

## **CIRCUIT MEETING MEMBERSHIP**

### **STAFF**

Revd Howard Long  
Rev. Siperire Mugadzaweta  
Rev. Leslie Noon  
Rev. Andrew Walker  
Rev. Pam Cram  
Rev. Peter Dolling  
Rev. Gillian Evans  
Rev. Malcolm Guest  
Rev. John Jones

### **LAY WORKERS**

Mr Huw Davies – Ogof Adullum  
Mrs Cerys Davies – Ogof Adullum

### **CIRCUIT ROLES**

Mrs Nancy Owens – Circuit Meeting Secretary  
Mrs Beverley Poiner – Education and Youth  
Mr Alan Cram – Local Preachers Secretary  
Mrs Heather Coleman – Circuit Steward  
Mr Jeff Coleman – Circuit Archivist  
Miss Janet Nielson – Circuit MWiB representative  
Mrs Pat Davies – Circuit Safeguarding  
Mrs Win Hawkins – Circuit Project Chair  
Mrs Sandra Pengelly – Circuit MHA representative  
Mrs Sybil Smith – Circuit Mission representative  
Mrs Lynne Taylor – Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator (Admin)  
Mrs Gill Worrall – Circuit Action for Children representative  
Mr Ken Allison – Circuit Steward  
Mr Andrew Phillips – Circuit Property  
Mr Keith Morris – Circuit Property

### **CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES**

Mrs Elaine Davies  
Mrs Maureen Estcourt  
Mr Brinley Jones  
Mr Owain Davies  
Mrs Ruth Painter  
Mrs Marjorie Probert  
Mr Martin Gregson  
Mrs Anne Gregson  
Mr Ian Campbell  
Mrs Jane Closs  
Mrs Hildegard Roberts  
Mr Peter Scott  
Mrs Irene Dendle  
Mr Douglas Dendle  
Mrs Elaine Rees

Mrs Jean Powell  
Mr Geoff Noon  
Mrs Gwen Dumelow  
Mr Laurie Higgs  
Mr Les Want  
Mrs Sandra Cuthill  
Mrs Pam Tucker  
Miss Violet Soo  
Mrs Kath Jones  
Mr Malcolm Grinley  
Mrs Carol Fardoe  
Mr Quentin Hawkins  
Mrs Carolyn Jenkins  
Mr Patrick Jenkins  
Miss Selina Taylor  
Mrs Di Norton  
Mrs Ann Beynon  
Mr David Boakes  
Mrs Caroline Buckler  
Mr David Jones  
Mrs Susan Jones  
Mrs Blodwen O'Connor  
Mrs Pat Davies

## **METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN**

CIRCUIT MEETING MARCH 2017

### **EASTER OFFERING**

The EASTER OFFERING envelopes etc., have been given out to all churches. If you haven't seen the envelopes in your church it may be because your stewards think it is too early to give them out. If they don't appear in your church within a couple of weeks please ask around to see where they are hiding. The information for your church treasurer is available from me this evening. Please don't leave the meeting without the sheet. This information is important. After that the money and all queries about Easter Offering finance will be dealt with by Martin Gregson, 14, Bwlfa Road, Ynystawe, Swansea SA6 5AL. Tel 01792 843256.

Please bring your church's cheque to the EO service if someone from your church will be present at the service. Otherwise send the cheque to Martin Gregson.

Make the cheque payable to **METHODIST CHURCH WORLD MISSION FUND.**

Our Easter Offering service to dedicate our collection will be at **Penlan at 6pm on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May** (Aldersgate Sunday). Our preacher will be Rev Linda Woollacott. There will be refreshments after the service.

### **AMELIA TRUST FARM**

If you wish to find out about all the activities at the Amelia Farm sign up to their Facebook page or look at their website.

Janet Neilson

March 2017

## **Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy for Swansea and Gower Circuit**

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

The Swansea and Gower Circuit recognises that none of us is invulnerable but that there is a particular care for those whose vulnerability is increased by situations, by disabilities or by reduction in capacities. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

The Swansea and Gower Circuit is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

The Swansea and Gower Circuit fully agrees with the Connexional statement reiterated in *Creating Safer Space* 2007:

*As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.*

The Swansea and Gower Circuit recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual or institutional abuse or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

The Swansea and Gower Circuit commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust. It commits itself to providing pastoral care to those in need, including the supervision of those who have committed criminal offences.

The Swansea and Gower Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Swansea and Gower Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

## **Purpose**

The purposes of this safeguarding policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children and vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Safeguarding Handbook (2010).

