

THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CHURCH IN WALES
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT
DAVID, LAMPETER

ON 4 AND 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

An Ordinary Meeting of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales was held at University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, Lampeter on Wednesday and Thursday 4 and 5 September 2024.

Wednesday 4 September 2024

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist (University Chapel)

24/23

The Archbishop of Wales presided at a celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, the Right Reverend Anthony Poggio preached.

The President, the Archbishop of Wales, was in the Chair for the start of the meeting. His Honour Judge Andrew Keyser KC was the Assessor.

Welcome to the Representatives of the Anglican Communion, Cytûn and Other Churches

24/24

The President welcomed those attending the meeting to represent the Anglican Communion, Cytûn and other Churches:

The Anglican Communion

The Right Reverend Anthony Poggio (Secretary General of the Anglican Communion)

Cytûn and the Covenanted Churches of Wales

Dr Cynan Llwyd (General Secretary)

Church of England

The Reverend Jon Carter, (Hope Church, Islington in the diocese of London)

The Methodist Church, Wales Synod

The Reverend Canon Dr Jennie Hurd (District Chair, the Methodist Church in Wales)

Presbyterian Church of Wales
The Reverend Aneurin Owen (Moderator)

The United Reformed Church of Wales
The Reverend Martin Spain

Union of Welsh Independents
The Reverend Jeff Williams (President)

Christian Aid Wales/ Cymorth Cristnogol Cymru
Mari McNeill (Head of Christian Aid Wales)
Rebecca Elliott (Education and Youth Officer Wales)

United Society Partners in the Gospel
Carol Miller (Church Engagement manager)

Consent for non-members to speak

24/25

Noting that a number of non-Governing Body members would be involved in presentations, the Governing Body gave its consent for non-members to speak during the meeting. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Minutes

24/26

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Governing Body held on 17 and 18 April 2024 were confirmed and signed. The resolution was passed *nemine contradicente*.

Matters Arising

24/27

There were no matters arising on the minutes.

The President vacated the Chair which was taken by Canon Caroline Woollard.

Presidential Address

24/28

The President addressed the Governing Body.

Interaction with the President about his Address

24/29

Five people commented in response to the Presidential Address.

The Archbishop responded to the comments.

Bench of Bishops Report and Questions to the Bench

24/30

The Bishop of St Davids introduced a report from the Bench of Bishops and invited the Governing Body to ask questions about the report. Three members asked questions, and the Bishop of St Davids responded.

Canon Caroline Woollard vacated the Chair which was taken by
The Venerable Paul Mackness.

Advent Course 2024 – O come let us adore him

24/31

The Bishop of St Asaph introduced the new advent course produced by the Bench of Bishops and presented two videos that introduced the course.

The Governing Body explored three discussion questions that related to the course in small groups.

Question Time

24/32

Oral answers to written questions from the Reverend Geraint John, the Venerable Andy Grimwood, Mrs Elizabeth Crawford and Dr Heather Payne were given by the Bishop of St Asaph, Professor Medwin Hughes, Mr Tim Llewelyn and the Bishop of Llandaff.

Clergy Terms of Service

24/33

Mr Tim Llewelyn, Chair of the Standing Committee and the Bishop of St Asaph proposed the following recommendation from the Standing Committee concerning the Private Members Motion discussed at the April 2024 meeting:

Clergy Terms of Service

That the Governing Body approve the drafting of the changes to the Clergy Terms of Service set out in the Appendix to the paper.

The Governing Body unanimously approved the recommendation.

The text of the changes approved is set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

The Venerable Paul Mackness vacated the Chair which was taken by
Mrs Sue Rivers.

General Report of the Standing Committee

24/34

Mr Tim Llewelyn, Chair of the Standing Committee, presented the Report of the Standing Committee and proposed the following recommendations which were seconded formally by Dr Heather Payne, Vice-chair of the Standing Committee:

Governing Body meetings

That the Governing Body meet on the following dates between 2027 and 2030:

- Wednesday and Thursday 7 and 8 April 2027
- Wednesday and Thursday 8 and 9 September 2027

- Wednesday and Thursday 26 and 27 April 2028 (amended from 19 and 20 April listed in report)
- Wednesday and Thursday 13 and 14 September 2028

- Wednesday and Thursday 18 and 19 April 2029
- Wednesday and Thursday 12 and 13 September 2029

- Wednesday and Thursday 1 May and 2 May 2030
- Wednesday and Thursday 11 and 12 September 2030

The recommendation was passed unanimously.

