

**Eglwys Ddiwygiedig Unedig
Synod Cenedlaethol Cymru
The United Reformed Church
National Synod of Wales**

**Minutes of the ninety-fourth meeting of the National Synod of Wales of the
United Reformed Church held on Saturday 20th October 2018
at Pavilion Mid Wales, Spa Road, Llandrindod Wells**

Attendance:

Attendance cards returned indicated that 68 people were present. Of these, 51 were voting members (21 church representatives, 18 serving ministers, 9 Synod Post Holders and 3 ecumenical guests) and 17 were non-voting attendees (3 retired ministers, 1 Minister not in Pastoral Charge, 1 Ordinand and 12 visitors).

Apologies for absence were received from:

Sylvia Abel (Parkminster, Cardiff), Jason Askew (Bridgend United Area), Helen Bravey (Tyddyn Street, Mold), Samantha Caton (Transitional Minister), David Clarkson (Rivertown, Shotton), Ruth Henriksen (Welshpool), Beverley Humphreys (Racial Justice Advocate), Pamela Marsden (St. David's, Aberystwyth), Hee Gon Moon (Hall Street, Llanelli), Mollie Neate (St. John's, Tenby), Jean Needham (Hebron, Mostyn), Shelagh Pollard (Retired Minister), Gethin Rhys (co-opted member), Malcolm Scott (Tabernacle, Holywell), Malcolm Shapland (Retired Minister), Martin Spain (Landsker Pastorate), Verena Walder (Tabernacle, Mumbles), Joan Warner (St. Paul's, Penmaenmawr), Mair Weigh (St. John's, Buckley), Sue Welpton (Bethel, Llanishen), Rachel Wheeler (Bridgend United Area).

Apologies were noted from the following ecumenical guests:

George Baker	Salvation Army
Tim Daniel	South Wales Baptist Association
Aled Edwards	Cytûn
Chris Gillham	Congregational Federation
Philip Manghan	Roman Catholic Church
Phillip Poynor	The Methodist Church in Wales

1. **Opening Worship** was led by the Moderator based upon John 15:1-11 and Galatians 5:22 and 25.

During the course of worship, the following ministers and elders who had died since the last Synod Meeting were remembered:

Revd Islwyn Evans	Retired Minister, Swansea
Revd Kim Fabricius	Retired Minister, Swansea
Revd Tom Owen	Retired Minister, Haverfordwest
Revd Margery Woodland	Retired Minister, Llanidloes
Jim Banks	United Church in Rhyl
John Cox	Parkminster, Cardiff
Margery Davies	Trinity, Llanidloes
Astrid Drennan	Elfed Avenue, Penarth
Daryl Griffiths	St. David's, Aberystwyth
Jeanne Jones	Hope and Market Square, Merthyr Tydfil
Dorothy Lloyd	Albany, Haverfordwest
Harold Rees	Elfed Avenue, Penarth
Barbara Roach	Hill URC, Swansea
Gruff Roberts	The Plough, Brecon
Jean Smith	Hope and Market Square, Merthyr Tydfil
Trevor Williams	New Street, Welshpool
Arthur Woods	Cwmbran

2. **Introductions and Notices**

The following ecumenical guests were welcomed:

Noel Davies	Union of Welsh Independents
Peredur Owain Griffiths	Cytûn
Brian Matthews	Presbyterian Church of Wales
Ian Morris	Methodist Church, Synod Cymru

The following Ministers were recognised for having achieved significant anniversaries since their Ordinations:

Arnold Brown	25 years
Sally Massey Thomas	25 years
Marc Dummer	35 years
David Bending	35 years
Peter Noble	35 years
Dafydd Jones	40 years
Keith Jones	50 years
John Morgans	50 years
Alan Willcocks	55 years
Peter Bellamy	55 years

The following ministers have moved since the last Synod Meeting:

Ian Kirby	from Axminster and Seaton (South Western Synod) to Brecon Beacons Pastorate (East)
Peter Noble	from Chaplain, Cardiff Bay Local Ecumenical Partnership to Minister, Llanfair Uniting Church, Penrhys
Sue Fender	from Elfed Avenue, Penarth and Bethesda'r Fro to Hartlepool and Teesdale (Northern Synod)
Stephen Gilbert	having retired as a non-stipendiary minister from Christchurch and Cae Bach to East Midlands
Rosie Buxton	from Swansea Regional CWCW Ministry to Huddersfield CRCW Ministry (Yorkshire Synod)
Branwen Rees	from Greenock East and Port Glasgow (Synod of Scotland) to East Wales Regional Minister with Cwmbran, Ebenezer Pontnewynydd and Sardis Community Chapel
John Hayton	from South Somerset Group (South Western Synod)
Stella Hayton	from South Somerset Group (South Western Synod) to South Pembrokeshire Pastorate
Hee Gon Moon (Meth)	from Manchester and Stockport Methodist District to Hall Street Methodist and United Reformed Church, Llanelli
Lorette Hinson (Methodist)	taking on Milford Haven URC/Methodist
John Howard (Methodist)	taking on St Pauls, Penmaenmawr URC/Methodist
Kirsty Mabbott	from Bettws Church in Community Project
Felicity Jepson-Randall (Methodist)	taking on Albany, Haverfordwest URC/Methodist
David Salisbury	from Training and Development Officer (North) and Minister within the Dyserth

