**The Methodist Church in Wales: Wales Synod Minutes of Synod Policy Committee meeting held via Zoom on 18th June 2022**

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**16/22 Opening devotions** were led by Rosemarie Clarke.

**17/22 Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2022 and 4th April 2022 were agreed.

**18/22 Matters arising**

1. 14/22 The committee noted a report coming before Conference which effectively withdraws the two Chair model agreed for the new Synod, and Correspondence received from Secretary of Conference relating to this matter. Grave concern was expressed that this intention was not mentioned or even hinted at in the approval given by the Methodist Council to the new Synod, and the hurt potentially caused to our colleagues in Synod Cymru by the proposal.
2. 13/22 The committee noted that this matter was now resolved and the funds released.

**19/22 Implementing Synod policy i) General a) Finance update –general**  Mr Chris Randall, Synod Treasurer, reported that we have a break-even budget, and income and expenditure is going according to plan, despite some unanticipated expense on the manse. However, the £10,000 contribution to the Pension Reserve Fund which we agreed will take us into a deficit. **b) Resolution re transfer of funds to the new Synod** – TMCP have confirmed that the resolution passed at Synod was sufficient for this purpose.

**20/22 SPC Business**

**a) Lay authorisations**

Applications for an authorisation to preside at the Lord’s Supper were unanimously supported for Hugo Potgieter (GHV), Ann Ziomek (GHV) and Alun Hughes (Cardiff). As late applications these would be dealt with by the President, rather than through the Methodist Conference. Representatives were reminded that every effort should be made to prepare applications to meet the time table set out by connexion.

**b) Associate presbyters**

Applications for Elaine Hodge, Presbyterian minister (Buckley and Deeside) and Colin Foreman, URC minister (Buckley and Deeside) to become Associate Presbyters were supported.

**b) Closure of churches**

Requests for permission to cease worship and dispose of the premises were received and agreed from the societies at:

1. St Paul’s Loudon Square (Cardiff)
2. Trinant (Gwent Hills and Vales)
3. Shaftesbury (Newport and Lower Wye)

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

**d) Registration of Youth Workers**

A response has been made to the Welsh Government regarding the proposed registration of youth workers, to the effect that registration of paid workers would be helpful but not volunteers.

**e) Disposal of a church building**

The committee received notice of the intention of the Rhos Methodist Church to dispose of the premises, and gave its support, noting that such matters are dealt with by the Synod Schemes and Grants Committee.

**f) Sabbatical leave**. Approval was given to Andrea Sims’ sabbatical proposal, sabbatical leave to be taken May - July 2023.

**g) Sabbatical report.** A sabbatical report was received in respect of Stephen Wigley

**h) Maesteg** The news that Maesteg (Bridgend United Area) had resolved to terminate their relationship with the ecumenical area was received with sadness.

**21/22 Chair’s Business**

**a) Stationing Update. No further appointments have been made for 2022.** Appointments inWrexham, and Swansea and Gower circuits were not filled and those circuits have been making alternative arrangements for 2022/23.

Briefing meetings for those ministers and circuits reviewing invitations in 2022/23 have been held and the relevant discernment by those concerned is underway.

**b) Pastoral matters**

Thanks were expressed to the Synod Secretary, Rosemarie Clarke, as she moves to an appointment outside of Wales in September.

**22/22 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 Council meetings as she retires from that role.

**23/22 Synod**

The first Representative Session of Synod of Wales Synod Cymru would take place on **10th September 2022 (NB the revised date**) at Theatr Hafren, Newtown. A bilingual meeting at which the Secretary of Conference will be present; it is anticipated that the current Youth President, Daud Irfan will share something of his year in that role, and opportunities for the sharing of good news from across the Synod will be possible.

**24/22 Synod Leadership Team**

**a) diary dates** for the meetings of Wales Synod Cymru had been circulated.

**b) Implications of Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016** -will have an impact on rented property. However, Methodist Church legal advice is that this Act does not apply to Methodist ministers living in manses which are provided as part of the covenant relationship between ministers and the Conference.

**25/22** Date of the first meeting of Wales Synod Cymru Policy Committee: 15th October 2022, 9.00am via Zoom

The Grace was shared at the close of the meeting.