

**SYNOD MEETING
SPRING 2022**

Saturday 12 March 2022, 9 am – 1 pm

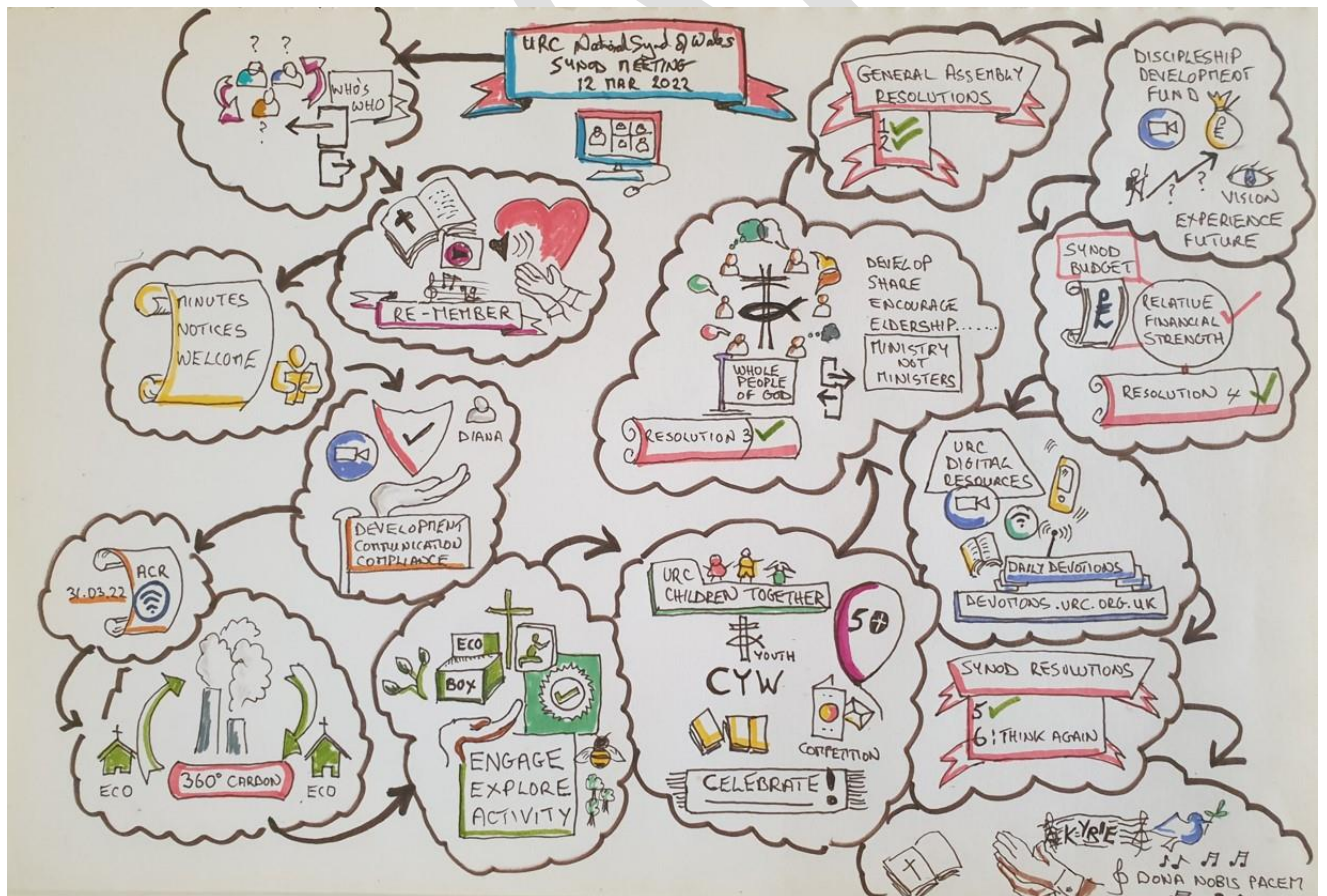
Virtual Meeting held on Zoom

Attendance:

Forty five people were present during the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Adella Pritchard (Swansea), Paul Robinson (Rhyl), Verena Walder (Tabernacle, Mumbles), Sandra Wallace (Rhyl), Diana Taylor (Synod Safeguarding Officer).