and Holywell Pastorate to Stepwise
Programme Manager

Acknowledgement was made of those who have recently completing their service to the Synod as Interim Moderators:

Lyn Oelmann	Brecon Beacons Pastorate (East)
Adrian Bulley	East Wales Regional Minister
Martin Spain	South Pembrokeshire Pastorate

The following Elders have been Ordained since the last Synod Meeting:

Fiona Coleman	Rhos on Sea
Emma Fitzgerald	Van Road, Caerphilly
Richard Hibbs	Rhos on Sea
Carolyn Ridding	Rhos on Sea
Suzanne Tolley	St. John's, Tenby
Kenneth Watson	City, Cardiff
Pat Williams	Parkminster, Cardiff

The Synod Clerk drew attention to:

- a) Bookstall provided by Colin and Elizabeth Richards.
- b) Fairtrade Stall provided by Just Shopping in Conwy.
- c) A URC Educational Visit to Israel and Palestine. Anyone interested, and who is able to self-fund or raise funds to cover £500 of the cost, should contact Adrian Bulley by 5th November 2018 for further information.
- d) The Synod Big Day Out on Saturday 29th June 2019, including the available of publicity postcards.

3. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 14th October 2017 were approved without amendment and signed as a true record.

4. **Matters Arising**

None.

5. **General Assembly Resolutions**

The Synod Clerk introduced the resolutions referred to synods by General Assembly and Mission Council.

Resolution 1:

The National Synod of Wales raises no objection to the Mission Council resolution concerning the upper age limit for URC Youth.

Passed without dissent.

Resolution 2:

The National Synod of Wales raises no objection to the Assembly resolution concerning the Role of Elders and Changes to Ordination Promises.

Passed without dissent.

This resolution has also been referred to local church meetings.

Resolution 3:

The National Synod of Wales raises no objection to the Assembly resolutions regarding General Assembly.

Passed without dissent.

6. Finance and Property Board and Trust Company

The Synod Treasurer introduced the 2017 accounts and 2019 budgets and responded to questions.

Resolution 4:

Synod Meeting receives the accounts for 2017 as summarised in Appendix B.

Passed without dissent.

Resolution 5:

Synod Meeting approves the Budget for the Synod General Fund for 2019 as set out in Appendix C.

Passed without dissent.

Resolution 6:

Synod Meeting approves the Budget for the Synod Training Fund for 2019 as set out in Appendix C.

Passed without dissent.

7. **Musical Memories Choir (Christ Well, Swansea) and Dementia Friendly Church**

Neil Riches spoke about the Musical Memories Choir at Christ Well, Swansea and the impact it was having upon individuals and the church. He emphasised the need to make the most of the remembered and the traditional and the aural for those with dementia. Discussion followed.

8. **20-40 Task Group**

The Moderator introduced this report from a task group that reported to General Assembly 2018, and encouraged churches and chapels to give it some consideration ahead of a fuller discussion at Synod Meeting in March 2019.

9. **United Church Rhyl ASK Centre**

A video was shown introducing this project which was joint winner of the Congregational Insurance Community Award 2018.

10. **Synod Priorities and Aspirations**

The Moderator explained the synod priorities as written in section 3 of the Synod Reports, focusing on Confidence – Responding regionally – Developing Capacity. Discussion followed and feedback was offered.

11. **Stepwise**

Gareth Dyer introduced Stepwise, the United Reformed Church's new intergenerational discipleship programme. A pilot scheme is going ahead in North Wales. Other interested areas/churches/pastorates should contact Gareth direct.

12. **Local Churches and Personal Data**

The Synod Clerk introduced this subject, encouraging those churches that had now already done so to download relevant materials from www.urc.org.uk/gdpr and complete a Data Privacy Notice using the provided template. He responded to questions.

13. **Reports to Synod**

There were no matters raised from the printed reports for this meeting, or those circulated ahead of the cancelled Spring 2018 meeting.

Closing worship was led by the Moderator, using Revelation 22:1-5 for churches under pressure.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm.