

**The Methodist Church in Wales
Synod Policy Committee**

Minutes of meeting held at Newtown Methodist church
Saturday 16th June 2018

Present: Rev Stephen Wigley (SDW) Chair
Rosemarie Clarke, Paul Donnison, Chris Gray, Sandra Hanbury, Richard Hodgson, Graham Illingworth, Barry Jordan, Leslie Noon, Nick Oborski, Phillip Poole, Judith Powell, Pat Preston, Flis Randall, Bob Thomas, Roy Watson.

Apologies:
Martyn Boyce, Phil Challis, Anne Farnsworth, Roger Hides, Martin Lougher, Ruth Lownsborough, Joan Meredith, Roy Watson

Non-voting substitutes present:
Linda Davies (for Anne Farnsworth), Sue Lawler (for Roy Watson), John Jevons (for Phil Challis), Marty Presdee (for Roger Hides)

Young People attending: Owain (from Bangor), Trish and James (from Wrexham), Emily, Shaun and Kai from MGM.

Also present: Jack Healey (Acting Minute Secretary)

Visiting Speaker: Trey Hall

13/18 Opening Devotions

SDW opened the meeting with readings and prayer on the theme of Jesus visiting Marther and Mary (Luke 10 v. 38)

14/18 Welcome

SDW welcomed Trey Hall and attending substitutes to the meeting. Ann Cashmore was still unwell, although quite cheerful, and JH (Acting Minute Secretary) gave the meeting a summary of her present circumstance.

15/18 Minutes

There had been a number of requested small amendments to the draft minutes of the meeting of the meeting of SPC on Saturday 10th February 2018. These were all accepted. A final, revised set of minutes was approved and a copy is attached hereto.

16/18 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not otherwise listed on the agenda for this meeting.

17/18 Implementing Synod Policy

i) General – Finance

a). 2016/17 accounts

The 2016/17 accounts which SPC had already approved subject to independent examination had now been examined and deemed satisfactory by the examiner. SPC approved the accounts.

b). Finance update 2017/18

Richard confirmed that we are working to budget for 2017/18 with no material excursions from the budget.. Thanks were expressed to Richard for the accounts and report.

ii). Youth work – Momentwm

Flis spoke to the Youth work report. Key points were:

a). The Connexional Grant to support the work of a Diaconal appointment working jointly with the South Wales circuit and with both Synods in support of Momentwm had been approved and the position will be in the upcoming stationing process this autumn for appointment in Sept 2019.

b). There are plans being developed for a Youth Exchange to Tennessee, USA hosted by the United Methodist Church. Applications from those who would like to participate are invited by the 7th July 2018 please and members of SPC were encouraged to promote this.

c). Owain stated that he had now completed his first degree and would be moving to Oxford to take up employment but he still intended to be involved in the work of Momentwm in Wales.

iii). Matters relating to property.

The Synod Schemes and Grants Committee (SSaGC) brought a proposal that the amended policy on Grants for large cost projects (over £500,000 total cost) should be invoked in the case of the Barry Waterfront project and proposed that the SAF grant towards this project should now be £25,000. SPC agreed, but queried why it was necessary to bring such a grant request to SPC for its approval. After some discussions SPC agreed to refer back to the SSaGC that, in their opinion, such grants should be approved on the final agreement of the SSaGC without the need to refer it to the SPC. The SSaGC will discuss this and, if they agree, the policy will be further amended to reflect this.

iv). Trust 14508 Advisory Committee

Nothing to report

v). Manses Committee

SDW reported that, in light of Mary Williams' recent operation, the meeting of the Manses Committee had been postponed to a date to be arranged.

18/18 SPC and Support of Mission policies

Trey Hall (the Birmingham District Mission Adviser) led a session on the theme of Evangelism. He defined Evangelism as an orientation to the Good News in all of life and went on to explain how he feels Evangelism changes the people who practice it and how unaffiliated people can become disciples. In his view we need to change from being a welcoming church to being an inviting church with examples of how e.g. providing a regular lunch in a village and knocking on doors and going to other places where people are and asking what people need has been successful in his experience. His view is that Evangelism needs to be “the fuel flourishing our Connexion in the 21st Century”.

