

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
SUTTON CIRCUIT
LONDON DISTRICT 35/39**

Minutes of the Circuit Meeting Held on 13th September 2017
At St John's Church, Belmont

Those present: Revd Dr Dave Dickinson (Chair), Revd Philip Richter, Revd Rosemary Richter, Revd Dr Mark Wakelin, Revd Mark Williams, Revd Gill Long, Revd Ernest Yu, Revd Ung Soon Nguang, Mr Richard Smith (Circuit Treasurer), Mrs Jan Angel, Mr David Forty, Mr Ravi Saravanamuttu, Miss Raj Kalsi, and 21 members whose names are recorded. Also present was a church member from Wallington – Patrick Palmer (Chair of Wallington Development Team).

1. Opening devotions

Revd Dave Dickinson led the meeting in reflection and prayers.

2. Meeting Membership

a. Welcome to new members

Chair welcomed new members to the Circuit Meeting.

b. Co-option of John Dawson and Chris Shaw

Chair asked meeting if they were happy to co-opt two Lay Ministers: John Dawson and Chris Shaw as members of the Circuit meeting. Circuit meeting agreed to co-opt the two Lay Ministers.

c. Confirmation of membership list.

The membership list was confirmed as accurate, with the following changes:
Paul Masters has withdrawn as elected representative for St George's.

There was a question from the floor regarding the number of elected representatives for Bandon Hill which should be one, but there are two on the membership list. Maureen Patel explained that as she is both Senior Steward and Treasurer, one of the two elected representatives substitutes for her in one of the roles.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Philip Sandiford, Geoff Gunton, Revd Barnabas Alexander, Nellie Showers, Audrey Saunderson, Lucy Beard, David Worthington, Martin Trenaman, Stanley Jeyaraj and Eileen Rice.

4. Minutes of the meetings held on May 17th 2017 (previously circulated).

The minutes of the meetings held on May 17th 2017 were agreed as accurate.

5. Minute of Demolition of Wesley Lodge (previously circulated)

Meeting agreed to minute of Demolition of Wesley Lodge as correct.

6. Matters arising

-None were brought to the meeting.

-Correspondence

The Chair shared with a meeting a few items of correspondence:

- Concert at Trinity Sutton on Saturday 7th October at 7pm in aid of Cruse Bereavement Support Sutton which is a new Charity being launched.
- Publications about Muslims and Methodist
- Evening Forums at Methodist Central Hall Westminster about God at work in the World
- Methodist Church initiative of facing depression together on Saturday 14th October
- York courses for Lent 2018 and for Advent this year.
- Information about course at Wesley House Cambridge

- Navigation change within the Church
- Cliff College Autumn School – London

Chair asked meeting members to take a leaflet and share with their Churches if interested.

7. Report from the Circuit Leadership Team

The meeting received a report from the Circuit Leadership Team by Ravi Saravanamuttu which was included in the agenda papers. The meeting accepted the report with the amendment to the penultimate paragraph 3rd line to read 'potential challenges posed' instead of 'potential solutions posed', also final paragraph 2nd line stewards should be with an apostrophe at the end.

8. Invitation Committee report and recommendation

Revd Dave Dickinson handed the chair to Revd Mark Wakelin for this item of the agenda. Proposal for a reinvitation to Revd Dave Dickinson to serve as superintendent minister for a further five years had previously been circulated to meeting members, requiring any objections to the proposal to be submitted 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Revd Mark Wakelin was delighted to inform the meeting that no objections had been received and expressed his congratulations and welcome to Dave as Superintendent. Revd Mark Wakelin informed the meeting that the URC Southern Moderator has yet to approve the process but did not see this as a problem. The Circuit Meeting approved the recommendation for extension of Revd Dave Dickinson as Superintendent until 2023.

9. Circuit Manses

Manses report covering the works carried out for the past year was previously circulated. Questions from the floor regarding the manses report included: Sue Forty questioned why Manses report budget for 2016/17 is £36,000 and Finance report had a figure of £30,000. Richard explained that Manses budget includes the Management fees for Patricia Shepherd and the finance report does not include the Management fees for 2016/2017 and also that deficit is being reduced as the most of the manses are now up to CPD standard but this year £29k had to be spent on refurbishment of 116 Manor Green Road. Given this discrepancy, the Chair suggested the meeting adopts only the narrative element of the Manse report without the accounts for the work done. This was accepted by the meeting. The Meeting requested that future manse reports restrict themselves to a report on work done without figures, which will appear in the treasurer's report, to avoid the risk of future discrepancies.

Mark Wakelin expressed his thanks to Philip in getting the 116 Manor Green Road Manse for Chris Shaw to move in on time.

10. Wallington Methodist Church redevelopment

Judith Yates reminded the meeting that at the last Circuit meeting the Wallington Development team had put forward why Wallington needs to redevelop their site and their visions for the future. After the last Circuit Meeting, Wallington had been granted permission by email from the Circuit Meeting for the demolition of Wesley Lodge to lock in the planning permission October deadline.

