

1. Constitution of Synod and opening worship

The Rev'd Andrew Mills, synod moderator, welcomed members of the synod meeting, especially those attending for the first time. He constituted the meeting, and invited Alison Adam, a member of Carver Uniting Church who had been involved in planning and leading worship for the last Assembly of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, to lead the synod in worship.

Opening worship included song, prayer and reflection, together with

- ▶ a welcome to Daleen ten Cate, the newly appointed mission & discipleship mentor for Lancashire Area
- ▶ recognition of the movement of ministers out of the synod:
 - Rev'd Richard Parkes (Methodist) from Stockport; Rev'd Fiona Hicks (Baptist) from Oldham; Rev'd Martin Smith who is now ministering with the Moravian Church in Oldham;
 - Rev'd Andy Hall from Christ Church, South Manchester and Levenshulme to Broadstone and Blandford; Rev'd Stuart Radcliffe from Stockport to Discipleship Enabler, Mersey Synod; Rev'd Carole Marsden from South Lakes Group to Shrewsbury
- ▶ recognition of the movement of ministers into the synod:
 - Rev'd Darren Garfield (Methodist) serving Christ Church, Little Lever; Rev'd Stuart Wild (Methodist) serving Wharton & Cleggs Lane; Rev'd Sarah Fletcher (Anglican) serving Trinity, Cheetham Hill; Rev'd Dr Adam Scott, who already serves the synod and has recently been appointed as a chaplain to higher education in Manchester
- ▶ the presentation to Rev'd Pam Noonan of her EM2 certificate;
- ▶ remembrance of and thanksgiving for ministers residing in the synod who had died since the last Synod Meeting: Rev'd Albert Greasley; Rev'd Philip Martin Hunt and Rev'd David Gordon Robinson

2. Bible study and reflection

The Rev'd Sarah Moore welcomed and introduced Dr Karl Möller, Principal of Initial Ministerial Education, Cumbria Christian Learning. Dr Möller led the Synod Meeting in considering how the first disciples would have experienced their discipleship: as being with Jesus, and being with those into whose company Jesus leads them - which were those in the margins of society; and to ask how we can be with Jesus and our local communities today.

The Moderator greeted Dr Möller and thanked him for the helpful way in which he had led the meeting.

3. Good news story 1 - Ramsden Street, Barrow-in-Furness

Anne Stevenson, Church Secretary, shared good news about the ways in which this small church embraces the ministry of all God's people.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

These were agreed as a correct record, subject to two minor corrections to the list of those in attendance. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

7. Northerly Synods Listening and Reconciliation Service

The Rev'd John Piper reminded the meeting of growing cooperation over recent years between the Northerly Synods [Scotland, Northern, North Western, Yorkshire and Mersey], and welcomed Alastair Forsyth who introduced the Northerly Synods Listening and Reconciliation Service which had been developed over the past 2 years and was about to be launched.

The Moderator thanked Mr Forsyth for sharing this news with the Synod Meeting.

8. Good news story 2 - Wilmslow

The Rev'd Kirsty Thorpe and Michael Williams shared with the Synod Meeting good news about the refurbishment of the undercroft of Wilmslow United Reformed Church and a partnership with Wilmslow High School, Life Church, Wilmslow and *Redeeming our Communities* to provide a service to students from Wilmslow High School.

9. Julie Rafferty, Safeguarding Officer

The Moderator introduced Julie Rafferty, the newly appointed Safeguarding Officer for North Western & Mersey Synods. Ms Rafferty addressed the meeting, speaking about the nature of her role and her availability to assist churches.

10. Reports & resolutions

10a. Executive Committee

The Clerk offered a brief oral addendum to the written report, regarding the closure of the Windermere Centre. The report was received by the Synod Meeting.

10b. Pastoral Committees

Reports of the following committees were presented en-bloc and received by the Synod Meeting:

Synod Pastoral Committee
Cumbria Area Pastoral Committee
Lancashire Area Pastoral Committee
Central Area Pastoral Committee
South Area Pastoral Committee

Convenors of the committees were available to answer questions arising from the reports; none were asked.

10c. Candidates for Ministry

The Clerk gave notice of an error in the report (para 93): Sarah Fitton is a candidate for Stipendiary Ministry of Word and Sacraments, not CRCW Ministry, and is a member of Bamford Chapel & Norden United Reformed Church, not Edgeley Community Church.

The report was received by the Synod Meeting.

10d. Mission & Discipleship Committee 1

The Rev'd Marion Tugwood offered an oral report. She spoke about the development of ideas about Missional Partnerships and how they will be introduced, the recent round of Area Roadshows, and the collaborative exercise in which all local churches in the Synod were now involved with their Area Pastoral Committees to determine the membership of Missional Partnerships.