The Swansea and Gower Circuit appoints a Safeguarding Adults and Children Coordinator and supports the incumbent in this role.

### **a) Roles and responsibilities**

#### *Superintendent*

1. Ensure all churches have appropriate and up-to-date safeguarding policies in place.
2. Support those in pastoral charge in exercising responsibility for the implementation of safeguarding policy and practice.
3. Ensure the provision of pastoral support for those involved in issues of abuse and in management of sex offenders.
4. Ensure training opportunities are in place for all workers with children, vulnerable adults, for staff of the circuit and for members of the local churches in the circuit.
5. Ensure the Circuit Meeting appoints a Safeguarding Coordinator and that the details of that person are passed to the District office.
6. Ensure the Circuit Meeting reviews this policy annually.
7. Support the Safeguarding Coordinator in their work, providing access to resources to enable them to fulfil their functions.

#### *Circuit Stewards*

Ensure agreed procedures are in place for Circuit and ecumenical events that involve children or vulnerable adults.

#### *Circuit Safeguarding Coordinators*

1. Support and advise the Circuit Superintendent and the Circuit Stewards in fulfilling their roles.
2. Provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues.
3. Liaise with the District Safeguarding Group(s).
4. With the support of the Superintendent ensure that any incidents and allegations are followed up or referred as necessary.

### **b) Procedures for circuit events involving children or vulnerable adults**

It is essential that circuit events that involve children or vulnerable adults do not slip through the net because they are not owned by one church.

### **c) Responsibility for those planning and leading the event**

All those involved in leading and running the event must be aware of the procedure.

The event should have been planned effectively and attention given to the following issues:

- Risk assessment and suitability of the activity and the premises.
- The appointment of a team to take charge of the event, who will ensure that appropriate safeguarding procedures are in place.
- Numbers of children or vulnerable adults involved.
- Transportation following good practice guidelines.

**d) Key concepts and definitions**

- i) Vulnerable Adults:** any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of her or himself, or to protect her or himself from significant harm or exploitation.
- ii) Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults** from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iii) Adult/child protection** is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
- iv) Abuse and neglect** may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

Dated .....

Signed ..... Chair of Circuit Meeting

This policy was agreed at the Circuit Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017. It will be reviewed annually.

**HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY**  
**METHODIST CHURCH**  
**SWANSEA AND GOWER CIRCUIT**

**SECTION A**

General Statement of Policy

Our policy is to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for our employees, casual labour and voluntary helpers

We will endeavour to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all members of the congregation, contractors, visitors and others who may visit the church, hall, grounds and any associated buildings.

The allocation of duties for safety matters and the particular arrangements which we will make to implement the policy are set out below.

**SECTION B**

Organisations and responsibilities

Responsibility of the Church Council

Overall responsibility for health and safety is that of the Church Council. It is therefore its responsibility to ensure that the health and safety policy is implemented It shall therefore

1. Be familiar with the Health and Safety Regulations, as far as they concern church premises
2. be familiar with the health and safety policy and arrangements and ensure that they are observed
3. ensure so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe systems of work are in place
4. ensure that the church premises are clean and tidy
5. ensure the grounds are properly maintained
6. ensure that first aid equipment is provided
7. ensure that all tools and equipment are properly maintained and in good condition
8. ensure that adequate firefighting equipment is available and maintained
9. appoint a member with specific responsibilities for Health & Safety to assist the church council to fulfil its responsibilities.

## Responsibility of employees and voluntary workers

All employees and voluntary helpers have a responsibility to co-operate in the implementation of this health and safety policy and to take reasonable care of themselves and others whilst on church business or premises.

### **SECTION C**

#### Arrangements

(Implementation of the Policy)

This section sets out our arrangements to minimise risks to the health and safety of employees, voluntary workers, members of the congregation, visitors and contractors,

#### 1. ACCIDENTS AND FIRST AID

##### First Aid Box/first aid blanket/accident book

All accidents and incidents must be entered in the accident book. First Aid kits should be stored in an area where conditions will not readily contribute to their deterioration and checked on a regular basis.

