Wales Synod Policy on HE Chaplaincy – (reviewed November 2021)

Preamble:

The growth of HE provision in Wales, the changing profile of the student body and the changed perception of chaplaincy both within HE institutions and within the church has highlighted the need for a Synod policy to provide a framework for future action.

Aims:

The Synod will   
• Work wherever possible with our covenant partners so that resources are best used.   
• Try to ensure that every HE institution has a named chaplain attached to it.   
• Through chaplaincy seek to provide a Christian witness within the HE community.   
• Through chaplaincy seek to help, support and encourage all students (and, where appropriate, staff) in their spiritual life.

Objectives:

• To work with HE institutions to ensure a commitment to chaplaincy and the best possible delivery of the above aims.   
• To ensure adequate and secure funding for each post in partnership with HE institutions and other churches and where appropriate to use Synod Advance Fund grants in support of these aims.   
• To seek equal provision for all institutions (with the exception of Cardiff see below)   
• In the case of Cardiff University, recognising the size and strategic importance of this institution and with additional grant support from Trust 14508, provide a full time chaplain who can, in addition, act as a support and co-ordinator for other HE chaplaincy work across Wales

• To ensure that any Methodist chaplain is supported by the local circuit.  
• To establish where practical or take part in where there already exists a clearly defined supervisory board for each institution which will

1. establish the parameters of the particular post – including commitments to direct involvement with students and to working ecumenically within the particular institution.   
2. monitor the work of each chaplaincy – and where there is Methodist personnel or funding involved ensure there is Methodist representation on such a board.

Review:

• This policy to be reviewed every 3 years in light of developments in HE chaplaincy work and the funding available to the Synod.   
• The Cardiff HE chaplaincy appointment to be reviewed in the summer of 2024 in light of the continuing development of the role and the availability of ongoing Synod grant support.