

SYNOD POLICY COMMITTEE

held Saturday 15 February 2014 at Newtown Methodist Church

Present: Rev Dr Stephen D Wigley Chair
Martyn Bryce, Gordon Sollis, Peter Holwell, Judith Powell, Gwyneth Leigh, Roy Watson, Sandra Powell, Paul Donnison, Christopher Gray, Richard Gillion, Jack Healey, Andrew Mathieson, John Atkinson, Richard Hodgson, Graham Illingworth, Rosemarie Clarke, Stephen Watterson, Bob Gilston(Substitute), Sue Lawler(Observer). Ann Cashmore Minute Secretary

Apologies: Roger Hides, Ian Waugh, Hugh-John Wilson, Anne Farnsworth, Howard Long, Richard Sharples, Caitlin Mortlock, Martin Lougher.

01/14 Opening Devotions

The Chair opened the meeting using a reading from Romans 8, including verse 8 "creation waiting with eager longing..."

02/14 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Bob Gilston from Wrexham Circuit and Sue Lawler from Welshpool and Bro Hafren Circuit.

03/14 Rev Ian Waugh

Chris Gray informed the meeting that Ian would commence palliative chemotherapy in a few weeks' time. Ian was well supported by the Circuit and was doing some light duties at present.

04/14 Minutes of previous meeting

26/13 Research of Historical Documents
"achieved" should read "archived".

With this amendment the minutes were signed by the Chair.

05/14 Matters Arising

(a) Cardiff University chaplaincy maternity cover

Stephen reported that Delyth Liddell and daughter were doing well. The Synod Leadership team requested that a one year extension be granted to enable Delyth to take 12 months' maternity leave and return to post.

SPC formally APPROVED this extension.

Stephen stated that Delyth was very appreciative of SPC's efforts on her behalf. Cover for chaplaincy during her leave was therefore needed. A Supernumerary, Rev Dr David Hutton, was very willing to act part time in the rôle.

SPC formally CONFIRMED the appointment

Stephen thanked Dr Hutton for being willing to do the chaplaincy and the Vale of Glamorgan Circuit for releasing him from Circuit duties.

(b) Venue for September 2014 Synod
Theatr Hafren, Newtown.

06/14 Implementing Synod Policy

(i) General

(a) Budget - papers previously distributed

Richard Hodgson briefly outlined the budget and assessments, stating that the latter had been kept to a minimum increase. The meeting ACCEPTED both documents.

Stephen expressed the thanks of SPC to Richard for his hard work. Richard added that the annual Charity Commission Report would be done in the near future and Stephen outlined the "Statement of Public Benefit which was AGREED. This was available on the Methodist web site.

(b) Safeguarding Policy - papers previously distributed

Graham Illingworth requested the meeting's agreement to the up-date of the 2007 document. Meeting AGREED.

(c) Safeguarding Officer and Administration Arrangements - papers previously distributed

SLT have discussed the replacement in the south for Rev Susan McIvor who would leave Wales in August. The appointment was included in the agreed budget and it was proposed that the post be 14 hours per week based on the Connexional specification. The Connexional Team had agreed the process. Susan's last service would be in July and it was hoped that an overlap could be provide. The interview panel consisted of:

The Chair, Graham Illingworth, a representative from the Connexional Team and Peter Ackerey, the north officer.

The proposal was ACCEPTED by the meeting.

Paul Donnison enquired if Superintendents were aware that they had to submit an audit. Stephen confirmed that this would be picked up at the Superintendents' meeting.

Admin arrangements for Safeguarding Training were being put in place through the "Learning Network" under the direction of Y Cyngor. This post to be 10 hours per week to help Network staff generally.

(d) Report on Mapping a Way Forward

Circuit Regrouping Review Day - papers previously distributed

After hearing varying views from participants, SPC agreed that SLT should consider the report and respond to SPC in June and then to Circuits. It was considered important that information in the report was recognised. There will be stationing challenges in 2015.

(ii) Property

Gordon reported that an application for a grant by Tondu, Bridgend had brought to light the requirement for "appropriate use of Welsh language wherever possible". So far this doesn't seem to be a general requirement, but other churches could have to complete similar application forms and the prepared Welsh Language Use statement would be most helpful. Jack Healey is willing to help churches with this kind of grant application.

(iii) Trust 14508

Sale of Ty Newydd, Caergwrle

Rosemarie reported that a "for sale" notice had been erected at the manse and Cavendish Ikin had been appointed agents for an initial three months.

07/14 SPC Business

(a) Closure of Providence Chapel, Welshpool & Bro Hafren Circuit

Sue Lawler reported that the Church Council had unanimously agreed on 31 January 2014 to close with 4 of the 5 members attending worship in Welshpool and one in the Church in Wales. The request for permission to close would go to the trustees meeting to be held on 3 March 2014 and Sue requested the meeting's permission now so that approval would be effective from that date. The meeting gave PERMISSION for Providence Chapel to close.

(b) Funding for training of Lay Workers

Stephen verbally tabled a proposal from Luke Curran, Learning Network Co-ordinator. This was:

- Good practice and Methodist guidance expects Circuits to budget effectively for the learning and development needs of their accredited lay workers
- The Synod Advance Fund will allocate a sum of money for the continuing learning and development needs of accredited lay workers. Decisions about specific applications will be made by the DLMN National Co-ordinator against a set of criteria agreed by the Schemes and Grants Committee
- Synod will match fund any funding offered by the Circuit on a 50/50 basis
- Funding will be at the same level as provided to Presbyters and Deacons, taking into account the match funding. Therefore the Synod will pay up to £125 representing 50% of the £250 CDiM allocation
- Good practice will be encouraged by linking contributions directly with the lay workers' annual learning and development plan which should have been formulated as part of their appraisal process. To claim, workers will be expected to provide a copy of this plan and explain how the proposed course meets one or more needs identified in it.

