

MEETING OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Thursday 19th September 2019 at 6.30pm

At Horley Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Horley, RH6 7AS

Draft Minutes

Prayers

1a. Preliminaries

- (a) Welcomes- The Chair (David), and everyone introduced themselves.
- (b) Present- David Hinchliffe, Chris Blake, Deborah Cornish, Janet Glass, Helen Hollands, Shelagh Morgan, Pauline Newton, Bonni-Belle Pickard, Andrew Reed, Billy Slatter, Jon White, Alan Wood, Bart Woodhouse.

In attendance, Philippa Read, Kan Yu

- (c) Apologies- Derrick Dzandu-Hedidor, Joy Everingham, Alison Noakes.

1b. Preliminaries

- (a) Minutes –signed.
- (b) Matters arising- Ministers' retreat. Pauline has paid the bill and is looking forward to receiving money from those attending.

Do lay employees get a sabbatical? If a circuit wishes to grant a lay employee a sabbatical due to their workload, time of service, etc, then that would be something for the circuit to offer and should be in the terms of employment etc. It doesn't come under the Connexional sabbaticals process.

Youth conference. Moved to March- 3 days, in Ashford. Registrations and payment from circuits been simplified. Safeguarding processes being completed. Launch at Synod- template for leaflets for circuits to take away- put them in the circuit packs. Title 'Kingdom revolution'.

Those engaged with youth have already been contacted via the District Office to superintendents.

Date for an information session for those bringing the young people? There are 23 youth leaders over the weekend, training/briefing 13th March. Volunteers to be recruited, safeguarding processes being followed.

2. General policy

- (a) Connexional Matters

Reply to memorials- No memorials this time.

God Whose Love Unites Us (Marriage and Relationships Report)

resources see www.methodist.org.uk/MandR19

Now available for purchase but a time delay at the moment from MPH between ordering and delivery; Ken Howcroft will be our keynote speaker at Synod- will introduce, answer questions and give time for discussion. Conference has directed that a deep and broad consultation across the district but not how. Spring Synods to vote on the report.

Superintendents' residential- plan to spend some time working out a consistent consultation process across the District between synods.

Consultation is about listening to each other. The vote takes place at Synod. We want the discussion to be good.

Small group discussions at Synod will use the discussion guide- different groups to use different chapters. Try and get someone in each group who was at conference. No formal feedback from the groups at synod. This is the launch of the process.

Need to remember that Synod members are representatives and not delegates and to vote according to their consciences having listened carefully.

(c) District Development Plan

Positive Working Together

Nothing to note this meeting.

New Housing Areas

2 circuits working on it. Rather than trying to get one in each of the 3 areas, would we relax this if a 3rd possible was in one of the 2 other areas?

Possibility of Shoreham? Staines and Feltham still on the table.

Pioneering initiative. Superintendents residential.

Use of IT

How do we engage with young people. How do we communicate anything across the District. Do we have sufficient tech across the District. IT presence? Is our infrastructure sufficient? Missional context. DMLN running training again. Who would go? District Website needs refreshing. Can things like safeguarding training online. Refresher?

What would improvement and progress look like? Circuits need to look at their online outward face.

Communications around the District could be better.

Websites need to be maintained all the time. Do we want an informational website or a missional website? Multiple administrator websites are available.

Could the DMLN bring something to the next meeting? Need some youth input. Southampton website is excellent- has an intergenerational youth minister running it.

Manses

Jack Delbridge still managing to do the ones that need to be done, but he still needs a wider team. David grateful for the work done on the District manse.

Priorities for 2019-20- David to bring something to the next meeting.

Chinese Congregations- Kan Yu attending.

How might Chinese ministry in the District flourish and thrive? Event in MCH in November.

Presentation to aid discussion provided by Kan.

Not easy for a minister to serve Gillingham, Woking and Hastings- how can we put in some resources to encourage second generation to come forward as lay leaders. Migration out of London happening. Woking and Hastings are ministered at the moment? Woking- David Fu, 80 yrs old, Minister from Epsom goes to Hastings weekly.

2 streams-those who are new to English and those who are 2nd and 3rd generation. Culture and traditions mean that even if they understand English and go and worship in the English congregation, they still want to worship together.

Not possible to serve all these congregations with 1 person. Link between Epsom and Hastings is strong. Gillingham church might have the capacity to support Hastings.

The Chinese congregations are Methodist because of David Foo- the Chinese community here are Methodist. How do we engage with what is already and how with what is not yet taking place.

Travelling large distances to meet together (applies to other congregations.) Want to speak in local languages and as family. There are other independent Chinese churches around. The young people especially don't necessarily associate with a denomination.

The best resource would be a full time Chinese Methodist Minister. Support for training for local preachers- language barriers with the resources, Connexion and District come and experience. Some need financial support from the circuit. Woking congregation has just become part of the circuit, need circuits to have an awareness of these congregations. Translation of all sorts of documents an issue. Quarterly Chinese Methodist national meeting. Hong Kong and Malaysian conference offer support, including translation sometimes.

Lots to think about.

