

Notes of Synod Proceedings Saturday 22nd April 2023

Synod was held at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

Revd Nigel Cowgill welcomed everyone to synod and Revd Tony Miles welcomed everyone on behalf Methodist Central Hall.

Opening Worship was led by the Revd Ian Worsfold and Revd Paul Wood on the synod theme “Living Parables”.

Introductory Business

Roz Hollingsworth (Presbyteral Synod Secretary) introduced the business.

Appointment of Scrutineers

The synod appointed the following scrutineers

Cynthia Bond Racheal Dzumbira Norma Downer-Powell	George Kulasingham Kath Leckey Irene Miller	Adrian Pickett Sheila Platt
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Dispensations

Dispensations were given to 20 Presbyters & Deacons.

Apologies were received from 5 supernumeraries.

Candidates Committee

Eleanor Jackson reported that the following 3 candidates were recommended for training, subject to conference.

Eric Bediako Daniel George Stuart Watkins	Southwark & Deptford Barnet & Queensbury Blackheath & Crystal Palace
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The synod was reminded that the Candidating process has changed. The deadline for submitting forms is 30th April 2023.

Eleanor thanked all who have served as members of the candidates committee.

Probationers Committee

Andrew Letby reported that the following 3 probationers were recommended to be received into Full Connexion and Ordained subject to conference:

- Deacon Tessa Bennett
- Revd Craig Gaffney
- Deacon Sarah-Jane Rigby

Deacon Marie Poole has been recommended to continue on Probation, subject to Conference

Andrew thanked all who had served on the probationers committee and asked members of synod to consider helping the committee.

Nigel thanked Eleanor and Andrew as they stepped down from their role.

Sabbaticals

The sabbaticals Advisory group have considered and approved the following;

2022/23	2023/24
Deacon Jacqueline Esama-John	Revd Dr Valentin Dedji
Revd Richard Grocott	Revd Dr Donghwan Kim
Revd David Newton	Revd Dr Martin Wellings
Revd Stephanie Njeru	Revd Singa Vunipola
Revd Papa Owusu	
Revd Dr Jennifer Smith	

Deferred 2023/24
Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse
Revd Ung Soon Nguang

Resolution 1

Synod agreed the following resolution.

The Synod to approve the recent decisions made by the District Sabbatical Group.

Ministers seeking permission to become Supernumeraries

Synod noted the following ministers seeking to become Supernumeraries

Revd Tim Bradshaw	Revd Andrew Letby	Deacon Myrtle Poxon
Revd Dr Stan Brown	Deacon Belinda Letby	Revd Stephen Poxon

Revd Dr David Dickinson	Revd Bernardino Mandlate	
Revd David Gillman	Revd Stephen Poole	

Ministers moving away from the District (subject to Conference)

Synod noted the following:

Revd Tony Malcolm	Notting Trent Valley
Revd Andrew Pottage	Christchurch & Wimborne
Revd Joseph Ribeiro	Upper Thames (Bristol)

Ministers moving within from the District (subject to Conference)

Synod noted the following:

Revd Mike Long	Forest
Revd Robert Maginley	Romford

Welcome to New Ministers

Nigel welcomed Deacon Richard Goldstraw who is starting a new appointment in the Richmond & Hounslow Circuit.

District Council Business

Graham Russell introduced the District Council Business.

Appointments

District Council has made the following appointments since September 2022

Methodist Conference District Representatives

Deacon Theresa Simons-Sam (3 years)

Mrs Janet Arthur (3 years)

Mr Moses Tandayi (3 years)

Ms Dallion Roye (1 year)

Mr Robert Alderman (1 year)

Reconciliation and Mediation Group

Deacon Ali McMillan Convenor

Probationers Committee

Mrs Janice Gowlett Member

Revd Steven Cooper Probationers Secretary

District Advance Fund Panel

Revd Dr Steve Day Member

District EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) Group

Revd Karen Bell
Deacon Dawn Canham
Revd David Hollingsworth
Revd Karl Rutledge

District NPNP (New Places for New People) Group

Deacon Dawn Canham
Revd Richard Grocott
Revd David Hollingsworth
Revd Julie King
Mrs Helen Lunn
Mr Graham Russell

District Data Protection Resource Group

Mr Richard Charlton

Resolution 2

Synod agreed the following resolution:

The Synod notes the appointments made on its behalf by the District Council since September 2022.

Resolution 3

The Synod agreed the following resolution.

The Synod delegates to the District Council any further appointments which need to be made before September 2023.

Permission to Discontinue Public Services (S0943 (1))

Resolution 4

The Synod agreed the following resolution.

The Synod gives permission to discontinue public services in accordance with S0943 (1) at Seven Kings Methodist Church.

Resolution 5

The Synod agreed the following resolution.

The Synod gives permission to discontinue public services in accordance with S0943 (1) at North Chingford Methodist Church.

Resolution 6

The Synod agreed the following resolution.

The Synod gives permission to discontinue public services in accordance with SO943 (1) at Wanstead Methodist Church.

District Report

Graham Russell recommended the District Report which was available on the District Website and the E-basket for which the link had been sent to all synod members.

Finances

George Kulasingham introduced the Finance Report.

Resolution 8

The Synod agreed the following resolution.

The Synod notes the District Accounts 2021-2022, which have been approved by the District Council as charitable trustees of the District.

Resolution 9

The Synod agreed the following resolution.

The Synod adopts the District Budget for 2023–2024.

Resolution 10

After some clarification regarding the process of setting the circuit assessments, the Synod agreed the following resolution

The Synod adopts the allocation of the assessments to the Circuits for 2023–2024.

Living Parables

Key note speaker Sally Rush

Sally invited Synod to consider some of the parables in a new way as discussed in “The parables” by Paula Goodyear.

The focus was on two ways Jesus described the Kingdom of God.

- **The Kingdom of God is like yeast.**
we were reminded that the quantities of flour described was enough to make bread for 100 people. So the women was baking for her community
- **The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed.**
we were reminded that there are different types of mustard plants, one of which when planted will spread everywhere.

Synod was challenged to discuss which issues were most important to our local community and what matters to us personally.

Christians Against Poverty discussed with Sally how they partner with Churches. Synod was encouraged to think about who we are already partnered with to effect change in our local communities and which other organisations could we partner with.

Synod was also challenged to think about the rooms of influence we have access to, which other rooms might it be useful for local churches to gain access to and who should be invited.

DAF – How DAF grants have enabled Mission & Ministry Locally

In conversation with Paul Hill representatives from three projects discussed how grants from DAF had enabled them to further their mission and affect change locally.

New Places for New People

Synod was encouraged to think about how mission could be enabled in their local community with the additional funding which is now available through NPNP.

Letters of Greeting

Roz Hollingsworth asked that the following letters of greeting were approved:

- Terry & Sue Street
- Paul Weary
- Rachel Kamara's family

Synod approved.

Act of Remembrance

Synod held a period of silence for those who have died both lay and ordained.:

Local Preachers who have died in the last year

Peter Briggs	Harrow & Hillingdon
Dennis Doe	Kingston upon Thames
Mig Ford	Purley
Philip Ofori-Mensah	Southwark & Deptford
Laura Pease	Forest
Akin Phillips	Ealing Trinity
Pamela Vincent	Kingston upon Thames
Christine Watts	Forest

Ministers who have died since the Sept Synod

Revd Geoffrey Fletcher

Revd Baden Pearce

Synod closed with a blessing

Next Representative Synods

Saturday 16 Sept 2023

Saturday 20 April 2024