#### 2. GENERAL FIRE SAFETY

Our responsibility is to undertake the following:

1. An Assessment of the fire risks in the premises
2. To provide, test and service fire detection and firefighting equipment
3. To ensure that all Fire Exits are clearly marked.
4. Check that people who may be in the building can get out safely
5. To ensure emergency evacuation lights are annually maintained

If you discover a fire (no matter how small)

1. Immediately raise the alarm
2. Telephone the emergency services
3. Check the building for occupants without taking personal risks
4. Attack the fire if possible within your capability using the appliances provided, but without taking personal risks
5. If it is not possible to attack the fire or if you are unsure which fire extinguisher to use you must evacuate the building, ensuring that all doors are closed behind you. The general rule is People before Property
6. Ensure clear access for the emergency vehicles.

### 3. ELECTRICAL SAFETY

At regular intervals, plugs, cables and sockets will be inspected to ensure there are no loose connections, worn flexes or trailing leads.

1. Any repairs needed will be carried out by a competent electrician.
2. All electrical systems must be inspected and certificated by a qualified electrician
3. Portable electrical appliances to be inspected annually by a registered electrician
4. Donations of electrical items (i.e. Kettles, vacuums etc), should be PAT tested before using

### 4. CENTRAL HEATING

Oil fired/Gas/Electric Central heating to be inspected and certificated at least every 5 years by a qualified person

### 5. HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

1. Cleaning fluids and other substances (bleach), which could be dangerous to children, will be locked away
2. Anyone cleaning the property to be made aware of hazardous cleaning materials.
3. The church will not use portable gas heaters

### 6. SAFETY OF MACHINERY

1. Persons under the age of 18 may use hand tools only and are not permitted to operate any power driven item of plant or machinery
2. Ladders may only be used when they can be safely secured. This may necessitate the use of ladder ties or two person operations. All ladders will be inspected annually and the inspection registered

### 7. SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS (conditions of floors, steps and path)

In order to the risk of slips, trips and falls, regular inspections will be made of all floors, and all paths and steps to the grounds.

### 8 LIGHTING

In order that the church buildings (and where necessary surrounding paths) are lit, regular inspections will be carried out to ensure that all lights in the Church premises and grounds are working and bulbs replaced as necessary. The necessary safety precautions will be followed for replacing bulbs at high levels.

### 9 WORKING AT HIGH LEVELS

Only approved contractors or competent volunteers may work at high levels subject to the necessary safety provisions being in place.

## 10 PREPARATION OF FOOD

We ensure that we follow the appropriate regulations governing the preparation and storage of foodstuffs including storage at correct temperatures.

## 11 CONTRACTORS

Anyone entering the church premises for the purposes of carrying out work, other than an employee or voluntary worker of the church, will be regarded as a contractor. All contractors, should:

1. Have their own Health & Safety Policy (where required by law) and be able to provide a copy of the same
2. Provide evidence that they have appropriate public and employers' liability, in place
3. Any Church Officer appointing a contractor on behalf of the Church must **require** evidence of items 1 and 2.
4. Any Contractor seen to be acting in a way contrary to the conditions of the Health and Safety Document, may be required to stop working and leave the site.

**Signed**

**Position** – Chair of the Church Council (Managing Trustees)

**Date**

**Signed**

**Position** – Secretary of the Church Council

**Date**

## Minutes of Local Preachers' Meeting Mumbles Monday March 6<sup>th</sup> 2017

Present: Rev Howard Long (Chair); Cynthia Mumford (temporary Secretary), Rev Linda Woolcott, Caroline Buckler, Quentin and Win Hawkins, Anne and Martin Gregson, Cerys Davies, Selina Taylor, Alice Rutter, Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta, Rev Gill Evans, Rev Leslie Noon, Rev John Atkinson, Sue Raad, Ann Beynon, Jeff and Heather Coleman, Rev Andrew Walker, Ken Shingleton, Ken Allison.

1. Opening devotions were led by Selina Taylor.

2. Welcome Rev Linda Woolcott was welcomed to her first LP meeting.

Apologies: Alan Cram, Clive Jones, Pam Jones and Peter Dolling.

3. Minutes of last meeting: accepted and signed

4. Matters Arising: Selina use of mobile phones during services is distracting for preacher.

5. Pastoral Concerns: the following absent members were especially remembered: Rev Peter Dolling Clive Jones, Bernard Gwyther, former circuit treasurer.

6 a Preachers on Trial: Satisfactory reports received. 6 b Dates for assessed services: to be arranged.

7. Concerns from around the Circuit:

Rev Howard set out the situation with regard to the problems with the building at our Brunswick church.

Rev Leslie: at Sketty a Muslim gentleman, Mohammed from Libya, who comes to the services as an observer and is interested in Muslim/Christian dialogue. He often comes in late which can be disconcerting.