3. The Circuits

(a) Boundary changes- Andrew Reed reported that conversations continue with the London District and he is currently waiting for a meeting to take place between Rev. David Hinchliffe and Rev. Michaela Youngson in the near future. It should be possible to work out the way forward once this meeting has taken place.

Permission needed to send it to London-David to follow up.

(b) Discontinuance of worship, closure of chapels

Sackville Road, Hastings, Bexhill and Rye, looking to close at the end of this connexional year.

(d) Additional and fewer presbyters and deacons -none

(e) Stationing Priorities

Jenny been working extraordinarily hard over the summer- write to her to thank her for this- profiles to reflect on for **priority** status- Superintendency of Hastings, Bexhill and Rye, and the Wey Valley vacancy- 2/3 circuit 1/3 assistant chair.

Canterbury & East Kent seeking 2 appointments but if we don't fill both appointments, it will cause a significant challenge.

Other appointments in the normal way.

Criteria from last year applied this year would be reasonable. Scrutiny process is appropriate.

(f) Probationers' appointments & Supernumerary appointment

North Kent MOCC (Minister from Other Church or Conference) **Approved**

North Kent Probationer **Approved**

West Sussex Coastal and Downs Probationer **Approved**

(Ian Suttie is due to take a sabbatical- Deborah Cornish is ensuring Ian can take his sabbatical and supervision for a probationer be in place.)

Supernumerary appointment: Rev Jackie Case (Wey Valley Circuit). **Approved**

(g) Authorisations to preside- lay applications from the Hastings, Bexhill & Rye circuit- Endorsed

(h) Connexional Grants

Written report from Grants Officer circulated.

(i) Assessment for September 2020- Actuals figures for year ended 31 Aug 2019 were presented and accepted. Work is not yet completed on the Budget for year 20/21 as the Connexion has not yet sent out the District MCF Assessment figures. The Reserves Policy was agreed. All relevant figures for Circuit Assessment calculations will be gathered over the next couple of months then draft figures will be sent to Circuits in December.

Position end of year shared and **approved** wording of reserves policy. Huge word of thanks to Pauline for all her work on this.

Reviewing the workload of the District Chairs in terms of 1/3 time should be considered. Pauline to prepare 2 budgets for 20-21 to help consider this. **Yes.**

4. Ecumenical

The new bishops of Reading and Canterbury are due to be consecrated and installed in November. The URC of the Southern Synod is soon to leave her post, creating a vacancy in that role.

5. Safeguarding

Policy update- Philippa in attendance and update at the meeting. Additional comments- thanks to the circuits for their assistance in responding to the connexion for historic case review. There will be a briefing from the review to feed into the inquiry (ICCSA) Advanced module running well. Circuits to let her know of numbers still to be trained.

How do we ensure accountability for district sponsored events, eg the youth conference. The DC is the body to sign it off at the January meeting- Yes, Philippa is the equivalent of the circuit safeguarding officer so needs to be involved.

Feedback to the leadership team in January need to sign the event off.

Safeguarding Policy- **Recommended for approval at Synod**

Thanks to Philippa for all her work.

10. Nominations to appointments made by Synod

(a) Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Presbyteral Secretary of Synod

Representative Synod Secretary – Shelagh Morgan September 2015

District Council Secretary – Janet Glass July 2014

Presbyteral Synod Secretary – Paul Glass September 2010

(b) Treasurer(s)

District Expenses Fund - Pauline Newton September 2016

District Advance Fund - Neil Dobson January 2016

Representative to the Central Finance Board- Pauline Newton September 2017

(c) Property Secretaries – Included in role of Resourcing Mission Officers

(d) Disabilities Adviser – Margaret Bowerman September 2017

(e) Archivist – included in role of District Administrator September 2017

(g) Members of Connexional bodies

Methodist Council – Billy Slatter September 2018

Memorials Committee -Miriam Moul

(h) Candidates Committee (or Panel where required) and Secretary

(i) Probationers Committee

(j) Complaints Support Group and Convener and Deputy Convener; Reconciliation Group

(k) District Chair's Nomination Panel

(l) Other Officers and Committees as in District Directory

(m) Auditor or independent examiner: Wilkins Kennedy

(n) Trustees

District Trustees- members of the District Council

(o) Lay Stationing Representative – Jenny Jackson

11. Appointments

(a) Sabbaticals Advisory Group

One of the Assistant Chairs is always the chair of this committee- Deborah Cornish September 2018

(b) District Consents Body

(c) Ecumenical Officer Kent- Roy Hollands

12. Other matters

(c) Assistant Chair- update on appointment- taken earlier

Methodist Women in Britain District Committee discontinuance notification

13. Report to Synod and Synod planning

Need to highlight vacancies for District Council and representatives to conference.

14. Date and place of next meeting(s).

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| DPC 2019-20-January (Wednesday) | 22.01.20 | Horley Methodist Church |
| DPC 2019-20-March (Wednesday) | 01.04.20 | Horley Methodist Church |
| DPC 2019-20-June (Saturday) | 20.06.20 | Haywards Heath Methodist Church |
| DPC 2020-21 September (Wednesday) | 19.09.20 | Horley Methodist Church |