

## 1. Constitution of the Synod Meeting and opening worship

The Rev'd Andrew Mills, Synod Moderator, welcomed members of the Synod Meeting. He constituted the meeting and led the meeting in worship.

Worship included prayer and reflection, together with

- ▶ recognition of ministers who had recently moved out of the synod:
  - Rev'd Ray Borg from Christ Church Longridge
  - Rev'd Shou-Hui Chung from Manchester Universities Chaplaincy
- ▶ recognition of ministers who had recently retired:
  - Rev'd Lena Talbot
- ▶ recognition of ministers who had recently moved into the synod:
  - Rev'd Jane Wild (Methodist) to Christ Church Longridge
  - Rev'd Zena Smith (Methodist) to South West Cumbria United Area
- ▶ remembrance of and thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Rev'd Peter Blezard, a retired minister who had served in a non-stipendiary capacity in Darwen from 1977-2011.

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting

These were agreed as a correct record.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## 3. Report of the Executive Committee

The Clerk introduced the written report, and this was received by the Synod Meeting with thanks.

Opportunity was given for questions and discussion on matters within the report which were not the subject of a resolution. The Clerk apologised for a mistake in paragraph 8 on page 7 of the Book of Reports, which should refer to appointing Rev Nick Mark as Area Finance Officer rather than Area Ecumenical Officer.

The Clerk moved resolutions 1, 2, 3 and 4.

## **Resolution 1 Membership of Lancashire Area Pastoral Committee**

### **Synod appoints:**

- i. Margery Pitcher to serve as Area Secretary until the close of the Synod Meeting in March 2020**
- ii. Danny Wilson to serve as Lay Preaching Commissioner until the close of the Synod Meeting in March 2020**
- iii. Gordon Bell to serve as Area Finance Officer until the close of the Synod Meeting in March 2022**
- iv. Lynne Lonsdale to serve as a co-opted member until the close of the Synod Meeting in March 2022**
- v. Ken Snaith to serve as the Pastoral Review Co-ordinator until the close of the Synod Meeting in March 2022**

**Resolution 1 was passed with 0 votes against.**

[There were no abstentions]

## **Resolution 2 Sedburgh**

**Synod gives thanks to God for the Congregational/United Reformed Church presence in Sedburgh and the western dales for longer than a century and commends to God those from this church who will now worship and play their part in the Methodist Church in Sedbergh.**

**Resolution 2 was passed with 0 votes against.**

[There were no abstentions]

## **Resolution 3 Macedonia, Failsworth**

**Synod gives thanks to God for the life and witness of Macedonia Congregational/United Reformed Church, Failsworth over many years, and prays God's blessing for those who will be directly involved in the Synod Mission Project.**

**Resolution 3 was passed with 0 votes against.**

[There was 1 abstention]

## **Resolution 4 Christ Church, Morecambe**

**Synod gives thanks to God for the life and witness of Christ Church, Morecambe over the past 63 years, and asks God's blessing for those who now have to find a home in another local church.**

**Resolution 4 was passed with 0 votes against.**

[There were no abstentions]

The Clerk asked for permission to bring two additional resolutions not included in the Book of Reports. Permission was granted. The Clerk introduced resolutions 11 and 12.

## **Resolution 11 Urswick**

**Synod gives thanks to God for the life and witness of Urswick United Reformed Church [formerly Churches of Christ] over more than a century, and asks for God's blessing for members of this congregation who continue to meet in Urswick Parish Church.**

**Resolution 11 was passed with 0 votes against.**

[There were no abstentions]

The Moderator led the Synod Meeting in prayers for the churches recognised in resolutions 2, 3, 4 and 11.

## **Resolution 12 Ministerial Disciplinary Process**

**Synod resolves:**

**1. To join with all or several of the following synods - Mersey, Yorkshire and Northern Synods and the Synod of Scotland - in constituting a shared synod panel in accordance with paragraph B.2.2 of the Ministerial Disciplinary Process, which said panel shall come into being when all the sharing synods have passed an enabling resolution in the form contained in this Appendix and at a date to be agreed by the sharing synods ("the formation date"), at which date the shared synod panel shall come into existence.**

**2. In conjunction with the other sharing synods and no later than the formation date, to appoint persons onto the shared synod panel in compliance with paragraph B.2.2.1 and one person (who may be a panel member) to act as co-ordinator in compliance with paragraph B.2.2.3.**  
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**3. To continue to maintain its separate synod panel until the formation date, following which it shall cease to exist.**

**Resolution 12 was passed with 0 votes against.**

[There were no abstentions]

#### **4. Safeguarding Reference Group, pages 34 & 35**

Julie Rafferty, Synod Safeguarding Officer introduced and expanded upon her written report, which was received with thanks.