A graphic representation of the meeting produced by Revd Stephen Best

1. **Opening Worship** was led by David and Irene Clarkson

2. **Introductions and Notices**

The following ecumenical guests were welcomed:

Canon Aled Edwards	Cytûn
Revd Dr Noel Davies	Undeb yr Annibynwyr Cymraeg
Peter Hussey	Religious Society of Friends
Revd Dr Ian Morris	Methodist Church, Synod Cymru
Revd Philip Poyner	Methodist Church, Wales District

Ecumenical apologies were noted from:

Major Roger Batt	Salvation Army
Revd Brian Matthews	Presbyterian Church of Wales
Revd Mark Fairweather-Tall	South Wales Baptist Association
Venerable Alan Jevons	Church in Wales

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

Neville Jones	St. John's Flint with Bagillt
Haulwen Jones	United Church in Rhyl
Ray Gratton	Cwmbran URC
Katie Waters	New Street United Church, Welshpool
Grace Mordecai	City URC, Cardiff
Dorothy Woodward	Van Road URC
David Banyard	Stow Park, Newport
May Walters	The Plough, Brecon
Howard Clayton	Rhos-on-Sea
Evan Evans	Rivertown URC, Shotton
Eluned Brown	St John's, Tenby

The following Interim Moderators have been appointed:

Geoff Eynon	Swansea Pastorate
David Salisbury	Hanover URC

Elders who have been ordained since the last Synod Meeting

Revd Jeff Williams	The Plough, Brecon
Mrs Carol Reynolds	Gloddaeth United Church, Llandudno
Mrs Bronwen McKibben	Gloddaeth United Church, Llandudno
Mrs Elaine Hanson	Gloddaeth United Church, Llandudno
Mr Chris Condorp	Gloddaeth United Church, Llandudno
Mr David McKinlay	Gloddaeth United Church, Llandudno
Mr Lyn Evans	Hope and Market Square, Merthyr Tydfil

The following ministerial anniversaries during 2022 were noted:

Malcolm Shapland	60 years
John Heywood-Thomas	55 years
John Morgans	55 years
Arthur Gudgeon	45 years
D Clive Lloyd-Jones	45 years
Russell Gordon	35 years
Colin Foreman	35 years
Simon Walkling	30 years
Linda Elliott	30 years
Barbara Flood-Page	30 years
Kathryn Price	25 years
Paula Parish	20 years
Dilys Brace	20 years

3. Minutes of the Autumn 2021 Synod Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells, on Saturday 16 October 2022 were approved without amendment and signed as a true record.

4. Notices

None other than those listed in Item 2.

5. Safeguarding

A video was shown giving information about Adults at Risk.

6. Annual Church Return's online

Megan Price reported on the 2022 Annual Church Return and Safeguarding Return and appealed for those who have yet to complete the returns to do so.

7. Carbon Offsetting

A presentation was given on Carbon 360, the Synod's carbon footprint calculator. It was noted that it is important to know what our carbon footprint is so that the effect of actions we take to reduce it can be tracked. 360carbon.org

Green Boxes

Green Boxes have been distributed to churches as part of the Synod's commitment to environmental matters and also to mark the URC's Jubilee year. They contain activities and resources on the theme of the environment. Link: [eco-church](#)

8. Children and Youth

Judy Harris reported on the work of Children and Youth. Youth Assembly and the appointment of a new Youth Representative, Nathaniel Stinton, from the Bridgend United Area, were noted.

9. The Whole People of God

Responses to the paper were discussed in breakout rooms and a plenary session. Following comments and clarifications, the following Resolution was passed by consensus:

Resolution 3

The National Synod of Wales adopts the Whole People of God paper as the basis for the Synod deployment strategy.

10. General Assembly Resolutions

The background was given regarding two resolutions received from General Assembly which were passed by consensus:

Resolution 1: General Assembly Resolution 39

The National Synod of Wales raises no objection to the General Assembly resolution concerning the changes to the structure relating to the Ministerial Discipline and Incapacity Process.

Resolution 2: General Assembly Resolution 44

The National Synod of Wales raises no objection to the General Assembly resolution concerning the changes to the structure relating to Safeguarding.

11. Discipleship Development Fund

A video was shown, applications are now welcome for both large and small grants. Link: [discipleship-development-fund](#)

12. Budget 2022 – 2024

Chris Atherton introduced the 2022 – 2024 budget. It was noted that the Mission and Ministry target contribution for 2021 had been exceeded and that the Synod contribution to the Ministers' Pension Fund had now been paid. There being no questions, Resolution 4 was passed unanimously.

Resolution 4: Budget 2022-2024

Synod Meeting receives the budget for 2022 – 2024 as set out in Appendix B.

13. Digital Resources for churches and individuals

A video was played from Andy Braunston, URC Minister for Digital Worship, introducing himself and highlighting the resources available to churches. Link: [URC devotions](#)

14. Synod Structures resolutions

In accordance with the URC Manual, the Synod may constitute such committees as are required for the conduct of its business. It was noted, with regard to this resolution, that rules regarding finance would still be handled by Finance and Property Board.

Resolution 5: Wales Synod Structural Changes

The United Reformed Church, National Synod of Wales resolves to appoint the Synod Pastoral Committee to represent the Synod Meeting, between meetings.

An objection was raised to

Resolution 6: The Resolution was withdrawn, to be reconsidered by the next Synod Officers Meeting.

15. Reports to Synod

There were no matters raised from the reports for this meeting.

An appeal was made for people to come forward to serve as Lay Representatives to General Assembly. Please contact Synod Clerk by 21 March 2022.

16. Closing Worship was led by the Moderator.