

# Thames Valley Circuit - Methodist Church Circuit Meeting

Maidenhead High Street on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011 at 7.45 pm

## MINUTES

**Present:** Rev Andrew Baker plus 3 other ministers, 6 Circuit Stewards, and 32 other members (plus 2 non-voting observers) as listed in the register of attendees. **Apologies** from 8 members noted there.

**Agenda as distributed** plus items 8a any budget queries from last meeting and 10a The stationing timescale and production of profiles.

**Minutes of last meeting**, with the modification suggested with the calling notice were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**Matter Arising - Faith & Development Officer in Slough** The current contract terminates in March 2012. Kingsway Connections are offering the post holder an extension to March 2013, but in either case no further finance will be given by the Circuit after March 2012.

**The Circuit Safeguarding Policy** with the change in the first sentence of the fourth paragraph from *children, young people* to *children and young people under 18*, and its annual review at the summer Circuit Meeting was agreed. This included the appointment of Kathy Rickman as Circuit Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Coordinator and Circuit Safeguarding Children Coordinator.

Proposed by Rev Andrew Baker and seconded by Janet Palmer

**Property** Phil Mount drew attention to the updated list of technical information leaflets and the pages on the role of trustees in the current issue of *Property Points*. A link to the current and past editions will be put on the Circuit website.

**Post of Circuit Administrator** is to be rendered redundant and that the post-holder be given two months' notice to 22 August 2011 of the termination of the contract with support during the period of notice to secure employment elsewhere.

Proposed by Rev Andrew Baker and seconded by Anne Haggarty. 34 votes for, 1 against

**The Circuit Vision & Mission Statements** including the phrase *Be a prophetic voice and initiate action for social justice* were agreed with 2 abstentions. Bill Barnett thought that Worship should include the word *rational* as having appeal to the mind and reason as well. It was agreed to reflect on this for next year.

### Proposal for Staffing the Circuit from September 2012

Rev Andrew Baker introduced this by saying that our ministry is that of the whole people of God. The Circuit is only vibrant if all of us offer ministry to work for mission of God in this Circuit and we have a desire for growth spiritually and numerically.

The proposal is to seek a probationer to bring enthusiasm and vigour to the Circuit team; a replacement Presbyter including a key role in a local ecumenical partnership; and a Deacon for outreach in Slough where there is unique challenge and opportunity because of its diversity and Chalvey has been identified as a particular area of need. It was explained that Deacons are called to a specific form of service and not to specific churches.

The time is now. In 2012 we shall have two Presbyters leaving and two with experience of the Circuit. If we are committed to growth now is the time to seize the opportunity. We would take the next 12 months to look at the allocation of Ministers to Churches. This has been costed as an extra £24,000 over the current budget, an increase of about 10%.

A discussion ensued, including the following contributions:

- Joyce Brown voiced the desire of Burnham and Eton Wick to have a minister living in their area.
- Jean Barnett was concerned that High Street would find themselves too stretched financially with everything else that was going on and asked if there was the possibility of using Circuit reserves to cushion the increase in assessment.
- Peter White was relieved there was still an emphasis on Gary Homewood working with High Street and St Mark's next year. He asked about how the saving on an administrator and payments to Kingsway and the level of increased contributions to reserves were reflected in the budget figures.
- John Scott suggested we need to sell this as a Home Mission project to encourage fundraising.
- Freddie Daniel was concerned about accepting our responsibilities as trustees in taking on this extra financial obligation in the current economic climate

**Proposal** *To apply for the stationing of one Presbyterian and one Probationer and to begin discussions with the Warden of the order for the stationing of a Deacon.*

Proposed by Rev Andrew Baker and seconded.

It was agreed Anne Haggarty and Rev Gary Homewood would be the tellers for a secret ballot. Rev Gary Homewood led the meeting in a prayer.

41 votes were cast: 37 for, 1 against and 3 abstentions

Work would be done on investigating possible further grants towards the cost of the Deacon.

**Proposed Stationing Timescale and production of profiles** Phil Mount produced a further schedule of the process (see Appendix 1). There will be consultation and production of the profiles before the next Circuit Meeting which will be asked to ratify them.

**The Circuit Reserves Policy** After discussion and information that at the end of the next financial year reserves were likely to be in the region of £80,000 to £90,000, following the budget already accepted, it was agreed to defer agreeing a formal policy pending more work by the CLT.

**2011/2012 Circuit Budget** There were no queries arising from the budget file sent out with the minutes of the last meeting.

**Dates for Diaries** are as per the agenda with the pastoral visitors training on the coming Saturday highlighted.

**AOB Names in Prayers** The Local Preachers' Meeting brought the concern of using names in public prayers for individuals without knowing whether we have their permission. By law if in doubt we should keep the wording general.

**MHA Reminder** from Daphne Hogg to encourage Churches which had not held an MHA Sunday to use the envelopes for an MHA collection on another Sunday

The Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.45pm.

## Appendix 1 Stationing – A Brief Summary

21 <sup>st</sup> May	District briefing meeting where the new rules are pointed out to interested parties.
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Meeting of Invitation Committee representatives with District Chair & District Lay Stationing Representative.
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Circuit Meeting decides on requirements
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	If a Deacon is required then the Warden of the Diaconal Order is contacted and starts the process of finding a suitable candidate..
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	The Circuit's "requirements" are confirmed to Chair of SE District.
22 <sup>nd</sup> June to 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Consultations with relevant churches to confirm/modify opinions already expressed.
11 <sup>th</sup> July to 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Draft profiles are written and rewritten
7 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Invitation Committee meets to ratify final profiles.
14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Circuit Meeting asked to ratify profiles
15 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	If Circuit Meeting has requested changes to profiles the Invitation Committee meets to implement these changes (n.b. there is no time for a further Circuit Meeting, except in the case of a Presbyterian's profile).
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	The date by which Probationers' profiles MUST be with the District Chair.
26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	The date by which Deacons' profiles MUST be with the Warden of the Diaconal Order.
30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Accepted Probationer appointments are designated by the Initial Stationing Sub-committee.
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	The date by which Presbyters' profiles MUST be with the District Chair.
Mid-late Oct	Profile books/CD-ROMs posted out
7 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	The dreaded Stationing Matching Group 1