During the exercises and conversation that followed, SPC members asked about how we might acquire the tools to do this effectively and discussed what we could do in every Circuit, to move Evangelism forward.

Following these discussions, SPC asked the following people (Flis Randall., Nick Oborski, Paul Donnison and Sandra Hanbury) to form a subgroup which would reflect further on our conversations and bring back a paper with some practical suggestions to the SPC next meeting in October. (It was noted this would need to be with the Secretary by 17th September.)

19/18 Establishing Synod Policy

i). Relationship between Synod Cymru and Wales Synod. SDW introduced this item and referred to the paper that had already been circulated regarding the current progress of conversations between representatives from the two Synods. Some feedback had gone to the meeting of Synod Cymru in April to which Synod Cymru had responded favourably, both to the summary proposals that had been made and the proposed time frame for taking the proposals forward. Conversations of the working party are continuing with a hope of being able to share these at the September Wales Synod. Currently all parties were working towards being in a position to take final decisions at concurrent meetings of both Synods on March 30th 2019.

SPC was happy for discussions to continue towards this.

ii) Updated Synod Development Plan. A paper detailing changes to the plan as far as three Circuits were concerned had been circulated. SPC approved the changes.

iii) Updated Synod Safeguarding Policy. A draft updated Policy had been circulated, principally to incorporate changes required by Connexion. SPC approved the updated policy. *En passant*, it was also noted that a new Safeguarding Officer for North Wales, Vicki Anderson, had been appointed and will start on 1st July 2018.

iv). Draft Synod re. EDI policy. The report from Delyth Liddell was discussed. SPC accepted the report and agreed to adopt the equality and diversity statement for the Wales Synod. It was agreed that other actions would be deferred to the September Synod.

20/18 SPC Business.

a). Re-invitation of Synod Enabler. The invitation committee, convened to consider the re-invitation, had recommended that Rev. Irfan John be re-invited for a further period of 3 years from September 2019 until August 2022. Synod ratified the appointment.

b). Closures – the closures and permission to dispose of the buildings of Blaenafon, Clydach and Aberbeeg in the Gwent Hills and Vales Circuit and Gwern-y-Saint in the Newport and Lower Wye Circuit were sadly agreed.

c). The Sabbatical for Rev'd Sue Lawler was approved. *En passant* it was noted that an acceptable method of funding for Rev'd Teddy Kalongo's sabbatical to Zambia had now been resolved.

d). Appointment of Northern Safeguarding Officer See minute 19/18 iii) above.

e). Synod Diary A draft diary for 2018/19 had been circulated. This was still not final in some aspects. The November meeting of Y Cyngor would now be 22nd November and an extra Spring Synod would be on 30th March. Autumn Synod would now be on the 14th September 2019. SPC was advised of a clash with the planned dates for the Superintendents/SLT meeting in November, but it was also recognised that this date would not be easy to change.

21/18 Chair's Business

i). Stationing Update. For 2018/19 we still have 4 vacancies. (Super. Bangor & Holyhead, Presbyter, Cardiff West and Presbyter, Neath Port Talbot, Welshpool & Bro Hafren). It was noted that Kofi Amisah would now be moving to the vacancy in Cardiff East; also a Student Minister, Manu Tuipolutu, would be coming to Cardiff on circuit-based learning programme (CBLP) in September. Supernumerary Minister John Howard would oversee the work in Bangor on a part-time basis under the Titular Superintendency of SDW. For 2019 we are looking at filling 8 or 9 posts including carrying over 3 of the 4 vacancies.

ii). Pastoral Matters. SDW updated SPC on Judy Lister's progress with her current illness. It was also reported that Amy Adams had badly broken her wrist and is likely to be off work for a couple on months.

iii) Supervision. Briefings for Presbyters on being supervised have taken place and roll out of supervision should commence in September 2018.

22/18 Matters to and from related bodies.

i). Methodist Council/Conference. Conference is in Nottingham from the 28th June – 5th July. SDW commented that some items which had been expected to come to Conference had been deferred whilst it was expected that some other matters which had not been foreseen may well become a focus of attention. (e.g. the reconstruction of MCH)

ii). There were no other matters to report under this heading.

23/18 Date of Next Meeting

SPC next meets on Saturday 13th October 2018 at Newtown Methodist Church to commence at 10.30 am.