8. Safeguarding: Rev Leslie will commence retraining/update sessions in near future with Mrs Pat Davies (both qualified trainers). The sessions are two and a half hours and everyone will have notice of the dates in due course.

9. LWPT: no report

10. Circuit Projects:

a) Ogof Adullam: Had moved into the Wesley Room at Brunswick about 30 guests on a regular basis. They were now able to produce hot meals. They had received donations of food from one of the large Supermarkets. There are currently 4 guests in rehab. There was always a need for more volunteers but they have to go through training and trial period to see if they are suitable.

b) Rev Leslie reported that the night shelter went well in Sketty church during January. There were 7-8 guests regularly.

Reports on LP meetings:

a) District Weekend at Lindors, everyone had seen the report circulated by Alan Cram.

- b. Day Conference at Dinas Powys with Trevor Dennis: Win and Ken Allison attended. Win reported the topics as Were any of the Disciples Women? Does God have favourites? And does God sit on a throne or a mat? Lively discussion ensued.
- c. Meeting with Dr Dennis Alexander again everyone had seen the report circulated by Alan Cram.
- d. Weekend with Julia Edwards report previously circulated. Rev Howard thanked Alice Rutter for arranging the visit to Swansea. The evening at Murton was a great success. Alice then gave a message from Alan Cram that Julia had had her appointment in Fiji extended.

#### 12. Forthcoming Meetings:

- a) LP Study Group: April 3rd at Colemans'; May 8th<sup>th</sup> venue to be arranged
- b) Course on led by Rev Dr Noel Davies on Ezekiel: Programme already circulated mainly for LP's but all invited so posters should be put up in Churches.
- c) Big questions in science and faith March 25<sup>th</sup> see web page. (Link on agenda)
- d) Methodist Churches Bible Month on James: the month of June be dedicated to the book of James. This would involve preachers co-ordinating with each other. Information also available online. Will commence on the second Sunday in June as the first Sunday is Pentecost. It would then continue into July. Rev Howard said this should dovetail with bible study groups.

#### 13. Lent resources as on Agenda

14. AOB Ken Allison referred us to recipe for "Bible" cake which we had all had a chance to sample at tea. The ingredients could be found by following the bible references on the recipe.

15. Next meeting: June 5<sup>th</sup> at Pitton. Devotions /epilogue to be confirmed.

16. The epilogue was led by Rev John Atkinson.

Meeting closed at 20.30 with the Grace.

**The Methodist Church in Wales  
Synod Policy Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held at Newtown Methodist church

Saturday 11 February 2017

**Present:**                      Rev Stephen Wigley                      Chair

Kofi Amissah, Martyn Boyce, Rosemarie Clarke, Paul Donnison, Anne Farnsworth, Richard Hodgson, Roger Hides, Lorette Hinson, Graham Illingworth, Teddy Kalongo Sue Lawler, Gwyneth Leigh, Joan Meredith, Judith Powell, Flis Randall, Richard Sharples, Heather Tucker, Roy Watson

James Noyes, Mary Sharples                      Youth representatives

Ann Cashmore                      Minute Secretary

**Apologies:**    Phil Challis, Chris Gray, Jack Healey, Martin Lougher, Leslie Noon, Nick Oborski, Hugh John Wilson

**01/17 Welcome**

Stephen welcomed Kofi Amissah, Heather Tucker, Lorette Hinson, Mary Sharples and James Noyes to the meeting. Opening devotions were taken from the Epistle of James, chapter 5.

**02/17 Minutes**

The minutes of meeting held 15 October 2016 were amended as follows:

Rosemarie Clarke was added to those present: Leslie Noon was deleted from those present and listed in the Apologies: Bob Gilston was correctly spelled with a “t” and the spelling of Leslie Noon was corrected in two other places within the minutes.

With these amendments the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

**03/17 Establishing Synod Policy**

1a      CDIM Policy                      previously distributed paper

agreed

Revised policy

Communication Policy – amendment to 5e – wherever possible changed to wherever appropriate –

Revised policy

agreed

## 2 Development plan under SO962

Draft paper was presented for consideration and decision at June 2017 SPC.

- Does not pick up on urban development etc, national discernment of ‘going where we are needed most.’ But should this happen locally?
- Suggestion SLT engage in discussion with CLT where major developments in locality are planned.
- Annual review and update of circuit mission policies in line with stationing profiles.

Extra paragraph be added to reflect the willingness of Synod to engage in discussion with circuits where major developments in locality are proposed.

