

# QUINTON METHODIST CHURCH

Registered Charity No: 1128423

**SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – 10 September 2020 at 7.30pm**

## MINUTES

### **Introduction**

The Rev Ajay Singh welcomed all to the meeting, held in Church in line with social distancing requirements, and also available on zoom.

Ajay opened with a Prayer, devotions and reflections, with the theme of 'What God wants, He will bring.'

The most important matter for the Meeting was the Reopening of Church. Time was constrained by guidelines in place for meetings, and discussion would be managed with this in mind.

### **Present and Apologies**

18 attended including 3 on zoom. 6 apologies received. 3 resignations had been received.

### **Minutes of Meeting held on 16 July 2020.**

These were approved with an amended. Under Finance, the entry should reflect the matter that he raised:

'that the arrangements for identifying and appointing a new Church Treasurer was urgent, and the Leadership Team must address this as a priority'

### **The Work of God at Quinton: Review of Mission.**

The report was agreed and for the specific actions to be put into practice.

### **Reopening of Church**

#### **- Trial Service and Next Steps in Reopening**

This was considered satisfactory, positive responses had been received and the reopening arrangements were practical and effective. There were some issues

about leaving the building to address, and the logistical arrangements would be reviewed and modified as needed on a weekly basis. A Contactless/Card Reader was available to help boost Giving and reduce cash needing to be handled. It was agreed that Church should continue to be Open for Worship.

#### **- Evening Services and Early Communion**

There were practical cost, Safeguarding and resourcing matters that made these Services unviable at present. There was some concern that some of those who normally attended, and Carters Lane Church, with whom we shared Evening Services, had not been consulted, this would be done. It was agreed, with one exception, that these Services would be suspended until the end of February 2021.

#### **- Internal and External Groups.**

It was thought desirable to permit groups to start meeting again, and the income was needed, but the potential liability and the responsibility of the Church Council as Trustees was critical. Effective cleaning was vital.

It was agreed that subject to Government and Methodist Church requirements and guidance, (and further clarification was awaited on these), these can resume subject to their complying with our requirements on risk, and Safeguarding, and submitting their own Risk assessments.

GB and BB can resume. This is subject to submission of their compliance information (exempting them from restrictions) to the Church Council Secretary.

Internal groups to be invited to submit their proposals first.

The Leadership Team to agree all proposals to resume.

(The 'Rule of 6' interpretation for groups was to be clarified. At the time it appeared that only groups with 6 attending could resume. This has since been clarified and exceptions identified.)

(The impact of the Sandwell and Birmingham extra restrictions to be assessed.)

#### **Technology**

It was agreed that wifi needs to be extended to cover all of the building.

It was agreed that we investigate the feasibility and cost of extending the sound and the screen systems to the Hall. This would provide greater capacity for the congregation, particularly important with the restrictions in the Worship Area. It would also enable Services of different formats, with flexible layout, to be provided.

## **Finance**

A donation from the Church Stewardship fund to Circuit was agreed.

The previously circulated Draft Finance Outcome for year ended 31 August 2020 was noted.

The congregation was to be asked to increase Giving because of the poor financial situation.

## **Eco Church: Moving Forward, (including Peace Garden).**

The report was agreed, including the actions shown, and with emphasis that the Peace Garden would be implemented.

## **Other Business**

- Stay and Play.

There were concerns about Safeguarding, the need for DBS checks, and shortage of staffing with very few volunteers to assist. It has been referred to the Church Leadership Team to review the process of that recruitment.

## **Closing**

The Meeting closed with Prayer and The Grace.

## **Next Meeting**

***Thursday 22 October 2020. 7.30 pm at Church***

(to include Annual Church Report)