THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CHURCH IN WALES

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN LLANDUDNO

ON 23 AND 24 APRIL 2014

An Ordinary Meeting of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales was held in Venue Cymru, Llandudno on Wednesday 23 April and Thursday 24 April 2014.

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Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

There was a celebration of the Holy Eucharist in St Paul’s Church, Llanrhos.

The President, the Archbishop of Wales, was in the Chair for the start of the meeting.

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14/01 President’s Mandate

In accordance with Regulation 16.2 of Chapter II of the Constitution, the Lay Secretary certified the due execution of the President’s Mandate.

14/02 Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Governing Body held on 11 and 12 September 2013 were confirmed and signed with one amendment: in Minute 13/35 the voting on the amendment proposed by the Reverend Canon Peter Williams was corrected to read, ‘The amendment was rejected: 35 voted in favour, 72 against and there were 15 abstentions’.

14/03 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

14/04 Representatives of Cytûn and Other Churches

The President welcomed those attending the meeting to represent Cytûn and other Churches:

Cytûn: Mr Geraint Hopkins and Mrs Rhian Linecar

The Methodist Church: The Reverend Jennifer Hurd

The Presbyterian Church of Wales: The Reverend Trefor Lewis

The United Reformed Church: The Reverend Sally Thomas
14/05  **Consent for non-members to speak**

Noting that a number of non-Governing Body members would be involved in presentations, the Governing Body gave its consent for non-members to speak during the meeting.

14/06  **In Memoriam**

The Governing Body stood in memory of four faithful servants of the Church in Wales who had died since its last meeting:

- The Right Reverend Clifford Wright – the former Bishop of Monmouth;
- Mr WH ‘Bill’ John – a member of the Governing Body from the 1970s to 1998;
- Mr Harold Owen – a former member of the Governing Body and formerly Chair of the Bangor Diocesan Board of Finance;
- Mr Bill Lewis – who had worked for the Representative Body for 28 years most recently as Assistant Head of Finance.

14/07  **H’mm Poetry Foundation**

At the invitation of the President, the Reverend Peter Walker (non-member), representing the H’mm Foundation, an organisation committed to bringing poetry into the workplace, read three of his poems to the Governing Body.

14/08  **The President’s Address**

The President addressed the Governing Body.

Mr Sandy Blair was appointed as the Assessor for the day.

The President vacated the Chair which was taken by Dr Gill Todd.

14/09  **Report of the Standing Committee**

His Honour Philip Price QC, Chairman of the Standing Committee, presented the Report of the Standing Committee and proposed the following recommendation which was seconded by Mrs Helen Biggin, Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee:

**Nominated Membership of the Standing Committee**

That, in accordance with Section 34.2.3 of the Regulations relating to Chapter II of the Constitution, the Governing Body appoint the Reverend Canon Steven Kirk as a member of the Standing Committee for the remainder of the triennium to 31 December 2014.

The resolution was passed unanimously.
Dr Gill Todd vacated the Chair which was taken by the President.

The President proposed the following recommendation from the Chair, which was seconded by Mrs Helen Biggin:

**Panel of Governing Body Chairs**

That the Reverend Canon Steven Kirk be appointed to the Panel of Governing Body Chairs for a period of six years, and that His Honour Philip Price QC and Dr Gill Todd continue on the Panel for a further six-year term.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

The President vacated the Chair which was resumed by Dr Gill Todd.

His Honour Philip Price QC proposed the following recommendations which were seconded by Mrs Helen Biggin:

**Panel of Governing Body Assessors**

That His Honour Judge Andrew Keyser QC and the Reverend Canon Steven Kirk be appointed to the Panel of Governing Body Assessors for a period of six years and that Mr Tim Davenport and Mr Paul Bennett continue on the Panel for a further six-year term.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

**Council of Us**

That the Venerable Dr Peter Pike, Archdeacon of Montgomery, be appointed as the Governing Body’s representative on the Council of Us until June 2018.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

**Dates and Places of Governing Body meetings in 2016**

That the Governing Body meet on Wednesday and Thursday, 6 and 7 April 2016 in Venue Cymru, Llandudno and on Wednesday and Thursday, 14 and 15 September 2016 in University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, Lampeter.

The resolution was passed unanimously.
Approval of the Report

That the Report of the Standing Committee be approved.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

14/10 2020 Vision (Church in Wales Review)

Mrs Helen Biggin, as its Chair, introduced the Report from the Implementation Group; the Bishop of Bangor, as its Chair, spoke about the work of the Legal Issues Group; and Mr Nigel King, Chair of the Design Team, spoke about the Conference The Time is Now to take place in November 2014 in Llandudno.

There was a discussion of matters raised in these reports.

14/11 Question Time

Oral answers to written questions from the Reverend Alison Jones and the Very Reverend Geoffrey Marshall, Dean of Brecon, were given by the Venerable Philip Morris, Archdeacon of Margam and by the Archbishop.

Dr Gill Todd vacated the Chair which was taken by the Bishop of Monmouth.

14/12 Issues around Assisted Dying – Presentations, Discussion in Groups followed by Plenary Session

The Reverend Professor Paul Badham and Mr Robert Preston (non-members) gave a presentation setting out contrasting perspectives about issues around Assisted Dying.

The Governing Body then divided into ten discussion groups to discuss the papers written by both guest speakers and the issues they raised.

The Governing Body then reconvened in plenary session and the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon proposed and Mrs Sue Last seconded the following motion:

That the Governing Body take note of the debate on assisted dying, and commend the issues to further prayer, study and consideration by members of the Church in Wales.