Action: SDW

### 04/17 Implementing Synod Policy

#### (i) General

Judith Lewis had been appointed accounts examiner. RH expects to be able to bring examined accounts to next meeting.

Action: RH

#### (ii) Budget for 2017/18

previously distributed paper

Richard Hodgson explained the Budget and Assessments (as set out in the previously distributed papers).

Both accepted by the meeting.

Assessments (to include both Synod Budget and Methodist Church Fund allocation) had been capped at a 5% increase. It was accepted that the deployment figures should be taken as of the planned position at 31<sup>st</sup> Dec, even if some circuits still had vacant appointments.

Stephen thanked Richard for his work on the Synod’s behalf.

Two Synod appointments are fully funded by grants. By agreeing the budget, meeting agreeing not to fund from Trust 14508, of which members of meeting are also trustees. RH pointed out other expenses which are funded by means of other than circuits. Movement from dependency on rental income of Synod manse is reflected in the budget.

Both the Budget and the Allocation of Assessment -

Accepted

(iii)SYWAG

previously distributed paper

a) Recent events

Fliss reported on The Big Day Out in the south when 50 young people between the ages of 11 and 18 had attended. It had been a good, enjoyable day. An event was being possibly arranged in the north.

James reported on his experience on the Jamaica exchange contrasting the different life situations between young people from Wales and those in Jamaica. The young people of Wales had given a presentation to the Synod in September. They were all looking forward to the Jamaica young people coming to Wales.

Mary reported on her 2 years ecumenical youth work and being involved in many different denominational youth events. She had found it an excellent experience and had visited a Quaker group and also the URC youth forum. She reported that although the other groups were smaller than the Methodist ones they felt more dynamic. She and other young people had recently been appointed Junior Stewards in their church and the experience was giving them an insight into how the church worked and helping them to meet people of all generations.

b) Jamaica Youth Exchange

The young people would arrive on Sunday 30 July and would include 10 young people and 3 leaders. Last year's participants had been invited to host Jamaica young people in their homes. They would visit Amelia Trust Farm; Vale of Glamorgan holiday club; the Senedd; Barry Island; Bridgend Outlook Centre for shopping; Abernant outdoor centre; Aberystwyth; and the National Eisteddfod in Bangor. They would return home via London on 13 August. The Bonnar Trust had contributed £2,000. There were 9 participants from Wales and at least 5 would attend with their Jamaican friends at every event.

A request was made for approval of the expenditure of £3,000 as a deposit for 50 places at Abernant; some grant money had been received and 35 places were open for Wales Methodist youth to take part; ages 11 to 23. £300 had also been deposited for the hire of the bungalow at Amelia Trust Farm. The meeting agreed the financial commitment.

c) Revised policy. The current revised policy paper was an up-date of the one submitted to the October SPC and with Cyumru. The up-dated policy as submitted for use and review as necessary. The number of times meetings were held and the membership numbers were somewhat fluid and could be changed as necessary.

Revised Policy paper agreed

d) General

The One Programme was on-going; the project was connexionally funded and churches were encouraged to produce a project for youth involvement.

In light of the budget presentation, Richard Sharples encouraged Circuits to take up some of the £1,500 budget for youth projects

Stephen expressed his appreciation to Flis, Richard, James and Mary for their work and contribution to the meeting.

#### **(iv)TMCP**

The change in the levy was due to increases in administration charges.

#### **05/17 SPC Business**

(i)Llanelli & Carmarthen and Pembroke Circuits previously distributed paper

The SPC was asked to approve the coming together of the 2 circuits as the new 'South West Wales Circuit' from September 2017 in line with the papers and budgets prepared'.

Agreed

A grant application had already been submitted to the Synod Schemes & Grants Committee for administrative support and was under consideration.

Stephen thanked those involved in bringing these two circuits together

(ii)Authorisations

All the necessary paperwork had been received and was correct. The recommendations were:

Cardiff

Rev Ann Lawrence

Probationer

Neath Port Talbot

Mr Clement Raymondlay person

Mid Glamorgan Mission Deacon Steven Richardson – for a third and final year. Agreed these recommendations would be passed to the Authorisations Committee.

(iii) Sabbaticals

Rev Kate McLelland would take her Sabbatical from January to March 2018 with a 2 week visit to Iona in September 2017. Rev Paul Donnison would be taking his Sabbatical from 20 March to 26 June 2017. These were approved.

Sue Lawler reported that her colleague Rev Bob Thomas was due to take a Sabbatical before August 2017 but as yet no further information was available.

