**The Methodist Church in Wales: Wales Synod**

**Minutes of Synod Policy Committee meeting held via Zoom on 13th June 2020**

**Present:** Revd Dr Stephen Wigley (Chair), Rosemarie Clarke, Linda Davies, Richard Hodgson, Graham Illingworth, Barry Jordan, Gordon Gresswell, Bob Thomas,Margaret Webber, Paul Donnison, Janet Rees, Pat Preston, Nick Oborski, Martin Boyce, Rosemary Davies, Flis Randall, Leslie Noon

**Apologies:** Martin Lougher

**11/20 Opening devotions** were led by the Chair.

**12/20 Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2020 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

**13/20 Matters Arising**

**30/19Aberfan,** Documents agreed and awaiting the signature of The Scout Association. Simultaneous exchange and completion anticipated one day next week.

**14/20 Implementing Synod policy**

1. **Financial Update.**  Circuits had been invited to accept an offer by the Synod to forego the Synod element of the quarterly assessment for the current quarter, and advise of the level of circuit reserves and potential hardship which might be relieved similarly in the following three future quarters. Richard Hodgson (Synod Treasurer) advised that ten of the fifteen circuits had responded **(those who were still to respond being Bridgend UA, Conwy & Prestatyn, Gwent Hills and Vales, Ceredigion and Wrexham**) and five circuits had paid the last assessment. Information from the remaining five circuits was awaited before redistribution of the monies from those churches who had continued to pay the Synod assessment could be made to those who were particularly struggling.

Grants are being made to those charities who pay rates (even at 0%) – closing date 30th June. Circuits are encouraged to consider if this might apply to any of their churches (info: Flis Randall)

**15/20 SPC Business**

1. It was agreed that Synod would meet in its representative session on April 24th 2021 and not in September 2020. It was further agreed that SPC meetings would take place at 9am via Zoom.
2. **The Synod Diary 2020-21** as amended above and with the removal of 3Generate was agreed. (paper tabled)
3. **Sabbatical proposals** from Revd Catherine Brobbey and Deacon John Brobbey were received and approved. A **Sabbaticals report** was received. Those ministers due for sabbaticals 2021-22 who will no longer be stationed in the Wales Synod (Conference permitting) were noted.
4. **Call to Prayer.** Revd Paul Donnison reviewed the Call to Prayer commenting that the scrapbook demonstrates the exciting ways in which prayer has happened across Wales in the last 15 month. Over 160 people across Wales had engaged in the Zoom prayer meetings which took place on Aldersgate and Pentecost Sundays. Paul posed the question. ‘What next?’

**Feedback to Paul in answer to that question is requested by 30th June 2020.**

Thanks were expressed to Paul for all his efforts bringing the Call to Prayer to fruition.

1. **Platform for sharing the experience of the use of technology during lockdown**. It was agreed that the Learning Network be asked to facilitate something on the lines of and interactive workshop to assist the exchange of experience and expertise.
2. **Changes as per SO 529**

The committee agreed the following reductions in the number of presbyters appointments:

MGM from 3 to 2 in 2021

Newport and Lower Wye from 5 to 4 in 2020

Ceredigion from 2 to 1 in 2021

Bridgend UA from 3 (2 Methodist and 1 URC) to 2 (1 Methodist and 1 URC) in 2022

1. **Application for Associate Presbyter** was approved for Revd Mick Ellor (Swansea and Gower)
2. **Momentwm It** was agreed that up to £1,500 of Momentwm’s budget could be used towards the travel expenses related to the appointment of a One Programme participant (who would be working alongside Deacon Jon Miller).

**16/20 Chair’s Business**

1. **Stationing Update** Nine Stationing Briefing Meeting had been held via Zoom, and training in unconscious bias sessions had been organised. It appears that 4 superintendency appointments in the Synod will be in stationing for 2021.
2. **Pastoral matters** The committee was reminded that the current situation (coronavirus) impacts people in many different ways, in particular those living alone, and asked to be kept informed about any colleagues who may be finding this hard.

**17/20 Matters to and from related bodies**

1. **Methodist Council/Conference**

A report re the business discussed at the ‘Councils on 30th March and 15th May was received (tabled

It is noted that Synod Leadership Team would discuss ‘The Methodist Way of Life’ at its next meeting.

It was reported that Margaret Webber (Synod Representative to Methodist Council) would join the Synod Representatives to Conference after Emily Barry had to stand down because of work commitments. Kofi Amissah, would represent us from Ghana where he was stranded due to the suspension of flights.

Concern was expressed for the ordinands, including Revd Alexis Mahoney (Cardiff), who will be received into full connexion at Conference and ordained at a later date which was not yet determined.

1. **Matter to/from Connexion**

The meeting was assured that some serious thinking had been taking place at Connexional level regarding finance, which was evidenced by significant changes in budgets and a detailed paper tabled at the recent Methodist Council. District Treasurers will meet early July to review the situation across the connexion.

Attention was drawn to the coronavirus on the Methodist Church website with the health warning to be careful to identify where information relates to England only. In Wales consultations between faith groups and the Welsh Government are ongoing.

1. **Y Cyngor –** meetings postponed. Unable to transfer meetings to Zoom because of their bilingual nature. Graham Illingworth, Rosemarie Clarke, and the Chair will meet with Jennie Hurd and the Cymru Synod team on 9th July.

**18/20 Ecumenical Matters**

**The Bridgend United Area** has a new provisional constitution. The constitution has been redrafted to reflect current practice and the form of agreements currently recommended by the Methodist /URC Joint Liaison Group, and awaits a face to face meeting for formal approval at local level. This has been a necessary process before a new URC minister can be called.

The meeting agreed to recommend to Synod the acceptance of the new constitution.

**6/20 e) Cardiff East** timetable delayed because of coronavirus lockdown.

The meeting closed with sharing of the Grace

**19/20 Date of next meeting:** 17thOctober 2020, 9.00am via Zoom