



EGLWYS DDIWYGIEDIG UNEDIG
SYNOD CENEDLAETHOL CYMRU
THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
NATIONAL SYNOD OF WALES

SYNOD MEETING AUTUMN 2022

Saturday 15 October 2022, 10 am – 3:30 pm

**Held in the David Spencer Suite, The Metropole Hotel, Temple Street,
Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5DY, and on Zoom.**

Attendance:

Thirty eight people were present during the meeting, and twenty on Zoom.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Revd Nick Sissons (St Paul's United, Penmaenmawr); Linda Lewis (Bailey Street Uniting); Vivien Williams (Trinity, Llanidloes); Revd Malcolm Shapland; Evelyn Davies (Betheda'r Fro); Irfon James (Barry Uniting); Revd Alfán Richards-Clarke (Crane Street, Pontypool); Diane Brain (Cwmbran); Revd Lorette J. Hinson (Christ Church, Milford Haven); Revd Russell Gordon; Helen Bravery (Tyddyn Street, Mold); Marion Bond (Gloddaeth); Sue Welpton (Bethel, Llanishen); Verena Walder (Tabernacle, Mumbles); Jennifer Cox (Ebenezer); Liz Tadd (Plough, Brecon); Bridget

1. Opening Worship was led by Simon Walkling

Worship included

-thanks to Helen Moohan as she retires. Helen was contacted via Zoom, and she responded with some words of reflection and thanks for 20+ years of working in the Synod.

-the Induction via Zoom of Reverend Lee Battle as Interim Minister with time allocated to Pontpennau Community Church

-presentation of completion of EM2 certificate to Julie Kirby

-Ministerial anniversaries, marking the 60th anniversary of Malcolm Shapland's ordination.

-Prayers of Intercession including commemorations (see below)

2. Introductions and Notices

The following ecumenical guests were welcomed:

Revd Dr Noel Davies	Undeb yr Annibynwyr Cymraeg
Anna Jane Evans	Presbyterian Church of Wales
Venerable Alan Jevons	Church in Wales
Andrew Kleissner	South Wales Baptist Association
Jane Harries	Religious Society of Friends

Ecumenical apologies were noted from:

Canon Aled Edwards	Cytûn
Major Roger Batt	Salvation Army
Revd Dr Ian Morris	Methodist Church, Synod Cymru
Revd Mark Fairweather-Tall	South Wales Baptist Association
Peter Hussey	Religious Society of Friends
Rev Dr D Densil Morgan	Baptist Union of Wales

Ministers and Elders who have died since last Synod Meeting:

Lis Perkins	Siopa Teg
Joyce Draper Smith	Tabernacle URC, Llanvaches
Valerie Dayton	Cwmbran

Minister's anniversaries:

Malcolm Shapland	60
John Heywood-Thomas	55
John Ivor Morgans	55
Arthur Michael Gudgeon	45
D Clive Lloyd-Jones	45
Russell Humphrey Gordon	35
Colin Edward Foreman	35
Simon Edwin Walkling	30
Linda Ann Elliott	30
Barbara Jane Frances Flood-Page	30

Kathryn Margaret Price	25
Paula Rose Parish	20
Dilys Brace	20

Appointments within the Synod:

Megan Price	Synod Clerk
Joel Sainsbury	Office Manager/Moderator's PA
Claire Boot	Assistant Company Secretary

Ministers moving within the Synod before next Synod meeting:

Paula Parish	East Wales (S) to Bridgend United Area
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Ministers who have moved into the Synod:

Lee Battle	Interim Ministry, Pontprennau
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Ministers moving out of the Synod before next Synod Meeting:

Phil Wall	St David's Uniting and Castle Square to chaplain to Oakhill Secure Training Unit
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Interim Moderator appointed:

Noel Davies	Swansea pastorate
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Elders Ordained since last Synod Meeting:

Miss Hilary Astley	Senghenydd and Abertridwr
Mrs Christine Roberts	Stow Park Church
Mike ?	Stow Park Church
Rhoda Henson	City URC
Diane Morgan	Trinity Llanidloes
Haulwen Powell-Owen	Trinity Llanidloes
Rita Rimmer	Trinity Llanidloes
Jenny Garrad	Trinity Llanidloes
Sue Walkling	St David's Uniting
Claire Hughes	St David's Uniting
Den Hopkins	Rivertown, Shotton
Peter Speakman	Van Road, Caerphilly

3. Minutes of the Spring 2022 Synod Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held virtually on Zoom, on Saturday 12 March 2022 were approved with one amendment and signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

Resolution 1 was passed unanimously.

