THE METHODIST CHURCH  
KETTERING & CORBY CIRCUIT (23/19)  

Minutes of the Circuit Meeting held on  
Wednesday 24th January 2018 at 7.30pm at Rothwell

PRESENT:  
Rev Martin Swan (RMS) - Chair  
Wendy Curtis (MWC)  
Michael Curtis (MC)  
Eric Beeby (EB)  
Don Spooner (DS)  
Jenny Spooner (JS)  
Caroline Barratt (CB)  
Ruth Fitch (RF)  
David Cox (DC)  
Alan Joyce (AJ)  
Patricia Hone (PH)  
Ann Basson (IB)  
Pat Basson (PB)  
Pauline Smith (PS)  
Jenny Ixer (JI)  
Anne Ellinor (AE)  
Joan Gray (JG)  

PRESENT:  
Margaret Reed (MR)  
Roger Keach (RK)  
Andrew Stenson (AS)  
Julie Johnson (JJ)  
Brian Burnes (BB)  
John Ownsworth (JO)  
Maureen Ownsworth (MO)  
Neil Clarke (NC)  
Joan Catherall (JCa)  
Alan Deans (AD)  
Carolyn Rice  
Ann Window (AWi)  
Peter Shuker (PSh)  
Alan Window (AW)  
Sidney Beecroft (SBe)  
Lynette Muir (LM)  
John Muir (JM)  
Fiona Schofield (FS) - Secretary  

APOLOGIES:  
Judith Gilbert  
Wendy Islip  
Sarah Ryan  
Dianne Neale  
Susan Walters  
Peter Candlin  
Maureen Johnson  
Alan Johnson  
Ron Rudge  
Wendy Islip  
Elizabeth Dalton-Stirling  
Michael Dalton-Stirling

1. Welcome and Opening Devotions  
RMS welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reminded everyone that only members can take part in any voting process during the meeting. RMS then led the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies  
Please see the list above.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting  
RMS went through the last minutes and accepted them as a true record.

4. Matters Arising  
None.
5. **Treasurers Report**
RMS told the meeting that unfortunately PMC is not very well so MWC explained the latest news about the sale of Grange church. The let of Hinton Avenue is still not finalised due to TMCP being awkward about aspects of the contract. MWC has tasked the agent to complete the contract and will take it to the solicitor shortly. RMS aired his views that TMCP are not fully prepared to deal with this issue.

JO shared the final accounts for Grange Church with the meeting following their closure at the end of August last year. The closing balance was £32,926.27 which has been transferred into to the Circuit accounts. The accounts from Grange have been independently examined by AD. MC proposed that the accounts be approved by the meeting. RMS stated that the balance will continue to fund any ongoing bills from Grange Church. RMS also complimented JO on how well he looked tonight.

JO announced that Joan Gray has volunteered to take over the accounts of the Connexional Fund and Methodist Homes. He also asked that Pauline Smith, Patricia Hone and Michael Curtis be approved to become signatories on the account. This was agreed by AJ and seconded by IB.

6. **Safeguarding**
RMS asked the meeting to adopt the Safeguarding Policy for all our churches. The meeting agreed to the acceptance of the policy.

7. **Administrator Updated**
RMS shared the news that interviews for a new Administrator are taking place on Monday at Central.

8. **Church Council Chairs**
MWC explained the new structure to the meeting. At Cornerstone, SH to chair and Joan Catherall to visit; Rothwell, Alan Joyce to chair and Wendy Curtis to visit; Central, Alan Deans to chair and Alan Joyce to visit; Burton Latimer, Wendy Curtis to chair and Maureen Ownsworth to visit; Cottingham, Rev Martin Swan to chair and Peter Candlin to visit; St Giles, Ian Basson to visit and Caroline Barratt on the next occasion.

9. **Church Bids for £20k**
St Giles began with their bid; they intend to split the money in half. Firstly, a lay worker would be employed for 1 day per week for 2 years at £5k per year to build up the ministry for the ageing population and bereavement support. Secondly, they would like to improve their audio visual capabilities to improve facilities for the younger generation.
Cottingham are hoping to install a new audio/sound system for the chapel and the school hall. This will be particularly beneficial for a new group using the church aimed at supporting families with autism. The cost will be £2.5k.

