



Minutes of the one hundredth meeting of the National Synod of Wales of the United Reformed Church held at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells on Saturday 16th October 2021

Attendance:

Forty-six people were present during the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Molly Neate (St John's, Pembrokeshire), David Yeo Poulton (Chaplain, Synod of Wales), Helen Bravey (Mold), David Clarkson (Rivertown), Christine Roberts (Barry Uniting), Revd Nick Sissons (St Paul's United, Penmaenmawr), Revd Colin Richards (Horeb, Dyserth), Revd Malcolm Shapland (Caerphilly), Linda Elliott (The United Church in Rhyl), Julian Bonnebaigt (St Paul's United, Penmaenmawr), Ruth Henrikson (Welshpool), Pat Davies (Sketty), Lyn Oelmann (Cwmbran), Diane Brain (Cwmbran)

1. Opening Worship was led by the Moderator

2. Introductions and Notices

The following appointments within the Synod were acknowledged

Helen Stenson	Synod Clerk
Megan Price	PA to the Moderator and Office Manager
Diana Taylor	Safeguarding Officer
Joel Sainsbury	Administration Officer
Martin Spain	Ecumenical and Faith Relations Officer
Stephen Best	Synod Office Chaplain

HS read from the statement of faith and order of the URC and then Stephen Best and Martin Spain were inducted to their new ministries within the United Reformed Church.

Synod Meeting agreed to affirm their commitment to support to SB and MS.

The Worship included thanksgiving for lives given in service and the following elders who had died since the last Synod Meeting were remembered:

Revd Stella Jones	United Church in Rhyl
Revd T Gerwyn Jones	Mid Wales
Patricia Thomas	Parkminster, Cardiff
Gwyneth Jarrett	Cwmbran
Peggy Morgan	Tiers Cross
Moira Davies	Elfed Avenue United Church, Penarth
Gill Grivas	Beulah, Cardiff
Ron Leach	Beulah, Cardiff
Mary Parry	Gilwern

The United Reformed Church communications team were welcomed.

The following ecumenical guests were welcomed:

Jane Harries	Meeting of Friends in Wales
Revd Brian Matthews	Presbyterian Church in Wales
Revd Ian Morris	Methodist Church, Synod Cymru
Alan Jevons	Church in Wales
Andrew Kleissner	South Wales Baptist Association

Ecumenical apologies were noted from:

Noel Davies	Undeb yr Annibynwyr
Aled Edwards	Cytûn

3. **Minutes of Spring 2021 Synod Meeting**

The Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Saturday 6th March 2021 were approved without amendment and signed as a true record.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

None.

5. **Finance and Property Board/URC (Wales) Trust Company a. 2020 Accounts**

Chris Atherton introduced the annual accounts for 2020 and responded to questions.

The accounts were received by Synod Meeting without objection and resolution 1 was thereby passed. **Synod Meeting receives the accounts for 2020 as summarised in Appendix C.**

6. **“The Whole People of God Called and Committed to His Service”**

Jason Askew gave a report on his work and it was noted that this document is a potential guide for growth in mission and ministry for the years to come.

The document was referred to churches to look at and discuss. Feedback was welcomed and should be directed to jason.askew.urcwailes@urc.org.uk

7. **Proposed Members Resolution**

Gethin Rhys introduced the resolution and took questions with Martha McInnes, as seconder to the resolution, offering support.

Simon Walkling clarified that the Charity Commission had stated that everyone has an interest to declare on this issue, and therefore everyone can be involved in the discussion and decision-making process.

Questions were taken from the floor and were answered by Gethin Rhys and Simon Walkling. These questions related to the cost of a pensions scheme, the influence of the market, and the next steps.

A positive consensus was reached and the resolution was passed.

Synod Meeting, noting the decision in principle of the General Assembly to move away from a Defined Benefits pension scheme for ministers, requests those working on a replacement scheme to ensure that the Church puts in place a suitable form of financial safety net, funded by the Church, to underpin a minimum fair pension for all ministers at retirement.

8. Video introducing the URC 50th Anniversary celebrations

The video was shown <https://urc.org.uk/50.html>

9. An Introduction to Communications

Andy Jackson was welcomed and spoke about the importance of communications and engaging with social media. The need for churches to have a clear digital presence noted as a theme of his talk.

A video regarding the 50th anniversary of the United Reformed Church by Revd Dr John Bradbury was shown.

10. Reports to Synod

Simon Walkling noted the Reports to Synod and asked the floor for questions, none were made.

Judy Harris spoke about the Lundie Awards and advent boxes, which are now available for churches to order.

12. Closing Worship was led by Simon Walkling