Resolution 1:

Synod Meeting approves the renaming of the Synod Officers meeting to Synod Support Meeting.

5. Whole People of God-new resources for churches

Jason Askew, Training and Development Officer, presented these new resources to the meeting; there followed some discussion of the resources in small groups, and in Break-out rooms on Zoom.

Whole People of God-listening to children and young people

Judy Harris, CYDO, gave a presentation encouraging all churches to put children and young people at the centre of everything they do. She handed out Pen portraits of real children within the church: to be used as aid memoires to remind everyone to bear children in mind when making all church decisions.

6. Finance and Property Board/URC(Wales) Trust Company:

2021 Accounts

Chris Atherton, Trust Company Secretary and Synod Treasurer, presented the 2021 accounts and answered two questions from the meeting.

Resolution 2 was passed unanimously.

Resolution 2:

Synod Meeting receives the accounts for 2021.

2023 Budget

Chris Atherton presented the 2023 Budget, there were no questions from the meeting, and the Budget was approved unanimously.

Resolution 3:

Synod Meeting approves the Budget for 2023.

Cost of Living support for churches

Chris Atherton announced that the Synod will meet up to 50% of a church's energy costs, up to a value of £2500, over the next 2 years, to be paid retrospectively. All churches have received information about how to apply. (More funding could be available if any church might have need and they should approach the Synod.)

Warm spaces support

In partnership with other organisations providing grants, the Synod is available to work with individual churches to provide warm spaces to the community this winter.

7. Eco Friends

Eileen Newington, Green Advocate, gave a presentation regarding the initiative to encourage every church to appoint an Eco Friend. This person would promote environmental awareness and Green issues amongst their congregation, and the Eco Friends within the Synod would work together to share information and support each other.

8. Peace in Korea

Daniel Yoo, URC Minister at Hanover church, Llanover, gave a presentation explaining the current situation between North and South Korea and its historical context, and he described the particular link between Korean Christians and Wales through Hanover URC. Resolution 4 was presented to the meeting, and was passed with unanimous support.

Resolution 4:

The United Reformed Church National Synod of Wales affirms its support for a lasting peace settlement to end the Korean War and instructs the Synod Moderator to sign the Korea Peace Appeal on its behalf.

9. Creating Safer spaces- Safeguarding reporting

Diana Taylor, Safeguarding Officer, explained that every church must appoint a Safeguarding officer whose duty is to report to Church Meeting and Synod Safeguarding Officer every year. Diana will set up a Proforma template to assist church Safeguarding officers in carrying this out.

Creating Safer spaces- Recruitment and Safer Election of Elders

Elders are required to complete a self declaration form, have a DBS check and complete safeguarding training every 3 years.

Level 1 Safeguarding training is available on-line, other safeguarding training will be available in all the Synod regions over the next months: all details will be on the Synod website.

Creating Safer spaces- Mental Health First Aid

Jo Harris, Youth Representative, gave a presentation highlighting the serious mental health issues facing the world, and informed the meeting about resources that are available: particularly Mental Health First Aid training. The URC General Assembly has joined with the URC Youth Assembly to strongly encourage individuals to take part in Mental Health First Aid training, with the help of their church, and the General Assembly have recommended that local churches strive to ensure that at least one person in leadership undertake this training and ensure that such training is regularly refreshed and renewed. The Synod Financial Officer agreed that Synod is able to fund this and the suggestion was made that both Judy Harris and Jason Askew would undertake the training.

10. Reports to Synod

There were no matters raised from the reports for this meeting.

11. Closing Worship was led by the Moderator Simon Walkling