The resolution was passed nemine contradicente.
Church in Wales Response to the proposals from the Gathering of the Covenanted Churches in 2012

The Bishop of St Davids proposed and Dr Adrian Morgan seconded the following motion:

That the Governing Body:

(i) commend the recommendations made by the Commission of Covenanted Churches in Wales to the Gathering of the Covenanted Churches in Wales and summarised in the paper entitled ‘A Summary of Recommendations’;

(ii) affirm the advice given by the Standing Doctrinal Commission in the paper entitled ‘The Gathering: A report from the Standing Doctrinal Commission’;

(iii) encourage the Commission of Covenanted Churches in Wales to develop the recommendations further taking into account the advice given by the Standing Doctrinal Commission.

The Reverend Canon Gwynn ap Gwilym (non-member), Bishops’ Adviser for Church Affairs, spoke about the proposals and the Reverend Canon Dr Peter Sedgwick (non-member), Chair of the Standing Doctrinal Commission, introduced its report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned until the following day.

The Meeting of the Governing Body resumed on Thursday 24 April 2014.

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

There was a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at Holy Trinity Church, Llandudno.

The President, the Archbishop of Wales, was in the Chair.

Prayers and Bible Study

The Very Reverend Geoffrey Marshall, Dean of Brecon, led a Bible Study and Prayers.
The President vacated the Chair which was resumed by the Bishop of Monmouth.

Mr Tim Davenport was appointed as the Assessor for the day.

14/13 **Church in Wales Response to the proposals from the Gathering of the Covenanted Churches in 2012 (continuation of debate)**

The debate on the motion continued.

The resolution was passed by a substantial majority, with 10 against and 3 abstentions.

The Bishop of Monmouth vacated the Chair which was resumed by the President.

14/14 **Provincial Fair Trade Update**

The Bishop of Swansea & Brecon proposed and Mrs Lis Perkins seconded the following motion:

That the Governing Body:

(i) welcome the progress that has been made from April 2012 to date, towards the achievement of Fair Trade Province status;

(ii) endorse the work of the Fair Trade Province Steering Group for a further 12 months;

(iii) urge those parishes which have not adopted Fair Trade status to consider doing so by the end of October 2014, and to report to the Provincial Fair Trade Steering Group the outcome of such consideration;

(iv) invite the Standing Committee to report back to the Governing Body in April 2015 on progress in meeting the necessary criteria.

The resolution was passed unanimously.
14/15 **The Church in Wales and Same Sex Partnerships – Discussion of Issues in Groups**

At the invitation of the President, the Reverend Canon Dr Peter Sedgwick, Chair of the Standing Doctrinal Commission, introduced its Report on Same Sex Partnerships.

The Governing Body then broke into ten groups for discussion in the context of the Report from the Standing Doctrinal Commission.

The President vacated the Chair which was taken by His Honour Philip Price QC.

14/16 **Women Bishops in the Church in Wales – Code of Practice**

The Bench of Bishops had invited submissions about what provision should be made in the Code of Practice which the Bench was required to prepare in accordance with the Canon ‘To Enable Women to be Consecrated as Bishops’ passed by the Governing Body in September 2013. As part of that consultation process, Governing Body members were invited to give their views.

A discussion followed in which 20 members spoke.

14/17 **Mediation Service for the Church in Wales**

The Bishop of St Asaph proposed and the Reverend David Brownridge seconded the motion:

That the Governing Body:

(i) affirm its reception of Jesus’ teaching that Christians are called to be people reconciled and reconciling;

(ii) receive and commend the work that has been done to establish a Provincial Mediation Service;

(iii) encourage the Church in Wales, at all levels of its life, parish, ministry area, diocese and Province, to seek reconciliation wherever necessary in its life, and to be mindful of the opportunities that the Mediation Service offers in assisting the Church to grow into that vocation.

The resolution was passed unanimously.
14/18 Report of St Michael's College, Llandaff

The Archbishop proposed and the Bishop of Monmouth seconded the motion:

That the Report of St Michael's College, Llandaff be received.

The Reverend Canon Dr Peter Sedgwick, Principal of St Michael's College, spoke about the report.

The resolution was passed *nemine contradicente*.

The Archbishop thanked the Reverend Canon Dr Peter Sedgwick, who was to retire as Principal of St Michael's College in June, for his outstanding service to the College and to the Church during his ten years as Principal.

14/19 Private Members Motion

The Venerable Peggy Jackson, Archdeacon of Llandaff, proposed and Miss Carol Cobert JP seconded the following motion:

That the Governing Body:

(i) applaud the work of the Foodbank organisation in and for communities across Wales;

(ii) urge all parishes to develop further their active support of their local Foodbanks;

(iii) deplore the social and economic conditions which have made Foodbanks a necessity; and

(iv) urge all Church members to work for a society in which all people have an income sufficient to meet their needs.

The resolution was passed *nemine contradicente*.

14/20 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches – report from the Church in Wales delegate

The Reverend Dr Sarah Rogers (non-member), the Church in Wales delegate to the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches and a member of the Central Committee, reported on the work of the WCC’s Assembly that took place in Busan, Republic of Korea, in November 2013.

His Honour Philip Price QC vacated the Chair which was resumed by the President.
Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Governing Body would be held on Wednesday and Thursday, 17 and 18 September 2014 at the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, Lampeter.

This concluded the business of the Meeting and the President gave the Blessing.