

QUINTON METHODIST CHURCH

Registered Charity no. 1128423

CHURCH COUNCIL 15 MARCH 2022.

MINUTES

Introduction

The Rev. Ilidio de Oliveira, Chairperson, opened the meeting in Church at 7.30pm and welcomed everyone.

Rev. Brian Taylor led a Prayer, Ilidio read a reflection, and Tony BurrIDGE read a Bible passage.

Those present

24 Members attended.

Tony BurrIDGE acted as Secretary.

Apologies received

5 Apologies received

Identification of Other Business

None identified.

Minutes of Meeting held on 14 December 2021

These were agreed, and signed by the Chairperson

Matters Arising

Nil

The Work of God at Quinton

Brian spoke about support for Ukraine, including process for hosting displaced persons.

A document from District was circulated following the Meeting.

Safeguarding and GDPR

A document had been circulated before the Meeting. A Safeguarding Foundation course, on Saturday 9 April at QMC, and an Advanced Safeguarding course on 21 May at QMC, had been arranged. It is now a requirement by the Connexion to complete these courses if you

are a Worship Leader or Local Preacher, and this directive is effective from 31 August this year.

Safeguarding will be an Agenda item at every Church Council Meeting. With an increasingly elderly congregation, it is important to spot Safeguarding indicators.

For GDPR, it was emphasised that only information that was absolutely necessary for fulfilling our work can be asked, care must be taken about questions asked, especially if the person asked may be vulnerable. Information must only be retained for the specific period needed, and then deleted. People are at risk of inadvertently providing unnecessary information and putting themselves at risk including by being scammed. We all have responsibilities on this, and the Data Controller, is particularly liable for repercussions if we do not adhere to GDPR requirements.

Circuit Matters

God in Love Unites Us

The Registration for Marriage document had been submitted to Dudley as agreed at the December Meeting. There had been a delayed response, measures had been taken to expedite matters, which continue to be chased up.

Mission Review

The next Review is 18 June. Each Church will have 5 minutes to report on progress since the last Review in November. Two Churches(Akiril and Sandon Road) have been closed in the last 12 months. An Open Meeting will be held at Quinton to discuss progress.

There may now be the potential to explore again the appointment of a Youth and Community Worker in the Circuit.

Social Responsibility

Ilidio highlighted a report about Rev. Mucha Chisvo's request for him to take this Circuit initiative forward. This had been discussed with the Leadership Team and Outreach, with ideas and suggestions generated.

Leadership Team

A Report had been circulated before the Meeting.

Church Council Secretary

The Secretary wished to retire, and invitations for Secretary had been invited. Two responses had been received, one subsequently being withdrawn. One person had completed the Application and Safer Recruitment process, and it was recommended that he be appointed.

A vote was taken and there was unanimous agreement to appoint , and the formal appointment document has been signed by the Chairperson.

A letter of appreciation to be sent to the retiring Secretary for his service to be sent from the Church.

Treasurer

The Treasurer was retiring and invitations for a replacement had been invited. None had been received. A paid appointment would therefore probably be necessary. A Church member would be needed to be formally designated as Treasurer.

It was suggested that this approach be endorsed by Church Council, and this was agreed.

Pastoral Care

The Flower Ministry co-ordinator was retiring from this role after many years. A letter of appreciation for service to be sent from the Church.

Platinum Jubilee

A Church (bring your own) Picnic with Community Outreach activity was being planned for 5 June. The theme for the Jubilee is Hopes and Aspirations for the next 70 years, and all Church groups are being invited to prepare their contribution, with a review of their past and look to the future.

Food Cycle

The potential for this is being considered as part of Social Responsibility. A summary of the initiative and discussions, including a suggestion from Bearwood Community Hub, was given.

Outreach

In addition to the content in the Leadership Team report, the Chair of Outreach spoke about developing plans for 2022. In response to a matter raised that people were asking about the current Project and fund raising, it was advised that the Chair was waiting to hear from the agreed Project, but their responses were delayed.

Brigades

A Report had been circulated before the Meeting. The GB Leader spoke about a national reduction in attendance since covid, with implications for finances. As a result the assessment for GB had increased to £1000 for this year, and additional fund raising was needed. GB are looking at how they can increase their contribution to Church funds.

Finance and Property

Property

It was advised that the flat roof section for kitchen, classrooms 1 and 2, and vestries through to Church Worship area required reroofing, together with attention to the 14 skylights. The estimate was £43,000; opportunities for grants being explored, together with options for differing finishes. £60,000 was held in reserves for roof repairs.

Proposals will be finalised for a future Meeting.

Separately there is a need for fitting insulation and boarding beneath the Hall roof. One potential was for the Maintenance Team to do the work using the scaffolding tower.

A Member asked for his concern about Health and Safety, if the Maintenance Team do the work, to be minuted.

There were requests that a green roof option be considered, and it was agreed that this will be explored. A suggestion for solar panels was made, but the cost and extended period for return of investment indicated that this was not economic.

The positive implications for Eco Church were highlighted in this and other work. The Methodist Church Conference (2021) agreed a target of net zero emissions as a Church by 2030.

There was a very positive statement about the huge debt of thanks needed to the Maintenance Team for all the work they do.

Finance

The Audited Annual Report and Financial Statements for year ended 31 August 2021 had been circulated before the Meeting. The draft Outline Financial report for 2020/2021 had been approved at the December Meeting. Further approval was not needed.

For 2021/2022 a deficit approaching £10,000 was expected. The hire rates had been increased, and number of lettings increased.

Approaches to use parts of the building

A Report had been circulated before the Meeting.

Quinton Youth for Christ (QYfC)

QYfC do not need the room proposed at present, apart from for a small amount of storage. It is therefore available for use by others, and the proposed lettings is on hold.

Redeemed Christian Church of God(RCCG)

The approach by RCCG originated with District. RCCG were still keen to use the building, and apparently had no objection to our decision to register the Church for Marriage (including for same gender). The income from a letting would be £5500. a year. Recently however matters of concern had been uncovered about some of their teaching resource, and this had been circulated before the meeting. Severe misgivings were expressed about what RCCG may teach in our building, and that this should not be a financial decision.

A proposal was put to the vote.

That QMC decline to enter into a rental agreement with RCCG.

Proposed and, seconded.

For the proposal: 17

Against : nil

Abstain: 1

Other Matters

Ilidio stated that it was extremely necessary for him to have use of a wireless microphone.

Diary Dates

Annual Church Meeting

Sunday 1 May, 12.15 at Church.

Nominations for election invited for Church Council and Stewards/Leadership Team.

Church Council

Tuesday 18 October, 7.30 pm at Church

Closing Prayer and Farewells

Ilidio thanked everyone for attending, and the Meeting closed with a Prayer at 8.45pm.

12 May 2022.