*This was approved in principle subject to confirmation of the appropriate paperwork at the next SPC meeting*

The meeting was reminded that Presbyters were expected to notify the Sabbaticals Officer to obtain the necessary approvals before beginning their sabbaticals.

Reports from three Sabbaticals were submitted in writing to the meeting.

(iv) Request for closure of Blaenrhondda

Paul spoke briefly to the meeting requesting permission for the Methodist society at Blaenrhondda to cease to meet. Meetings would close at the end of February; some members would attend Green Street, Aberdare and others Treherbert. *The meeting granted permission.*

(v) Request for extension of LP training for Gareth Bennett, Vale of Glamorgan Circuit -

SDW to convene a small group to consider and report back to the next meeting.

*Action: SDW*

Rosemarie Clarke reported that the Local Preacher granted an extension in Buckley & Deeside Circuit had completed the studies and the meeting sent congratulations to the Local Preachers' meeting.

**06/17 Chair's Business**

(a) Stationing up-date

Out of 10 vacancies 8 had been filled with Colwyn Bay & Prestatyn and Welshpool & Bro Hafren outstanding. Connexionally there were still 50 vacancies.

(b) Pastoral Rev Donald Wright was ill in hospital. Stephen reported on the death of Rev Tom Davies.

(c) Amelia Methodist Trust Farm

The Chair reported on proposals to merge the Trust and the Company so as to form one more effective charity subject to approval from TMCP and the Charity Commission. It was hoped that the merger could be achieved in time for the new financial year in April 2017.

(d) Candidates and Probationers

The Candidates Committee met on 31 January and two names were forwarded to Connexion, one for the Diaconate and one Presbyteral ministry. It was also anticipated that Manu Tuipulotu would be able to come before the Connexional Committee as an accepted candidate from Tonga.

The Probationers Committee meets on 2 March when four people would be involved. One, a local appointment in the specific Circuit; the other 3 would be for full acceptance connexionally.

## **07/17 Matters to/from Related Bodies**

(i) Methodist Council previously distributed paper

Cathy's report was received by the meeting. Stephen commented that the review of training would be returning to Council in April. Cathy would finish her term as representative in September 2018 and a lay representative was needed.

(ii) SLT

Jean Lang, Safeguarding Officer – South was retiring on 31 March 2017 and the process to find a replacement was underway.. Jane Ellis, the new Safeguarding Officer- North was settling into her role.

(iii) Synod was aware of the need for an EDI officer and a person was being considered.

(iv) Synod Cymru Review - Wales Synod have been asked to contribute to the review and a response had been sent to Rev Jennie Hurd, Chair of Synod Cymru.

(v) Y Cyngor

The YWAG policy would be discussed at the forthcoming meeting. There was a proposal to appoint a Tourism/Heritage Ambassador. The investigation into the possibility of an LEP option in Builth Wells can now be explored locally without need for input of Wales Synod.

### **08/17 Ecumenical Matters**

(i) Commission for Covenanted Churches

Further consultation by the Faith & Order Panel was in hand considering interchangeability of ministry.

Bishop Joanna Penberthy would be enthroned as the first woman bishop in the Church in Wales later this afternoon. It was agreed Stephen would send greetings to her on SPC behalf.

(ii) Christian Aid

Roy Watson reported that income was down and a reduction in staff was necessary. However, this would not affect Wales.

### **09/17 Next Meeting**

***Saturday 17th June 2017 Meeting at Newtown Methodist Church, 10am for 10.30am***

## Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit Quinquennial Inspections

### Churches and Halls

Church	Last Inspection	Next Inspection
Pitton	March 2015	2020
Morrison	May 2015	2020
Brunswick	March 2015	2020
Horton	April 2016	2021
Murton Church	June 2016	2021
Murton Church Hall	June 2016	2021
Mumbles	August 2016	2021
Mumbles Hall	August 2016	2021
Sketty	December 2016	2021
Wesley Brynhyfyrd	November 2010	2015 To be completed March 2017
Penlan	September 2012	2017 To be completed in 2018
Reynoldston	September 2012	2017 To be completed in 2018
Clydach N/A		

### Manse

Manse	Last Inspection	Next Inspection
Linkside Drive	June 2016	2021
Worcester Drive	March 2011	2016 To be completed Summer 2017
Channel View	March 2011	2016 To be completed Summer 2017
Sketty Park Road	December 2016	2021
139 Oxford Street	July 2016	2021