

**The Methodist Church Thames Valley Extraordinary Circuit Meeting
7.30 pm Tuesday, 8th January 2019, at St Andrew's Methodist Church Slough**

MINUTES

Welcome and opening devotions

Sonia welcomed everyone to the meeting, and led the opening devotions with a reading from Ecclesiastes chapter 2, a prayer and a comment about being “New Year, new circuit”.

Members attending

The Superintendent, 4 other members of staff, 6 Circuit Stewards, and 19 other members. Apologies were received from 8 members, with 14 members neither attending nor sending apologies.

The purpose of this extraordinary meeting

The Leadership team called this meeting because they needed permission from the Circuit Meeting to explore the possibility of replacing the manse at 36 Upton Road. The Leadership team have had concerns about the manse, as did Rev Anne Ellis who will take up the Slough appointment in September 2019.

Sonia explained that without the permission of the Circuit Meeting, the Leadership team cannot do any of the necessary preliminary work, including any associated costs.

Connie said that several people had been looking at figures, and gave the following:

Upton Road – difficult to be accurate as houses there are all different – possibly £450,000 - £500,000 for sale

Potential manse to meet CPD requirements around £700,000.

There will be some money available (from the sale of Prieshaus) after the completion of the work required on the new manse in Maidenhead, which could go towards the new Slough manse. Chapel Aid can also be approached if necessary. Also, when Andy moves on in 2020, if the Salt Hill Drive manse is sold, the money from that could make up any shortfall.

Sonia said that the Staines and Feltham Circuit is still looking to align itself with our circuit and that there would then be a manse available in Egham.

This meeting was asked to give permission for the preliminary work to start, so that the position, including figures, could be brought to the March Circuit Meeting.

Connie put the following proposal to the meeting:

The Thames Valley Circuit Meeting gives permission to the Circuit Leadership Team to explore the sale of 36 Upton Road, and the purchase of a new manse, and all associated costs. It is hoped that this can be achieved by 1st September 2019. In addition, the CLT should investigate renting a manse, in case purchasing is not practical or completed.

This was seconded by Dave Tottingham.

Carried, 29 for, none against.

Closing thanks and prayer

Margaret led the meeting in a prayer and blessing, and the meeting closed at 8 pm.