce the numbers present in Birmingham and change some ordination venues to take account of ongoing Covid restrictions and the rise of the delta variant. The Conference Business Committee would be reviewing the amount and nature of business that could be considered in the light of the new arrangements. The meeting was encouraged to pray for all involved.

Farewells were said to those stepping down from the committee

The Grace was shared at the close of the meeting.

**15/21** Date of next meeting: 16th October 2021, 9.00am via Zoom