10d. Mission & Discipleship Committee 2

Lawrence Moore spoke about the work of the Mission & Discipleship mentors and shared some of the resources being produced by them for use in our churches:

- ▶ *Jesus shaped church* – the previously published *Missional Discipleship – what is it?* booklet represented in 'youth-speak'
- ▶ *Following Jesus - the discipleship cycle*
- ▶ *Being Good News in your community*

10e. Resources Committee, Trust & Treasurer

Jean Mullineux, Chair of the Synod Trust and convenor of the Synod Resources Committee, introduced the written report, and this was received by the Synod Meeting.

The Rev'd John Piper, Synod Treasurer, presented paras 28-78 of the written report, and in turn, and following opportunity for questions and discussion in each instance, moved Resolutions 1-4.

Resolution 1

Synod notes the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016.

Forecast Income and Expenditure for 2017 (Current Year)

Resolution 1 was passed with 0 votes against.

(There were no abstentions)

Resolution 2

Synod agrees that the future targets for the total annual amount to be raised by this Synod for the Ministry and Mission Fund should be calculated as follows:

For 2018, the target should be set at 5% below the amount raised in 2017. For this year only, the difference between this total and the amount already pledged to the central URC (roughly £100k) should be met from Synod funds.

For 2019 and beyond, the annual target should be calculated as the target for the previous year adjusted by the percentage change in membership numbers plus 3%.

Resolution 2 was passed with 0 votes against.

(There were no abstentions)

Resolution 3

Synod agrees that, from 2018, 10% of its net capital receipts, excluding proceeds of sale of manse, should be donated to the URC Ministers Pension Fund.

Resolution 3 was passed with 0 votes against.

(There were no abstentions)

Resolution 4

Synod agrees to the following changes of policy in relation to manses:

- (i) When a manse currently occupied by a minister or CRCW is transferred to the Synod Manse Scheme, the amount payable by the Synod under the transitional arrangements should be the higher of the amount calculated under the previous arrangements and 35% of the market value of the property. Any such payment would be, in effect, a grant and would be for the general purposes of the church.**
- (ii) When a local church or pastorate agrees to transfer its redundant manse into the Synod Manse Scheme then that property will normally be sold and then: 65% of the net proceeds of sale will be transferred to the Synod Manse Fund and 35% of the net proceeds of sale will be retained by the local church or pastorate and would be available for the general purposes of the church, subject to the normal approvals.**
- (iii) These proposals are subject to them being affordable and that will be decided by the Trust Management Committee, depending on the responses received from those pastorates currently in control of redundant manses. If these proposals are implemented, they will be applied retrospectively to those manses and manse funds already transferred to the Synod Manse Scheme.**
- (iv) Funds generated from the sale of a manse are held in a designated manse fund – whether for a local church or for the Synod. Local churches can only use such funds for other purposes with the permission of their Area Pastoral Committee and the Synod Resources Committee. Such permission will not be given in future other than in the most exceptional circumstances.**
- (v) From 2019 (i.e. the calculations performed in 2018), the capital element of the Ministry and Mission Fund assessment of each local church will take account of the capital value of manses owned by local churches (in the same way that it already takes account of manse funds).**

Resolution 4 was passed with 1 vote against.

(There were 9 abstentions)

[Prior to the moving and passing of Resolution 4, and following discussion about the possibility of removing section (v), the Synod Meeting was invited to determine whether section (v) should be removed. The Synod Meeting resolved to retain section (v) of Resolution 4, with 5 votes against. (There were 3 abstentions.)]

11. Closing worship

This was led by the Mission & Discipleship Mentors, following which the Moderator thanked the folk of Carver Uniting Church for their hospitality, and closed the meeting with prayer.

Appendix

ATTENDANCE AT THE SYNOD MEETING ON and apologies

Registered as present: Moderator and 83 and 12 associate members / observers

They were:

Voting members of Synod:

28 Serving Ministers/CRCW Mr A Barnes, Mrs A Dalton

Revs: N Adkinson, M Aspinall, M Bates, D Coaker, M Coe, A Haigh, D Harkison, E Jewitt, B Jolly, C Lewis-Smith, C Marsden, N Mark, J McLeod, S Moore, S Nixon, P Noonan, J Piper, A Poolton, A Smeaton, L Talbot, A Termie, K Thorpe, M Tugwood, M Walsh, R Watson, J Williams