Patrick Palmer (Chair of Development Team) gave an update on the project and informed the meeting that the project itself is self-financing and the costs which have been circulated are estimates. Architects have provided a cost projection based on scenario in terms of residential units and this has demonstrated that the project will be self-financing but there are still risks and they are working towards managing them. They have decided to market their site through Stiles Harold Williams instead of focusing on one developer to reduce level of risk. Alternatives to develop the site include: developing the residential units as well as the Church in parallel which would be more flexible and efficient and looking into different plans to retain a presence on the site.

The Chair explained that although Wallington Development team is in regular communication with the property division in Manchester and seeking legal advice at every stage this is not yet a fully approved deal as there will be changes at every stage as they come across new opportunities. The Chair asked the Circuit meeting if they would give Wallington approval to the project so that as they

communicate with Manchester, the developers and new opportunities arise they can move forward with the project. The Circuit meeting approved the project.

David Forty commented that he encouraged and supported the energy going into the project but was concerned about the Methodist Church membership has for some years been falling and cannot see anything being done at national or local level to reverse this. He is worried that although the Wallington project is going to be self-funding, a lot of time and energy is going into the project and is hoping something will be done at Circuit level to increase membership numbers. He also wished Wallington success with the project. The Chair replied that the membership numbers and future of our Circuit will be addressed at the CLT away day in October. Question asked from the floor included: if as Managing trustee they would be responsible for the risks, the Chair assured the meeting that Wallington will be in communication with Manchester at every stage of the project seeking legal advice constantly to manage the risks.

11. Circuit finances

a. Preliminary accounts for 2016/2017

Richard circulated copy of the Draft Accounts for 2016/2017 just before the meeting as he received the final figures on Monday 11th September. He explained that these accounts are for information and did not require Circuit Meeting approval at this stage until February next year. Richard explained that for the budget of 2017/18 there is an increase in contribution due to gift from Epsom and hopefully there will not be a heavy demand for costs on Manses for next year. The Chair thanked Richard for all the hard work in preparing the accounts.

b. Statement of Circuit Model Trust Fund for year ending 31st August 2017

An updated statement of balance for the CMTF was also circulated just before the meeting, showing where money has been spent in the past year and available balance at £43,519.39. The meeting accepted the report.

c. Request from HMRC: national minimum wage compliance review

Richard informed the meeting about the above request which had been received that very morning and is due by Friday 15th September requesting information about Lay employees. He urged the Church Treasurers to send the information requested by Friday. Malcolm Booth, Treasurer for Sutton Trinity stated that most Churches will have the other information on file but it will take time to get copies of passport as they did not have them on file and therefore will have to ask Lay employees to forward a copy. Dave Forty added that most employees at pre-school have just returned from holiday and are busy with the new term intake and therefore will find it difficult to find time to this request.

12. Circuit Safeguarding

Training update

Timetable for the Safeguarding courses for the rest of the year was previously circulated with the agenda papers. Raj urged Churches to encourage people to attend the next course which is on Tuesday 19th September as there were only two people booked on the course. The Chair requested that the meeting ask people in their Churches who attended the course five years ago to attend the Refresher course or they will have to step down from their roles until they complete the training.

Safeguarding Trainers

Raj asked the meeting to bring forward names of anyone who is interested in taking on the role as Circuit Safeguarding Trainer as John Wilson will be stepping down at the end of this year. Revd Mark Williams explained that the person does not require any background expertise to take on the role and the District will provide training for anyone who wishes to take on the role.

13. Reports from Circuit committees

a. Connexional Funds

Report for Connexional Funds was previously circulated with the agenda papers, figures for Mission Funds will be reported at the March 2018 Circuit Meeting. Richard thanked all Churches for submitting the funds. The report was accepted by the meeting.

b. Risk Management Group

Report from the Circuit Meeting Risk Management Group was previously circulated with the agenda papers.

With regard to recommendations from the Risk Management Group, the following actions were also agreed:

1. The Circuit Meeting adopts the report as a realistic assessment of the risks currently facing the Circuit;
2. The Circuit welcomes the input of the Circuit Stewards into this process;
3. The RMG continues to meet at least annually to review the action taken by the Circuit Stewards and any new risks that may arise; and
4. The Circuit Meeting should encourage all Circuit Churches to nominate representatives to join the Group.

14. Confirmation of sub-committee appointments

a. Circuit Model Trust Fund Committee

The constitution of the CMTF Committee as detailed in the agenda papers was accepted by the meeting.

b. Risk Management Group

The meeting accepted the appointments to the Risk Management Group.

15. Date and place of next meeting

Tuesday 6th March 2018 at Sutton Trinity Church, refreshments at 7.30pm, meeting at 8pm

Please note that the Circuit Meeting will also meet on Thursday 24th May 2018 and Tuesday 4th September 2018.

16. Closing devotions

Revd Dave Dickinson closed the meeting by saying together the Grace.