

QUINTON METHODIST CHURCH

Registered Charity no. 1128423

**CHURCH COUNCIL      14 DECEMBER 2021**

**MINUTES**

**Introduction**

The Rev. Ilidio de Oliveira, Chair, opened the meeting in Church at 7.30 pm. and welcomed everyone. Rev. Brian Taylor led a Prayer.

**Those present**

23 people attended, including 4 observers

**Apologies Received**

There were 6 apologies

**Welcome to New Members and Re-elected Members.**

3 New Members and 5 Re-elected members were welcomed.

**Thanks to Retiring Members** were given to 5 people.

The Church Council Secretary wished to retire, and grateful thanks were given for his service.

**Identification of Other Business**

None identified.

**Minutes of Meeting held on 9 March 2021.**

These were agreed, and signed by the Chair. It was also agreed that the Chair sign the Minutes of meetings held on 22 October 2020, and 2 December 2020, which he did. These had already been agreed at previous meetings, but Rev. Ajay Singh had been unable to sign because of the coronavirus pandemic.

## **Matters Arising**

### From Circuit:

Youth and Community Worker. The proposal to recruit had been turned down by the District because of financial constraints.

### From Leadership Team:

Outreach Chair- a new Chair had been identified.

Peace Garden – this in use for Outdoor Worship, Commemorations, Reflections, Learning and Teaching especially by the Brigades.

Flexible Worship Area- this is benefitting Worship including for Family and Brigades led Creative Services, and Baptisms, with the children's area close to the focus of Worship.

### From Communications:

Camera to stream Services- deferred while volunteers identified to operate.

On Line Giving- facility profiled through the Church media and Notice Sheets.

## **Safeguarding and GDPR**

Members were reminded that all outdated confidential information must be deleted from computers as well as destroying written data.

The updated Safeguarding Policy document was presented, and signed.

## **The Work of God at Quinton Methodist Church**

The contribution was highlighted of Creative Worship, the Peace Garden, and the achievements of the Brigades in engaging young people and the wider congregation in Worship.

## **Circuit Matters**

### Mission Review.

This report, a response to the Circuit Review, circulated before the Meeting, was agreed.

### God in Love Unites Us.

Rev. Brian Taylor introduced this with a prayer. He outlined the Methodist Church guidance on the subject and that we were following it including the flow chart, and that this was about registering the building for marriage. This was separate from the registration of authorised persons who officiate at marriages. He stressed that we should listen respectfully to the views of others, and respect confidences within this Meeting.

The background was outlined, including how we arrived here, the legal process, and that the registration of the building for Worship was separate from the registration for Marriage. Marriage is a public act of Worship

There had been reports in 2015 and 2019 and discussions in Church Council, Fellowship and House Groups, and individual discussions. He highlighted that there was no consensus, and gave examples of the wide spectrum of views expressed.

A number of members spoke and they were listened to respectfully.

Brian said another prayer, and the Meeting moved to an Indicative Vote.

Yes votes : 16

No votes : 1

Brian said a further prayer, and the Meeting moved to a Defining Vote.

Yes votes: 16

No votes: 1

The formal Minute:

‘Church Council, meeting on Tuesday 14 December 2021, as Managing Trustees of Quinton Methodist Church, Ridgway Avenue, Halesowen B62 9AU, voted by 16 votes to 1 to request the Dudley Superintendent Registrar for the Church ( registration number 71211 ) to be registered for the solemnisation of both marriages between a man and a woman under Section 41 of the Marriage Act 1949 and marriages of same sex couples under Section 43A of the said Act. The Meeting authorised Dr Michael Hall, as appointed Managing Trustee, to submit the necessary forms to the Registrar for this to be implemented’

Brian stressed that no one would be compelled to officiate, steward or help at marriage Services.

He concluded by asking the Meeting to pray silently with each other.

## **Finance and Property**

### Annual Financial Report:

The draft report had been circulated before the Meeting. Key points included that we had enough money to meet the Circuit Financial Assessment until Spring 2022 The report was agreed and signed.

### Annual Church Report.

The report was agreed for signature.

### Fees and Charges.

This report had been circulated before the Meeting. The report was agreed.

### **Leadership Team**

The report had been circulated before the Meeting.

### Membership of Leadership Team.

5 members were elected at the Annual Church Meeting in July 2021, and a further 2 were proposed for co-option.

This was agreed at the Meeting.

One member had decided that he would not continue because of other commitments particularly for the Circuit. Grateful thanks were given for all his work and contribution, including from the inception of the Team six years ago.

### Job Description for Leadership Team.

This draft had been circulated before the Meeting. The Job Description was agreed and adopted.

### Evening Services.

This report had been circulated before the Meeting. An additional comment had been received that evening Services were held at Heath Street Independent Methodist Church(Blackheath).

It was pointed out that while there were also evening Services at Lifecentral Church ( Halesowen), there were none nearer that were appropriate for those unable to attend morning Services , or preferring those in the evening. One proposal was that evening Services should be reduced to one per month, and a suggestion made that this be reviewed after six months.

It was agreed to reduce evening Services to once a month from the start of the March to May Plan.

## **Approaches to use parts of the Building**

This report had been circulated before the Meeting. Two approaches had been received.

### Quinton Youth for Christ (QYfC).

One member declared an interest, being our representative for QYfC and a Trustee. The proposal was for QYfC to hire classroom 1 as an office. There was considerable discussion about the extent and purpose of the proposed use by QYfC, the availability of the room to others, the locking of the room, financial implications, Safeguarding and form of contract.

It was agreed that because of the need for more information, this would be taken out of the Meeting to resolve unanswered questions.

The matter would return to March 2022 Church Council.

### Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG).

The proposal was for RCCG to hire the Hall for their Services on a Sunday afternoon. There was extensive discussion, including a suggestion that legal advice be taken from the Circuit Legal Adviser about the form of contract. There was particular discussion about the implications of the decision taken earlier in the Meeting to seek registration of the building for same sex marriages as well as marriage between a man and a woman.

It was agreed that the matter be deferred until after the Church had been registered for marriage, and that the implications of this for RCCG then be explored.

## **Outreach**

There was no report, and aspects of Outreach were covered in the Mission Review and Leadership Team reports.

## **Communications and Technology**

These matters were embraced in the Mission Review and Leadership Team reports.

## **Pastoral Care**

This report had been circulated before the Meeting, and was noted.

## **Brigades**

The leaders summarised the progress and key activities of Girl's and Boy's Brigade respectively. It was recorded that the Brigades had made exceptional efforts and successfully continued throughout the covid pandemic, and when in person meetings were not possible, on line and other media activity was provided and contact maintained with their members.

### **Youth, Stay and Play**

There was no separate report, but it was noted that Stay and Play was successful and vibrant

### **Diary Dates**

The next Church Council Meeting: Tuesday 15 March 2022, 7.30 pm in Church.

### **Closing Prayer and Farewells**

Ilidio thanked everyone for attending, and the Meeting closed with a Prayer at 9.30pm.

*Tony Burridge. 28 December 2021.*