



Cardiff Methodist Circuit
The Methodist Church in Cardiff and Caerphilly



Circuit Meeting
Tuesday 22nd June 2021
Zoom Meeting

- 1. Opening Devotions.** Rev. Cathy Gale opened the meeting with a reading from 'The Work of God in this Place', a reflection on times of major decisions.
- 2. Attendance and Apologies.**

There were 54 members present and 11 apologies for absence. Rev. Alexis Mahoney was congratulated on his Ordination Service and is now in retreat. Rev. Judith and Rev. Paul are on annual leave.
- 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes were noted as having been distributed and will be addressed in the September meeting.

On Sunday 26th June, Phil Osborne will be ordained as part of Conference. The planned Circuit evening service will not be held, with members being encouraged to follow Phil's ordination service at 4p.m. via YouTube live.
- 4. Circuit Assessment Offers.**

Wendy talked to the Finance Report paper showing the assessment offers made. Some Churches have indicated that if their finance situations improve, they will increase their assessment offers. Many Churches had not taken advantage of the full reduction available. The unused excess amount will be available to cover unforeseen circumstances or to assist any church that is struggling to meet its assessment. The assessments were **accepted**.
- 5. Decision on request for Circuit Contribution to Trinity Project**

Rev. Cathy began the discussions with a summary of the current situation and the context in which the issue had arisen. She thanked Churches and members for the discussions which had been held locally and for the questions which had been raised since the last meeting, which had been addressed by members of the Trinity Executive or the Treasurer. Some additional points included:

 - The Project has been in place since 2013, and reports had been given at every Circuit meeting since.
 - A full Business Plan is available.
 - The building is in desperate need of improvement to make it fit for purpose but with the additional heritage issue of its being a grade 2 listed building.
 - The Heritage Lottery Fund will fund a community worker during the period of renovation and beyond.
 - There is much need, despite other groups in the area, and the current groups are looking forward to their return after the renovations.
 - The other possible funders are all risk averse and require assurances that the work will be fully funded and therefore completed, and the mission continue.
 - The Connexion will fund alternative venues for existing users during renovation.
 - The major funders will not release funding until all contributors are known. The Circuit contribution will therefore not need to be released until the project is ready to proceed.

- It may only be necessary to sell one property since Craiglee Drive has been valued at £215,000 and Splott at £300,000 or more.
- The Connexion will hopefully allow levy exemption since the sale is for mission. However, this cannot be confirmed until there is a decision to sell property and an exemption application made.
- These are difficult times financially, but the work of the Trinity Project continues to be needed.

Points were then raised by several members of the meeting, including those representing the discussion held at Ely, Whitchurch, Wesley (Canton), and Radyr and responses given. These included:

Q: Why was the project so expensive?

A: The plans and costing can be made available.

Q: Was account taken of the possibility of spiralling costs?

A: The fully costed plan was produced by a firm of Quantity Surveyors. It includes allowances for inflation and a 20% contingency allowance.

Q: How would the loss of income affect the Circuit budget?

A: Splott raises £16,500 in rental income and Craiglee Drive £5,280 per annum.

Q: What funding is guaranteed?

A: Applications have taken place and are at various stages. Some have been rejected as the time scales have expired. Some of the hoped-for figures are: National Lottery Heritage Fund - £560,000; Community National Lottery Fund - £450,000 (£50,000 has already been given towards the design phase. The Connexion also gave a £10,000 grant for the design and the Synod gave £20,000); Listed Places of Worship – reclaim VAT; the Synod will consider a £30,000 application. The Welsh Community Facilities Grant allocated £250,000 to be spent by March 31st 2021, but permission has been given for a re-application in January 2023. Other funders will be contacted when the major funds are approved.

Q: Why not develop Splott instead of Trinity?

A: The Splott property is not suitable for the multiple activities currently accommodated at Trinity. It was noted that if Splott is not sold, then much essential work will be required to make the building safe.

Q: Will there be a Christian presence in Trinity?

A: Most definitely. Apart from the Christian communities worshipping there, it is hoped that a ministerial presence could be part of its future. Opportunities will be sought to access connexional funds allocated to “Church on the Margins”.

An anonymous ZOOM poll vote was then taken on the proposal that:

The Cardiff Circuit Meeting agrees to grant £200,000 to the Trinity Centre Sanctuary Project for redevelopment of the building.

Results: Yes 47 No 4 Abstentions 3

Everyone was thanked for the conversations held both before and during this meeting.

6. Circuit Meeting Permission for Sale of Property

Following the agreement to support the Trinity Project financially, a vote was required to move ahead with the sale of one property. The decision as to which building would be taken with due consideration to Charity Commission law and other factors (such as the mission being delivered by Oasis in the Splott building).

An anonymous ZOOM poll vote was then taken on the proposals that:

The Cardiff Circuit Meeting agrees to the sale of the Splott Church building.

Results: Yes 50 No 2 Abstentions 2

The Cardiff Circuit Meeting agrees to the sale of the house owned by the Circuit at 25 Craiglee Drive.

Results: Yes 49 No 2 Abstentions 3

7. AOB.

- The accreditation service for Wendy Barwise will take place on the afternoon of August 22nd. Bookings will be required for attendance and there will be an on-line live feed.
- The accreditation service for Vera Ruddock will be in the afternoon or evening of September 5th, with similar arrangements in place.
- Wendy Barwise is to candidate for the ministry.
- Wales has now said that singing is allowed in Church services subject to the wearing of masks and if risk assessments deem it appropriate. Further advice will follow.

8. Date of Next Meetings:

Thursday September 9th, 2021, 7.30 p.m. Rev Stephen Wigley will chair the meeting for discussion on the re-invitation of Rev Cathy. A consultation will take place as to whether this will be a face-to-face meeting or not.

9. Closing Prayers. The meeting closed with prayer.