#### **5. Resources Committee and Trust Management Committee, pages 17-31**

The written report was presented and received with thanks. Opportunity was given for questions and discussion on matters within the report which were not the subject of a resolution.

The Treasurer moved resolutions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

##### **Resolution 5 Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2017**

###### **Synod notes the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2017**

**Resolution 5 was passed with 0 votes against.**

[There were no abstentions]

##### **Resolution 6 Management Accounts**

###### **Synod notes the Management Accounts for the first six months of 2018**

**Resolution 6 was passed with 0 votes against.**

[There were no abstentions]

##### **Resolution 7 Draft budgets 2019-2021**

###### **Synod receives the draft budgets for the period 2019 to 2021**

**Resolution 7 was passed with 0 votes against.**

[There were no abstentions]

##### **Resolution 8 Financial arrangements for Missional Partnerships**

###### **Synod notes the developing approach to the financial arrangements for Missional Partnerships and that a consultation will be undertaken with local churches before the next Synod Meeting**

**Resolution 8 was passed with 0 votes against.**

[There was 1 abstention]

## **Resolution 9 Synod Manse Scheme**

**Synod offers thanks for local churches which have already shown their support for the Synod Manse Scheme.**

**Resolution 9 was passed with 0 votes against.**

[There was 1 abstention]

## **Resolution 10 Synod Manse Scheme**

**Synod notes that the Trust Management Committee has commenced work to assess the viability of the Synod Manse Scheme in line with the resolutions passed by the Synod Meeting in March 2018, and to progress the valuation of all the manses held by local churches.**

**Resolution 10 was passed with 0 votes against.**

[There was 1 abstention]

## **6. Thursdays in Black**

The meeting viewed a film clip about Thursday in Black.

## **7. Worship**

Rev Stuart Nixon led the meeting in worship which included celebration of the sacrament of Holy Communion.

## **8. Transformation at the Table: How Jesus' meal habits can inform our mission today**

The meeting welcomed Chris Lane, a local ecumenical colleague of Stuart Nixon and MediaCityUK Church and lecturer at St Mellitus' College, who offered an inspiring introduction to his book, *Transformation at the Table: How Jesus' meal habits can inform our mission today*, which was warmly received.

## **9. Ministries Committee**

The written report of the Ministries Committee was received, with thanks.

## **10. Synod Pastoral Committee and Area Pastoral Committees**

These reports were received with thanks.

## **11. Thanks to Andrew Mills for his service as Synod Moderator**

Members of the Synod Meeting had been made aware of Andrew Mill's decision to return to local church ministry and his acceptance of a call to a pastorate in Southern Synod where his new ministry would begin early in 2019.

Rev John Piper reflected on Andrew Mills service as Synod Moderator. He expressed the thanks of the Synod Meeting for the leadership Andrew had offered, and assured Andrew of ongoing prayerful support from the Synod for him and Ruth, and their family, and the next chapter in his ministry.

## **12. Appointment process for new Synod Moderator**

The Clerk spoke about the process to be followed to appoint a new Synod Moderator.

He reminded the meeting that the appointment of a Synod Moderator is primarily a General Assembly matter, rather than a Synod matter, in which the General Secretary takes the lead in consultation with the Synod through the Synod Clerk.

The General Secretary had already asked to meet with the officers of the synod, and this meeting had taken place on 25 September. On that occasion there was agreement over several matters, including a timetable for the appointment process.

The full details of the officers meeting with John Proctor would be discussed with the members of the Synod Executive Committee next Monday morning, and that meeting would then have input into certain aspects of the appointment process.

Part of the appointment process would include consultation with ministers and churches in the Synod, and would likely happen within the next month or so. The Clerk noted that there would not be a great deal of time for consultation, but ample opportunity for all who wish to make a contribution.

The timetable for the process of appointment which had been proposed by John Proctor and agreed by the officers of the synod will head towards a new moderator taking up post between September 2019 and January 2020.

The Clerk reported that for the period between Andrew Mills relinquishing his position as Synod Moderator in December 2018 and the appointment of a new Synod Moderator later next year, the officers had agreed the General Secretary that they would between them cover all the bases, with help from other members of the Executive Committee as appropriate, with the Clerk taking a coordinating role and representing the Synod in the Moderators Meeting during the vacancy.

The Clerk said he hoped that this statement provided helpful information and assurances to all members of the Synod Meeting and to members of our churches. He invited anyone who wished to consult with him about any related matter to be in touch with him.

## **13. Thanks to Oasis**

Rev Nick Mark expressed the thanks of the members of the Synod Meeting for the welcome and hospitality offered by Stuart Nixon and everyone associated with MediaCityUK Church and the Oasis Academy.

## **14. Closing worship**

Closing worship was led by Andrew Mills.

## Appendix

### Attendance at the synod meeting on 17 March 2018

#### Registered as present: Moderator, 91 voting members and 19 associate members/observers

They were:

**27 Serving ministers / CRCW** A Barnes, A Dalton, Revs B Acty, N Adkinson, M Aspinall, M Bates, S Coop, K Gray, D Harkison, D Ireland, L Jewitt, B Jolly, S Nixon, C Lewis-Smith, N Mark, J McLeod, A Scott, R Selby, A Smeaton, A Termie, K Thorpe, M Tugwood, M Walsh, R Watson, M Whiffen, J Williams, R Wollaston

**60 Local Church representatives:** Mrs J Ashworth, Mrs A Baker, Mrs J Baker, Mrs A Bogg, Mr S Bromley, Mr M Brueck, Mr R Bulloch, Mrs R Cappelli, Mr N Carter, Mr A Clark, Mrs J Cockcroft, Mrs M Curme, Mr W Duncan, Mr A Dunsmore, Mr T Edisbury, Mrs G Gibson, Mrs K Grand, Mr A Guthrie, Mrs A Haigh, Mrs J Haughton, Mr M Hinchliffe, Mrs J Holden, Ms R Hooper, Mrs G Hunt, Mr A Jones, Mrs Y Jones, Mrs C Kirkham, Mr G Kynaston, Mrs K Lacy, Mrs B Laird, Mrs S Lawson, Mr I Lloyd, Mrs C Lomax, Mrs L Lonsdale, Mrs L Lucy, Mr G McCrone, Mrs M McGreavy, J Morrell, Mr P Mullineux, Mr G Murrin, Ms E Noden, Mrs A Ollerenshaw, Mrs M Piper, Miss M Prescott, Mrs H Price, Mrs H Rawcliffe, Miss V Riley, Mrs L Rolls, Mrs M Settle, Ms R Shepherd, Mrs W Smith, Mrs M Southern, Mr B Stevens, Mrs H Twigg, Mrs J Ward, Mr D Wilson, Mrs S Yernaux, Mr S Wareing, Mr M Williams, Mr E Wrennall

**4 Co-opted:** Mr M Hart, Mrs J Mullineux, Dr M Pickles, Miss M Pitcher

**5 Associate members:** Revds: S Farrier, P Frampton, L Husselbee, J Piper, M Tait

**3 Students:** Mrs C Atkinson, Ms A Fritchley, Mr J Hill

**14 Observers:** Mrs M Abel, Mr T Ashworth, Ms B Bakes, Mr S Baker, Ms J Bartlett, Ms V Buckley, Mr P Crook, Ms E Froggatt, Ms J Lucas, Mr I Lucy, Ms D MacCabe, Mr G Ollerenshaw, Ms J Popay, Miss S Salmon

**4 Staff :** Mrs A Hartwell, Miss K Later, Mrs J Rafferty, Mrs H Wall,

**3 Mission Discipleship Mentors:** Rev'd D Holland, Rev'd D Fraser, Rev'd D ten Cate

**1 Mission & Discipleship Consultant:** Mr L Moore

**1 Learning Development Officer:** Rev'd T Mountain

#### Apologies:

**8 serving ministers/CRCWs:** Mr M Breeze, Mrs L Kam. Revs L Cottam, A Haigh, R Jackson, M Jarmany, Z Smith, G Tarn

**7 Associate members:** Revds: J Martin, L Mullen, J Robinson, K Spence, D Spence, A Stokes, A Trinder

**19 Local Church representatives:** Mrs J Adams, Mr G Bell, Miss J Corbett, Mrs Dent, Mr D Estill, Mr D Hey, Mr G Jones, Ms J Jones, Mr M Manvell, Mrs H Mellor, Mr P Melvin, Mrs H Millichamp, Mrs B Redmond, Mrs L Saunders, Mrs A Scott, Mr G Shaw, Mr K Snaith, Mr D Williams, Mrs M Wolstenholme

**1 CYDO:** L Roberts

**Students:** C Sutcliffe