55 Local Church representatives:

Mrs S Andrews, Mr B Ainsworth, Mr P Awberry-Beck, Mr S Baker, Mr S Bromley, Mrs H Byrom, Mrs P Carpenter, Mr N Carter, Miss J Corbett, Mrs L Cruickshank, Ms V Davidson, P Dent, Mr A Dunsmore, Mr A Edisbury, Mr D Estill, Mrs R Finlinson, Mrs M Fish, Mrs K Grand, Mrs P Greenwood, Mrs A Haigh, Mr M Hinchliffe, Mrs S Jackson, Ms R Hooper, Mrs G Hunt, Mrs S Jesson, Mr G Jones, Ms M Jones, Mrs K Lacy, Mrs B Laird, Mr C Lamb, Mr D Lamb, Mrs S Lawson, Mrs L Lucy, Mrs M Manvel, Mrs D McKnight, Mrs H Mellor, Mr P Melvin, Mr P Mullineux, Mr G Murrin, Mrs J Myers, Mrs A Ollerenshaw, Mrs M Piper, Miss M Prescott, Mr G Robinson, Mrs A Scott, Mrs M Settle, Mr J Skipworth, Ms R Shepherd, Mrs W Smith, Mr B Stevens, Mrs H Twigg, Mr S Wareing, Mr M Williams, Mr R Wood, Mr E Wrennall

3 Associate members:

Revs: D Firth, P Frampton, D Greenwood,

7 Co-opted members

Mr P Jones, Mrs J Mullineux, Mr M Pickles, Mrs M Pitcher, Mr J Rea, Mrs B Redmond, Mrs C Sutcliffe

1 Students: C Atkinson

Observers: Mr R Britton, Mrs R Cronshaw, Mr B Jones, Ms J Lucas, Mr I Lucy, Ms K Myers, Mr G Ollerenshaw, Mrs P Rea, Mr J White

Staff: Mr T Rutherford, Mrs H Wall

Mission & Discipleship Mentors: Revd D Fraser, Revd D Holland, Mrs D ten Cate

Mission & Discipleship Consultant: Mr L Moore

LDO: Revd T Mountain,

Volunteers: Mrs J Edisbury, Mr F Galloway, Mrs G Galloway

Apologies

15 Serving ministers/CRCWs:

Revs: R Bradley, M Breeze, L Cottam, S Coop, D Ireland, A Hall, R Jackson, M Jarmany, L Kam, S Radcliffe, A Scott, G Tarn, M Whiffen, R Wilson, R Wollaston

7 Associate members:

Revs: P Brewerton, B Chadwick, V Davies, F Houston, N Lemon, J Martin, A Stokes

22 Local Church representatives:

Mrs J Adams, Miss J Ashworth, Mrs A Bogg, Miss B Buckland, Miss D Fitzpatrick, Mrs G Gibson, Mrs A Halstead, Mrs L Hunter, Mr I Lloyd, Mrs B Jones, Ms J Jones, Mrs J Martin, Mr G Kynaston,

Mrs S Mason, Mrs H Rawcliffe, Mrs B Ross, Revd M Tait, Mrs J Walmsley, Mrs J Ward, Mrs D Wilson
Mr K Whiting, Mr D Willaims

3 Co-opted:

Mrs R Clarke, Miss G Bowen, Dr B Woodhall

1 College: Revd R Selby

6 Students:

Ms H Everard, Mrs A Fritchely, Mr A Mudharara, Mrs P Hughson, Mrs A Smith, Ms L Battle

Absence was noted of the following:

Serving ministers/CRCW's

B Acty, J Berry, R Borg, D Buckley, E Cox, D Crouchley, D Garfield, L Gough, G Hays, S Heath, I John,
M Pengelly-Phillips, K Sandow, R Skinner, S Wild

Overseas Partner: S Chung

Local Church representatives:

Mrs B Bates, Mrs C Body, Mrs J Brace, Mrs O Bradley, Mrs N Briggs, Mr M Brueck, Mrs P Cardy, Mr
A Clark, Mr R Clarke, Mr S Cornish, Mrs C Croughan, Mr J Davies, Mr F Dean, Mrs L Gillett, Mr A
Guthrie, Mrs M Hall, Miss J Haughton, Mrs M Heywood, Mr R Hodson, Mrs J Holden, Mrs A
Hymers, Mr A Jones, Mr S Lees, Mrs J Liddell, Mrs C Lomax, Mrs M McGreavy, Mr G McMillan, Mrs
H Millichamp, Mrs J Moores, Mrs J Muttock, Mr E Osborn, Mrs H Price, Mrs K Radcliffe, Mr G Shaw,
Mrs Slater, Mr K Snaith, Mrs M Southern, Miss A Stevenson, Mrs P Stimson, Mr G Swanton, Mrs A
Taberner, Mrs L Tonge, Mr E Turner, Miss J Ward, Revd P Ward, Ms S Weal, Mrs S Williams, Mr D
Wilson, Mr M Wolstenholme, Mrs S Yerneaux, Mrs D Young, Ms F Zimmerman