**The Methodist Church in Wales: Wales Synod Minutes of Synod Policy Committee meeting held via Zoom on 12th February 2022**

**Present:** Revd Dr Stephen Wigley (Chair), Kofi Amissah, Margaret Birch, Stephen Boxall, Rosemarie Clarke, Linda Davies, Rosemary Davies, Jacquie Evans, Gordon Gresswell, Graham Illingworth, Teddy Kalongo, Cath Lewis, Martin Lougher, Phil Poole, Pat Preston, Chris Randall, Janet Rees, Nick Sissons (substitute), Roger Smith, Margaret Webber, Alf Williams.

**Apologies:** Leslie Noon, Martyn Boyce

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, with a special welcome for those new to the committee.

**1/22 Opening devotions** were led by the Chair.

**2/22 Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2021 were agreed.

**3/22 Matter arising** The meeting noted that the Language policy for Wales Synod Cymru, the designation of new MOCC/Probationer (Cardiff) and part time Diaconal (SW Wales) appointments were overwhelmingly approved by SPC via e-mail since the last meeting, as reported by e-mail on 23rd December 2021.

**4/22 Establishing Synod policy**

a) The reviewed Synod policies for Momentwm, Communications, Continuing Development in Ministry, and Higher Education Chaplaincies were approved.

**5/22 Implementing Synod policy**

**i) General**

**a) Finance update –general**  Mr Chris Randall, Synod Treasurer presented the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021, which the meeting approved and authorised their submission to the Charity Commission.

**b) Proposed budget and circuit assessments 2022/23** The Treasurer presented a budget for Wales Synod, and a budget for the proposed Wales Synod Cymru. Both budgets were approved by the meeting, and the allocation of assessments between the circuits for the Wales Synod Cymru budget.

Thanks were expressed to the Synod Treasurer, Mr Chris Randall.

**c) Conversations with Synod Cymru** Progress has been made, with the production of a budget, now approved, and an agreed structure of meetings. It is anticipated that any matters needing the approval of the Synod before the inauguration of the Synod in September will be brought to the Representative Session in April.

**ii) Matters relating to Property**

Issues in respect of changes in the law in Wales which will take effect from July 2022 in respect of renting property in Wales were brought to the attention of the committee.

Thank were expressed to Cytun for all the work they do in speaking with the Welsh Government on behalf of the churches.

Martin Lougher requested early conversations with circuits where disposal of property was envisaged so that advantage of the streamlining process for sales is not overlooked.

**6/22 SPC Business**

**a) Chairs nomination committee**

As some of the members of the committee (Sue Lawler and Ann Price, and reserve Andrew Webster) were unable to serve on the date for interviews. The following were approved to be members of the committee in their stead: Revd Dr Jennie Hurd, Margaret Webber and as reserves, Revd Gordon Gresswell, Margaret Birch and Deacon Viv Gray.

**b) Closure of churches**

A number of requests for permission to cease worship and dispose of the premises were received from the societies at:

i) Brymbo (Wrexham) ii) Crossway (Vale of Glamorgan)

iii) Llangwm (South West Wales) iv) Abertillery (Gwent Hills and Vales)

These were agreed.

v) Pontypool, Church without walls (Gwent Hills and Vales) Permission was given to cease to worship and the circuit to take such action in respect of the property at Nicholas Street as necessary once the ownership of the building and associated responsibilities have been determined.

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

**c) Applications for Lay Authorisations to Preside at the Lord’s Supper** were approved for:

Paul Cooke, John Cullwick, and Jane Williams (MGM Circuit)

and approval was given in principle for a lay authorisation to be given to the Cardiff circuit and following the recent appointment of a MOCC probationer to the circuit, with the appropriate paperwork to follow.

**d) Sabbatical leave**. Approval was given to Andrew Walker’s sabbatical proposal, sabbatical leave to be taken May - July 2022.

**7/22 Chair’s Business**

**a) Stationing Update.** The Chair informed the meeting that 9 of 11 presbyteral appointments, including all superintendencies, and 2 diaconal appointments have been filled. The appointments in the Wrexham, and Swansea and Gower circuits have not as yet been filled.

**b) Pastoral matters**

**c) Cover for Chair’s sabbatical** is in place, with Chris Gray and Cathy Gale, providing most of the cover. The Sabbatical support group chaired by Paul Donnison has worked hard to ensure that the necessary cover is in place. Wendy Barwise will be working in the Synod Office, should there be any queries about who to contact.

**8/22 Matters to and from related bodies**

**a) Methodist Council/Conference**

Report tabled. Thanks were expressed to Margaret Webber, Methodist Council Representative, for her helpful reports of meetings.

**9/22 Ecumenical matters**

**a) Maesteg (Bridgend United Area)** The committee noted the church’s expressed desire to terminate their sharing agreement with the ecumenical area.

**b) Church in Wales** The committee noted the appointment of Andy John as Archbishop of Wales, and the forthcoming consecration on 26th February 2022 of John Lomas as Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, and Mary Stallard as Assistant Bishop of Bangor.

**10/22** Date of next meeting: 18th June 2022, 9.00am via Zoom

The Grace was shared at the close of the meeting.