

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

**Minutes of the Circuit Meeting held on  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7.30pm at Cornerstone**

**PRESENT:**

Rev Andrew Farrington (AF) - Chair  
Wendy Curtis (MWC)  
Ian Basson (IB)  
Alan Joyce (AJ)  
Maureen Ownsworth (MO)  
Don Spooner (DS)  
Carolyn Rice (CR)  
Peter Candlin (PC)  
Caroline Barratt (CB)  
Mary-Ann Ansell (MAA)  
Fiona Schofield (FS)  
Sue Walters (SW)  
Joan Gray (JG)  
Michael Curtis (MC)  
Pauline Smith (PS)  
Andrew Stenson (AS)  
Maureen Johnson (MJ)  
Alan Johnson (AJ)  
Alan Deans (AD)  
Mike Dalton-Stirling (MDS)  
Jenny Spooner (JS)  
Marlene Fulton (MF)  
Ron Rudge (RR)  
Patricia Hone (PH)  
Jennie Ixer (JI)  
Anne Window (AWi)  
Alan Window (AW)  
Peter Shuker (PS)  
David Cox (DC)  
Pat Basson (PB)  
Anne Ellson (AE)  
Julie Johnson (JJ)

**CIRCUIT ROLES:**

Circuit Superintendent  
Circuit Steward  
Circuit Steward  
Circuit Steward  
Circuit Steward  
Circuit Steward  
Circuit Steward  
Circuit Finance  
Children and Youth Worker  
Circuit Administrator  
Circuit Meeting Secretary  
Circuit Safeguarding Officer  
Connexional Funds Officer  
Circuit Property  
Action for Children  
Treasurer - Burton Latimer  
Circuit Rep - Burton Latimer  
Circuit Rep - Burton Latimer  
Treasurer - Central  
Steward - Central  
Circuit Rep - Central  
Circuit Rep - Central  
Treasurer - Cornerstone  
Circuit Rep - Cornerstone  
Circuit Rep - Cornerstone  
Steward - St Giles  
Circuit Rep - St Giles  
Steward - St Giles  
Circuit Rep - St Giles  
Treasurer - Rothwell  
Circuit Rep - Rothwell  
Circuit Rep - Rothwell

**APOLOGIES:**

Rev Hannah Jeffery  
Joan Catherall  
John Muir  
Lynette Muir  
Ruth Fitch  
Roger Keach

**1. Welcome and Prayer**

AF welcomed everyone to the meeting and began with a reading from Romans Chapter 12.

## 2. Agreement of the Membership of this Meeting

The ex officio members specified in Standing Order 552:

Superintendent Minister: Rev'd Andrew Farrington

Rev'd Hannah Jeffrey; Canon Neil Clarke

Circuit Stewards: Wendy Curtis, Ian Basson, Joan Catherall, Alan Joyce, Maureen Ownsworth, Don Spooner, Carolyn Rice and Peter Candlin (Finance).

Among those employed by the meeting under Standing Order 570:

Children and Youth Worker

Caroline Barratt

Circuit Administrator

Mary-Ann Ansell

Secretary of the meeting

Fiona Schofield

Secretary of the Local Preachers' Meeting Ruth Fitch

From each local church **one church steward** and the **treasurer** and **up to 3 representatives elected by the Church Council** of each local church from its own members in numbers specified by the Circuit Meeting.

Additional persons as the Circuit Meeting may desire and appoint to ensure that all areas of the life of the Circuit are adequately represented, provided that the total number appointed under this head shall not exceed the total of the numbers specified by the Circuit Meeting for the purposes of the head.

Safeguarding Officer

Sue Walters

Connexional Funds Officer

Joan Gray

Circuit Property

Michael Curtis

Circuit Missions Secretary

Vacant

MWIB Secretary

Vacant

Action for Children

Pauline Smith

Young People's Representative

Vacant

The meeting all agreed to all of the above positions being nominated.

## 3. Apologies

Please see the list above.

## 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

AF accepted and signed the minutes as a true record. PC proposed and the rest of the meeting agreed.

## 5. Matters Arising

None.

## 6. Safeguarding

SW asked the meeting to agree the Safeguarding Policy at each of the churches. The model policy can be amended to suit each individual church. The meeting agreed to accept this policy for the circuit. SW reminded the meeting of the importance of specified members attending the advanced safeguarding course. SW is willing to organise a course at Central Church but she will need help to set up the church before the course starts. Anyone who needs to undertake a DBS check should contact SW to start the process and that also includes renewals. AF explained the importance of Safeguarding within the church and stated that he is willing to co-train with SW at Central for the training course.

AF emphasised how important safeguarding is and if you ever feel that something is wrong, please record your thoughts and report them to SW or AF and it will be treated in complete confidence.

## 7. Financial Update

PC shared the details of the general accounts for year ending 31 August 2019 and stated that these are not complete as there is an interest payment still to be received. The accounts are healthy at the moment though. Grange church has now been sold to Kettering Borough Council and the money was received in May 2019. AF asked the meeting to accept the accounts and it was agreed. The Model Trust fund balance stands at £310,000.00.

## 8. Connexional Funds / Methodist Homes

JG shared the details of the Connexional Funds and Methodist Homes with the meeting. Methodist Homes have requested that there be a representative from each church that can be contacted. JG asked that members go back to their churches and find a willing person to be take on this task. Methodist Homes are particularly grateful for the monies we have raised as this has been used towards music therapy. JG asked the meeting to approve these accounts and the meeting agreed.