The meeting AGREED.

(c) Plans to appoint Assistant Chair - papers previously distributed

Rev Lin Healey would retire in August and the meeting was asked to agree the details as set out in the paper.

The meeting AGREED.

(d) Authorisations

New authorisations were requested for:

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Circuit .

Proposed Maureen Douglas and John Harbron

AGREED

Renewal in Neath/Port Talbot Circuit

Clem Raymond

AGREED

MGM Circuit No name presently available – Circuit working on what is a difficult situation – SPC AGREED the principle, SLT to confirm when name/s available

Authorisation for Probationer:

Bridgend

Rev Rachel Wheeler

(e) Schemes & Grants and Property Secretaries - papers previously distributed
Jack Healey plans to stand down. As part of the process to find a successor, it was agreed to split his role into two posts as per the draft job description and any suitable names to be given to Stephen.
The job descriptions were AGREED.

08/14 Chair's Business

(a) Stationing Up-date

Synod had filled 6 of the 9 vacancies. Coming to Synod:

Chrissie Howe	Bangor & Holyhead
Carole and Phillip Challis	Vale of Glamorgan
Paul Martin	Cardiff
Rachel Wheeler	Bridgend
Phil Poole & Lisa Rathbone	Wrexham

Welshpool & Bro Hafren, MGM and a p/t Diaconal appointment in Cardiff were still vacant.

Leaving Synod:

Kim Kercal	going to	Stoke North
Una Maclean		Middlesbrough and Eston
Mark Rowland		Coventry Central Hall
Sue McIvor		Derby
Verity Phillips		South Molton and Ringsash

It was noted that Safeguarding training was arranged for the same day as Stationing Briefing meeting. SDW will look into this and a revised date for the Stationing Briefing will be fixed
ACTION: SDW

(b) Candidates

Initially, 6 candidates (Wales Synod 5 and Synod Cymru 1). The Cymru candidate and one from Wales Synod withdrew before interviews. Three had been recommended to the Connexional Candidates Committee. It was noted that one candidate has limited mobility and if successful would work in their current local area.

09/14 Matters to and from related bodies

(a) Methodist Council

Graham Illingworth gave a brief report:

- A Churches are needed relating to Funding for Diaconal Appointments
- Mission Alongside the Poor will be reviewed
- The Consolidated accounts were scrutinised
- Audit Committee reported a successful audit
- The Connexional Central Services Budget was presented
- SO's relating to Investment properties are to be reviewed and updated if necessary
- A memorial referred to Council from Conference relating to reorganising ministerial training was rejected on the basis the new Learning Network was just implemented
- A 10 year report of the Joint Implementation Commission was received
- Y Cyngor's response to the Commission of Covenanted Churches in Wales was considered

Graham stated that he would attend his last meeting in April. SDW reported SLT recommended Rev Cathy Gale be the Wales Synod representative on council for the following four years.
The meeting AGREED.

(b) Larger than Circuits

Stephen stated that a Tool Kit has been circulated to all Districts for completion. In light of the work that has already been undertaken by both Synods, he and Jennie Hurd will work on a paper to go to Y Cyngor which will be our contribution to our process
AGREED

(c) Y Cyngor

Graham reported on the last meeting which was extended to discuss the response to the Commission of Covenanted Churches in Wales' proposals. The response document had been produced and discussed. Graham also noted that the Learning Network needed a Wales Forum with the annual task of monitoring the work plan. As this will be required to meet once per year, SLT recommend that Y Cyngor be this body.

10/14 Ecumenical Matters

(a) Christ Church, Milford Haven

Progress towards LEP going well with vision documents and constitution agreed subject to approval of the proposed sharing agreement; LEP approval was sought
The meeting AGREED.

(b) Sketty and Bethel URC

Progressing towards LEP: further meeting planned to discuss stationing and financial implications.

(c) Cardiff East

PCW minister Rev Janice Jones has moved to Cardiff and has been authorised to serve.

(d) Lightship, Cardiff Bay

Gordon reported that an emergency meeting had been held with church leaders, LEP and trustees and a decision made to close during the winter. Synod, together with Ecumenical partners, had committed funding to develop a business plan. Work undertaken suggested that the Lightship was not viable without substantial ongoing financial subsidy and at the meeting no church was prepared to underwrite this subsidy. It was recognised this causes problems for the LEP and URC chaplaincy in Cardiff Bay. The sponsoring body would continue consultation with stake holders.

(e) Risca

Kim Kerchal was leaving the Circuit and an interregnum had been agreed for 2014/15, possibly using a URC minister in Dan-y-Craig LEP. All concerned were keen on the idea.

(f) Windsor Road, Barry

URC and Porthkerry churches had been sold and the congregations were meeting at the Waterfront where the church was full every week. Discussion was under-way with URC re payment of ministry.

(g) Parc LLanilid

Possibility of LEP on new housing estate. Ecumenical exploration in early stages.

(h) Coed Darcy

Housing development on old BP site; publicity distributed; progressing carefully.

(i) Penrhys

URC minister had given notice of his intention to resign from an 8-denomination project.

11/14 Synod Youth Work Action Group

Rev Richard Sharples' email had been received by all members of the meeting. Peter reported that Megan Thomas from Cardiff Circuit, originally from Newtown, will be Connexional Youth President for 2014/15

12/14 Next Meeting

Saturday 14 June 2014 at Newtown Methodist Church; 10am for 10.30am.