

CIRCUIT MEETING AGENDA
12th March 2019
POOLE METHODIST CHURCH

1. Rev. Tony Cavanagh welcomed everyone to the meeting in the lovely new Rose Hall at The Spire and congratulated all those involved in getting it completed.
2. **Opening Devotions** were led by Mark Kimber and Nick Wood.
3. **Agree Membership:** The attendance list was circulated and agreed by the Trustees.
4. **Apologies for absence** were received from Clive Allen, Denis Dean, Anne Fellows, Lesley & Tony Fernand, David Howe, Chris Melhuish, Eileen Osgood, Danny Plews, Christine Snape, David Spracklen, Ian Underwood, Suzannah Wood and Susan Wright
5. **Letters of Greeting**
A letter would be sent to Liz Moreton who had finished her chemotherapy treatment and was awaiting surgery at end of the month.
6. **Agreement of the minutes of the meeting held 4th December**
The Minutes had been circulated previously and were agreed and signed.
7. **Matters Arising**
There were no Matters Arising.
8. **News from Churches**
Pete Smith from The Spire thanked the Circuit for all their support over the building period. He reported that there was still a long way to go furnishing the various areas and learning how to operate on both floors. Unfortunately the Centre Manager had left which had put extra work on volunteers, so they were now recruiting again. At present they take 30 bookings a week but hope to increase this to 50. Some of the Seachange directors have had to step down so, again, more work for volunteers. Finance is an issue due to the increased assessment. Despite all the problems they will step out in faith to make the building work and would appreciate our prayers.
9. **Governance**
 - 9.1 **Stationing Update – Karen James**
A Probationer Minister, Karen James, has been appointed to the Circuit. She will be moving in July/August. Her Welcome service date is 5th September at The Spire, refreshments from 6.30 pm downstairs followed by a service in the Rose Hall at 7.30 pm. Karen will not be able to preside at Communion immediately. A request form asking permission from Conference has to be completed and it seems we do not meet the necessary criteria at the moment. Karen will probably make another visit in May.

9.2 Circuit Review Update from Suzie & Sarah

Deacons Suzy and Sarah reported that many people had attended the recent Road Shows and now an Away Day would be held on Thursday to look at the next steps. Churches are facing many challenges and it was planned to focus on mission around the Circuit. They would identify the main areas of need and produce a folder of mission ideas that have worked in other places which might inspire our churches. They will offer to work alongside churches, listening to their communities to determine needs.

Some examples of projects already running were shown to demonstrate what might be achieved. Healthy Holidays, a scheme providing food for school children in the holidays, Lunch bags for Schools and Board Game Café which is running at the Spire and Broadstone tackling family isolation.

Suzy and Sarah would like to hear from churches what they are doing now and what they would like to do in the future.

Tony reported that there is an opportunity to take part in the important connexional conversation on Marriage and Human Relationships. There are sessions in the District, and a place on them should be booked with Sarah Potheary – Andrew Wood's PA. These are on the 16th March, 2.0 pm at Chandlers Ford Methodist Church, 30th March, 2.0 pm at St Andrews Methodist Church, Basingstoke, and 13th April, 2.0pm at Bemerton Methodist Church, Salisbury.

9.3 Safeguarding Training Update

Foundation Modules – 30th March at Broadstone and 8th June at Kinson

All Church/Circuit Office Holders need to have completed the foundation course by the end of June otherwise they will have to relinquish their role. Worship Leaders and Preachers now have to do the advanced module every 4 years. This will be led by Jane Fisher, District Safeguarding Officer.

10. Property

10.1. Update on sale of Carbery Gardens

The sale of Carbery Gardens was completed on 5^h March. Thanks were expressed to everyone who had helped with that process.

10.2. Update on purchase of new manse

The purchase of a new manse on the outskirts of Oakdale is in progress. A survey has been done and sent to Manchester. The purchase price of £430,000 will be funded from the sale of Swanage manse. This has already been agreed by TMCP so no levy will be due on the sale of Swanage.

It was noted that there were already two manses in the area, Wimborne Road and Marlborough Road but neither were suitable. The new one has better facilities.

The Meeting voted in favour of the purchase with none against and no abstentions.

11. Life of the Circuit

11.1. Local Preachers' Report

The report already circulated had some dates missing so an amended report would be sent out shortly.

12. Finance

12.1. Acceptance of 2017/18 Accounts & Reports

The Accounts had already been circulated. Peter Cotgrove expressed concern that the Reserves policy was incorrect. The problem stemmed from the statement of Reserves Policy on p 11 of the Accounts which states "The Reserves Policy for the Circuit is to hold in its General Fund a minimum sum equivalent to 6 month's expenditure i.e. £289,998, in line with the Methodist Church of Great Britain ...". In fact the Methodist Church Reserves Policy Guidelines say "The Charity Commission states that holding **up to** six months expenditure for reserves is appropriate. In view of this Peter felt that the Circuit were holding too much in reserves.

Jane responded pointing out that the Accounts had been independently audited and no problems had been raised. She quoted from the 2016 Charity guidelines which state that Trustees are permitted to set their own reserves policy providing they can demonstrate why they are holding the funds.

Betto reported that the CFG looked at the Reserves Policy in 2015 and that it was probably time to revisit this. He proposed that the CFG should look at this again at their next meeting and report back to the Circuit Meeting in June. The meeting agreed to this proposal.

Pete Smith suggested that a document showing what's in each account in a simplified form would be helpful to Trustees.

The 2017/18 Accounts and Reports were agreed and accepted by the Meeting.

12.2. Budget Variance Report

The Budget Variance Report had been circulated previously and no questions were raised.

12.3. Auditor for 2018/19 Accounts

New auditors had not yet been agreed and any suggestions would be welcomed.

13. Any other Business

There was no other business so the meeting closed at 8.40 pm by saying The Grace together.

Date of next meeting

11th June

Circuit Meeting

7.30pm

Victoria Park