

CIRCUIT MEETING MINUTES
15th June 2021, 7.30pm on Zoom

1. Rev Tony welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Opening Devotions were led by Rev Betto Viana.
3. **Agree Membership of meeting as per circulated list**
As the list could not be circulated, the secretary recorded attendees from the Zoom Participants list.
4. Apologies for absence – Andrew Goodwin, Anne Fellows, Terry Fish and Danny Plews
5. **Letters of Greeting & Acknowledgement and Items for Prayer**
There were no letters of greeting but, as this was his last meeting, Rev. Tony wished Nick Wood every success as he moves on. Good wishes also go with Karen James for her Ordination. Travel restrictions are now in place in Birmingham so we pray that Conference and Ordination can all happen as planned.
6. **Agreement of the minutes of the meeting held 9th March 2021**
These had been circulated previously and would be signed as a correct record.
7. **Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.
8. **News from Churches** – There was no news from Churches due to the Covid restrictions
9. **Governance**
 - 9.1 **Safeguarding Officer's Report**
Rev Karen reminded everyone that we are all responsible for Safeguarding and that Safeguarding Officers have a difficult job. She encouraged us to think of it as part of our mission, not something we have to endure. Training should go ahead in September.
 - 9.2 **Agree Circuit Return** – This was agreed by the meeting. Thanks were expressed to Karen, Louise and Michelle for all the work they had done on completing this.
 - 9.3 **GDPR Requirements**
A GDPR guide is being put on the Circuit website. Churches were reminded that The Law expects us to engage with this and Data Mapping returns must be completed by the end of August. Michelle can help with data mapping. There will be a training session led by Jan Simons the District GDPR Champion on 15th July at 2.30 pm on Zoom. Please contact Michelle for the link.
 - 9.4 **Future Circuit Meetings**
Zoom meetings are popular with many Trustees but Conference has yet to grant permission for this under normal circumstances. It was pointed out that some are unable to use Zoom and it is not always possible to have a wide-ranging discussion although breakout rooms could be used for this. It was agreed that the September meeting will be face to face and will be chaired by the District Chair.

10. Life of the Circuit

10.1 Circuit Invitation Committee

It is Stationing time again and Rev Betto reported on the steps we need to take. We did not get a replacement for Nick Wood in the last round and Rev. Tony is coming up for Stationing now too. A Circuit Invitation Committee has been appointed and there is a Code of Conduct which must be followed. Copies have been sent to the Committee. There are 5 stages to go through and Betto gave a resume of these. Further guidance and information is available on the Methodist Church website and the links will be sent to everyone by the Secretary.

10.2 Dispensation for Communion - Update

Applications have been submitted for Janet Baker and Brian Tucknott. Conference will make the decision and then Tony must take a Communion service with each of them first before they can be planned from Sept.

10.3 Staffing Next Year

Chris Moreton is going to work 20 hours per week and two Sundays per month. This is a paid roll and is a complicated process with lots of forms to complete. Chris will work with Betto and a half time Lay Pastor role in Bournemouth. The Lay Pastor Job Specification needs agreement, but it may need changing. The Secretary will circulate the final document for electronic agreement when it is ready.

Rev. Betto reported that he is back at work but hasn't yet fully engaged with all his churches. Chris Moreton and the new Lay Pastor will help with this work. Rev. Karen underlined the importance of churches taking responsibility for looking after each other. Betto feels that he doesn't have time to walk alongside people to help them grow spiritually and challenged Churches to decide what they could give up to enable him to do this.

10.3 Local Preacher's Report - This had been circulated and was accepted.

10.4 Worship / Planning Issues - Discussion in Churches needed

The new Plan, version 8, is about to be published. Most churches have 5 or 6 local arrangements. Priority has been given to Zoom services. Churches are encouraged to have conversations with each other about how they can share together. They will also be able to join Zoom as a congregation or use the Circuit audio material given out each week.

10.5 Circuit Review - Where we are now

Deacon Gill reported on the new Mission Statement - Gather, Grow, Go. Churches need to focus on Gathering together, Growing in numbers and spirituality and Going out into the community. The Circuit may be able to help with resources. Tony will send out some notes on the recent meeting. Churches will not be able to have meetings until after restrictions are lifted so progress will not begin until September. The Logo was designed by Rev. Karen and hymn words by Julian Tawn. The Mission Statement was agreed by the meeting.

11. Finance

11.1 Appointment of Auditors

It was suggested that we keep PFK for this year at the same fee of £5,500 as last year. The meeting agreed to this and adopted the report by Andrew Goodwin which had been circulated.

12. Property

12.1 Update regarding sale of Wareham Church

Questions had been raised by the buyer regarding access, particularly at the rear of the building. Our Solicitor is now providing that information to the buyer's solicitor and hopefully things will progress from there.

12.2 Work to Stokewood Manse

The work on the Manse has not yet been done as further work is now required. A revised quote will be sent out to Trustees to agree at a later date.

12.3 Ratify Approval of Annual Property Returns

This had been approved electronically and was agreed by the meeting.

12.4 Temporary use of York Rd and Cherry Tree Manses

There are two Supernumeraries coming into the Circuit who, through no fault of their own, need housing for a short period. We are at the limit of the number of manses we are permitted to let out, so it has been decided to allow the Supernumeraries to use the manses, provided they are responsible for all expenses, for a period of three months.

15. Any other business

a) God in Love Unites Us

Julian Tawn had received a letter from Rev Derek Balsdon (Methodist Evangelicals Together) and Rev David Miller (Voice of Methodism Association) concerning God in Love Unites Us, which they had asked to be read at Church Council and Circuit Meetings. He read it to the meeting.

Tony had also received a letter expressing a different view which he also read out. Hopefully Conference discussions on this report will go well.

Date of next meeting: 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm Venue to be arranged