## 9. Property Consents

AF advised the meeting that all church buildings are managed overall by the TMCP (Trustees by Methodist Church Purposes), Property Office in Manchester. To this end, any major work that is needed to be carried out, it must be recorded onto the Methodist property website for consents etc. before any work begins.

## 10. Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Invitation Committee

AF explained the structure of the Circuit Leadership Team and the Circuit Invitation Committee.

- CLT members are Rev Andrew Farrington, Caroline Barratt, Mary-Ann Ansell, Ian Basson, Peter Candlin, Alan Joyce, Carolyn Rice, Don Spooner, Joan Catherall, Maureen Ownsworth, and Wendy Curtis. AGREED
- CIC members are Alan Joyce, Carolyn Rice, Don Spooner, Joan Catherall, Maureen Ownsworth, and Wendy Curtis. AGREED

The purpose of the CIC committee is to deal with any matters arising and then take any issues to the Circuit Leadership Team.

## 11. Stationing for a Probationer Presbyter

AF asked the meeting to agree the Probationers Profile to enter Stationing for appointment on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

MWC explained to the meeting that the CIC met and put together a profile which unfortunately was declined previously due to the shortage of probationers. The re submission needs to be done before 18 September and this is why agreement is being sought from the meeting to finance this project. The benefits for mission and the growth of our circuit and its people are invaluable.

AF gave the meeting a little bit of background information and would envisage that the person appointed would fulfil needs around the Kettering area. AF asked the meeting to agree to start the process and it **was agreed by everyone at the meeting.**

The initial stationing group will meet in early January and AF has been told to expect a phone call on Friday 3 January 2020 at 4pm. If we have a probationer appointed to us, we will not be able to refuse this person.

PC explained how the circuit will finance the additional costs for the five years and has produced a sheet of figures outlining the costs involved, including selling Hinton Avenue and buying an alternative manse. AS asked what would happen if Burton Latimer could not afford to pay more each year and PC explained that there is some flexibility in the figures. AW stated to the meeting that he believes we need to go forward with this project now. IB suggested that we could sell Hinton Avenue for a higher price and this would ease the financial situation.

PC/AF asked the meeting to agree the spend from the Model Trust Fund for this project and the meeting wholeheartedly agreed. **AGREED to allocate:**

1. **up to £100K to complete purchase of a new manse,**
2. **and £152.7K over 5 years towards the Circuit Budget for Presbyteral Ministry**
3. **and £30k (7.5k pa for 4 years) for Children & Youth Worker from CMTF.**

AF asked the meeting to agree to start the process to give the tenants of Hinton Avenue notice to vacate and this should be completed by the end of this year. **The meeting agreed.**

AF asked the meeting to agree to sell Hinton Avenue in order to buy another Manse and again the **meeting agreed.**

PB asked what would happen if we were not given a probationer in January, would the circuit still sell Hinton Avenue and AF explained that we would review if that became the situation. The property does need to be sold anyway but is not suitable to be retained as a Manse.

## **12. Circuit Lay Employment**

AF suggested that the CLT does not feel there are any spare funds in budget available to employ any more staff at the present time. The meeting AGREED.

AF suggested that it might be preferable to have a working space for himself, Mary-Ann and Caroline. There may be some space available at Central Church in Kettering and he asked the meeting if he could pursue this matter further and the meeting agreed.

## **13. Superintendent**

AF informed the meeting that his non-working day will be Fridays and he is encouraging Mary-Ann and Caroline to also have a non-working day each week.

AF is enjoying his new home at Hall Close and his door is always open or he can be reached by telephone.

## **14. Authorisations**

AF explained the authorisations to preside and hopes to present these certificates for Kate Horrix, Maureen Ownsworth & Philip Rice at the circuit service on 29 September 2019.

AF intends to chair the church council meetings but will be asking people to take charge of the sub committees but he will still attend these where possible. AF will request any deputisation at meetings in writing.

AF requested that the meeting agree for him to be 'Responsible' at all churches for Weddings and it was agreed. He has had several requests for weddings already.

## **15. Good News**

PB shared the memory of last Sundays local arrangement at Rothwell and the use of the resources available has helped people to encourage worship leaders.

AS shared the news of the successful course completion at Open Doors Church and they then led a service at Burton Latimer a couple of weeks ago. A young man has joined the church and is helping with steward duties.

SW shared the Missions Together news at Central where they go into Kettering town centre with a pop up gazebo and one family then attended church afterwards. Cream tea to be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September and SW asked for the circuits support.

JG shared news of a little girl who approached her in the street outside Cornerstone church and wanted to go into the church and was disappointed that JG did not have a key. The little girl was so excited about going into the church and attending the carol service again at Christmas.

JG also shared that some people have stopped attending Cornerstone because they felt that the church was not fulfilling their spirituality. Cornerstone are now going to hold a Bible studies group in the next month.

AWi shared that several new people have started attending Desborough church and several people are undertaking training.

IB shared that God moves in mysterious ways. Rothwell church is being painted at the moment and the man doing the work finds the church to be a warm place. IB feels that we have to be ready for God to show us his work.

**16. Desborough**

St Giles will be celebrating 50 years of Local Ecumenical Partnership in Desborough. AF asked the meeting to rejoice in this partnership. AF suggested that at least three or four people from each church within the circuit should attend this historical event. This will take place on the weekend of 5 October 2019.

**17. Mission Action Planning**

AF encouraged us to hold a circuit meeting spending time examining and sharing how our churches have moved forward with mission.

**18. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meetings is:-

Thursday 14 November 2019 at 7.30pm - venue to be advised

Signed .....

Date .....