Cornerstone have already done quite a lot of general improvements to the building over the last few months. MWC explained that they would like to update their kitchen facilities and use the remainder to facilitate a lay worker. DO asked about the salary of the lay worker and JO asked if this would carry on the work of Fiona de Boltz and MWC stated that more groups are now using Cornerstone following Fiona’s work in the community.

Burton Latimer are seeking assistance from the circuit to audit their current activities and help with guidance on the way forward; secondly they would like £1.5k to further the work already being done with the younger generation; this includes the purchase of tablets which will be loaded with appropriate religious apps; thirdly they would like to update their church laptop to enable it to be connected to the large screen and will be used by all the groups; fourthly they would like to replace the chairs in the church with more suitable ones as some are damaged and unsafe. The new chairs will be more fit for purpose than the present ones. The total of this request is only £5k from the £20k available.

Rothwell stated the importance of sharing food with people and the benefits it brings to the community. They would like funds to pay for their new photocopier which has allowed them to produce leaflets, banners and be able to advertise the events happening in the church. Also, they would like to update the ladies toilets in the church as they are in desperate need of improvement. They also wish to update the sound system and employ a lay worker to work with young people. The costs will facilitate the whole £20k available.

Central also has a very low bid of £5k; the main part being a new Noticeboard. Updating the laptop with the use of Songpro software and additional music books. Also costs for a lay worker and a laptop and mobile phone for use by the lay worker.

All these bids were agreed by the meeting, proposed by AJ and seconded by IB.

10. Circuit Youth Report
CB has spent the day at Naseby with children in the church. She shared all the events she has planned for the future. She has also led worship at a school in Burton Latimer and will be meeting with the Deputy Head of the primary school in Rothwell next week. RMS commented on how well the assembly had gone for 250 children at Burton Latimer that they shared.
RMS asked the meeting to think about what we are trying to achieve when we reach out to the community. What do we actually provide if we get newcomers in?

11. New Circuit Website
MWC explained that Steve Hone is acting as a conduit with Then Media, which is the company we are paying to build our website. Very little information has been given to SH for the website and MWC is asking that information about forthcoming events and activities be forwarded to SH by Wednesday 7th February 2018. The website will be updated on a regular basis but it can only be current if each church provides their information.

12. Circuit Leadership Groups
AJ shared their plans for their church family group. PB is gathering people from each group that uses Rothwell church and their first meeting is next week. They are hoping that this initiative will help them to connect with more groups from the local area. RMS sees these groups as a fluid group that will move and grow with the need and times at each church. PB shared that she sees this group as an exciting way forward for everyone. RMS does not wish for people to try and reinvent the wheel.

13. Circuit Prayer Meeting Venue and Dates
RMS stated that the next prayer meeting will be on Tuesday 6th February 2018 at 7.30pm at Central.

14. Any Other Business
The next circuit service will be on Sunday 13th May 2018 at 10.30am at Central at which all churches will parade their uniformed organisations.

CB gave an update about the 2nd Kettering Girls Brigade. They are now using the Grange Resource Centre but they are struggling with low attendance.

RMS shared the accounts from the Home and Overseas Mission with the meeting. RMS asked the meeting if they would be happy for the each church to make an annual donation rather than making the individual collections. DS agreed and AJ seconded.

RF reported that the local preachers meeting brought up the MET training from Paul Wilson to visit the circuit in November. RMS asked which church would be willing to host Mr Wilson. After discussions it was felt that we should defer this issue at present.
AD offered the opportunity to join in the weekend away at Willesley in Derbyshire and he gave the details to the meeting.

15. Closing Prayer
RMS led the meeting in prayer.

16. Date of Next Meeting
The dates of the next meetings are:-

Wednesday 16th May 2018 at Cornerstone (MWC to chair in RMS' absence)
Wednesday 26th September 2018 at Cottingham
Wednesday 23rd January 2019 at Burton Latimer

All meetings will start at 7.30pm

Signed .................................................................................................................. Date ........................................