

*MINUTES OF THE CIRCUIT MEETING
HELD ON 3rd DECEMBER 2019
AT ST GEORGE'S METHODIST CHURCH*

1. Rev. Tony Cavanagh welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Opening Devotions** were led by Rev. Sue Gowling
3. **Agree Membership:** The attendance list was circulated and agreed with the addition of Kate Greaves and Julian Tawn, Bournemouth representatives attending for the first time.
4. **Apologies for Absence** were received and noted from the attendance list.
5. **Letters of Greeting & Acknowledgement and Items for Prayer**
There were no letters of greeting or acknowledgement. The meeting was asked to remember Joan Underwood, who was going into hospital, in their prayers.
6. **Agreement of the minutes of the meeting held 17th September 2019:** The Minutes had been circulated previously and were agreed and signed.
7. There were no Matters Arising.

8. News from Churches

The Spire were holding 'Experience Christmas' which included various Nativity scenes. The Café would be open for the first time in the evening serving hot food. Opening times: Mondays and Tuesdays 3.0 pm – 5.0 pm and 7.0 pm – 9.0pm. Everyone was welcome to go along.

Broadstone would be holding a community Christmas lunch again this year. Help and/or donations would be much appreciated. Their craft fair was very successful and raised £1000.

Sleep Safe was now in its 7th week and 7 people had already been moved into accommodation. Deacon Suzy requested prayer for the guests and volunteers. The B Cars 2nd Half project was underway with a café and carpentry shop which had sold over £1000 worth of items.

Winton provides office space for Faith Works which runs addiction recovery courses. These have been going for 2 months now on a Monday night when up to 80 people come and have a meal. Seven people had expressed a wish to know more about God.

9. Governance

9.1 Marriage & Relationship Report discussions

Reports were available for churches to take home after the meeting. Discussions would take place during January as follows:-

7th January - Bournemouth at 7.30 pm

8th January - Broadstone at 7.30 pm

22nd January - Upton at 2.0 pm

14th January - Swanage at 2.0 pm

Everyone was asked to try to attend one of these.

The sessions would include two videos, one introductory and one the District had put together, with discussions taking place in between the two. Results of the discussions would be referred to Synod and then Conference. Further discussions would then take place on how we move forward with the Conference decision. Material will be available on the Circuit web site shortly.

9.2 Safeguarding Officer's Report

No serious incidents had been reported since the last meeting. Two advanced training courses had taken place attended by 41 people. A foundation course had been attended by 22. There had been a first meeting of safeguarding officers to go through the new policy and it was clear that Churches needed help particularly with the safer recruitment policy.

10. Life of the Circuit

10.1 Local Preacher's Report had been circulated and there were no questions.

10.2 Mission Folder update

The planned meeting in January has been delayed until March due to the Marriage and Relationships discussions.

10.2 Support for Free Church Chaplain – Bournemouth Universities

The Bournemouth University and the Arts University have 25,000 students on campus between them and Tony attended a meeting of the Free Church Chaplain Committee looking at the Free Church Chaplain post which has become vacant. It is hoped to fill the 30 hour per week post by next summer as the work is vital, but lack of funds is a big problem. Tony proposed the Circuit give £2,000 per year over the next 5 years from the Training Fund. Deacon Suzie seconded the proposal and the meeting voted unanimously in favour.

11. Finance

11.1 Review of 2018/19 draft accounts

The draft accounts had been circulated and it was noted that on Page 5 Sarah Wickett and Nick Wood both came in 2016 not 2015 as stated. Peter Cotgrove addressed the meeting on the reserves policy which he felt was incorrect and not in line with Charity Commission requirements. Betto had researched Charity Commission and Methodist guidelines on the subject and recommended that we clarify where our reserves are committed to. This will be done by the Circuit Finance Group. The Meeting agreed that the accounts could be audited.

11.2 Agree Related Parties Document

All but two Related Parties forms had been returned and no-one had declared any related party interest. It was suggested the wording might need clarifying for next year. The Meeting agreed the document.

11.3 Agree CC8 Checklist

It was suggested 'N/A' against E2 Investments might not be correct as TMCP would invest money in whatever funds we instruct. Jane would check whether this was indeed the case.

Concern was also expressed regarding the safety of computer back up storage. Data protection should be borne in mind if backups were stored off site. Further investigation into these two points will be done.

11.4 Agree Risk Management Policy

The risk level had been increased on volunteer status, Page 7, bearing in mind that two Circuit Stewards would be giving up next year. Document was agreed by the Meeting.

11.5 Resignation of Financial Administrator

Olga, the Financial Administrator has resigned. She will be replaced but it will take some time to recruit another person. In the meantime, any problems should be reported to Jane.

11.6 CFG Discussions on Assessment/Budget

This will be postponed until the CFG have met again.

12. Property

12.1 Circuit Manse Garden Charter

There was some discussion under this heading regarding whether ministers or the circuit office should arrange maintenance and repairs in manses. It was agreed that we need an efficient way to get work done and there was a balance to be had. The Garden Charter was agreed unanimously.

12.2 Update regarding sale of Walpole Road

Three separate offers have now been received and the Agent is checking their suitability for the best result.

12.3 Update regarding rental of Marlborough Road

The kitchen ceiling has been replaced and internal decoration is progressing in readiness for putting the property up for rent.

12.4 Update regarding sale of Wareham Church

Most Trustees had agreed that the offer of £300,000 should be rejected and the property remains on the market.

12.5 Update regarding sale of Gannett's Park

A QS report has been done and a Project set up on the Consents web site. The 5 yearly electrical survey found that some work would need to be done. There is a leaking overflow which will also be dealt with. Weekly inspections must be carried out to comply with insurance requirements on empty properties. It is possible that foxes rather than badgers could be the problem and a cheap camera may be installed to find out which it is.

Chris Moreton has moved into his new bungalow and both he and Liz are well.

13. Any other business

There was no further business, so the Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Date of next meeting

10th March Circuit Meeting 7.30pm Swanage

Prepared By

Signed

Rev. A. Cavanagh

Date