Approval of the Report

That the Report of the Standing Committee be approved.

The recommendation was passed unanimously.

Standing Committee Report on Governance and Legal Matters

24/35

Mr Tim Llewelyn, Chair of the Standing Committee, presented the Report of the Standing Committee on governance and legal matters and proposed the following recommendations which were seconded formally by the President:

Faculty Review

That the Governing Body:

- (a) endorses the conclusion of the Standing Committee that the Church in Wales should continue to operate a system of internal controls of sufficient robustness to enable the Church in Wales to retain the Ecclesiastical Exemption from Listed Building Consent; and
- (b) requests that the review of the Faculty System outlined in the Standing Committee report proceeds to the next stage of the work.

The recommendation was carried unanimously.

Constitutional Amendment – Chapter IV (C), section 15

That the amendments to Chapter IV C shown in Appendix 1 be made to that Chapter.

The recommendation was carried unanimously.

Approval of Report

That the Report of the Standing Committee on Governance and Legal Matters be approved.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

In the course of the debate on the report, the Chair of the Standing Committee undertook that the Standing Committee would look again at the draft of the paternity leave policy, in the light of comments made by members of the Governing Body.

The Constitutional amendment approved by the Governing Body is set out in Appendix 2 to the minutes.

Report from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David

24/36

Mr Gwilym Dyfri Jones (non-member), Provost for Lampeter and Carmarthen Campuses, addressed the Governing Body with a report from the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David.

Mrs Sue Rivers vacated the Chair at the end of the business session.

Evening Prayer

24/37

Canon Hannah Rowan officiated at Evening Prayer, which was held in the University Chapel.

The Reverend James Henley preached.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned until the following day.

Thursday 5 September 2024

The Meeting of the Governing Body resumed on Thursday 5 September 2024.

The President was in the Chair.

Mr Paul Whittaker, CBE was the Assessor.

Opening Prayers and Bible Study

24/38

The Venerable Paul Mackness led the Governing Body in opening prayers and Bible Study.

The President vacated the Chair which was taken by
the Reverend Canon Justin Davies

Open Doors – supporting the persecuted Church

24/39

Mr Jim Stewart, (Non-member), Wales Church Relations Manager of Open Doors made a presentation to the Governing Body on the work of Open Doors UK in helping the persecuted Church world-wide.

Members asked questions following the presentation, to which Mr Stewart responded.

Report of the Representative Body

24/40

Professor Medwin Hughes, Chair of the Representative Body, introduced a report from the Representative Body.

Professor Hughes proposed and the Very Reverend Nigel Williams seconded the following motion:

That the report of the Representative Body be approved.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

The Reverend Canon Justin Davies vacated the Chair which was taken by
The Bishop of St Asaph.

The Anglican Communion

24/41

The Right Reverend Anthony Poggio, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion addressed the Governing Body, followed by an opportunity for members to ask questions.

Consent for emergency motion – Imprisonment for Public Protection

24/42

The President reported a request by His Honour Chancellor Nicholas Cooke KC that the Governing Body consider an additional item. He advised the Governing Body that a Private Member's Bill had been introduced in the House of Lords in an attempt to end the ongoing detention of those sentenced to Imprisonment for Public Protection and proposed that the Governing Body be asked to consider how to respond.

The President then gave notice of a motion which he and Chancellor Cooke wished to propose. As the motion had been received less than five weeks before the commencement of the meeting, the special leave of the Governing Body was required for it to be debated, in accordance with Regulation 23.2 of Chapter II of the Constitution.

The Governing Body gave its leave for the motion to be debated.

His Honour Chancellor Nicholas Cooke KC proposed and the Archbishop seconded:

That the Governing Body invite the President to write to the Lord Chancellor and others asking them to give their support to this Private Members Bill.

The Governing Body unanimously endorsed the motion.

The President invited individual members to write to their MPs on this subject.

Governing Body Meetings discussion and consultation about format, frequency and procedure

24/43

The Bishop of St Asaph invited members of the Governing Body to discuss the questions set out on the report circulated for this item in small groups.

There followed a plenary session in which the groups were given an opportunity to indicate feedback.

The Bishop of St Asaph vacated the Chair which was resumed by the President.

Farewells

24/44

The President thanked Mr Tudur Jones, (non-member) the simultaneous translator for some 20 years at Governing Body meetings, and at many meetings of the Electoral College, who would retire before the next meeting of the Governing Body.

Date and Place of Next Meeting

24/45

The Governing Body had decided that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday and Thursday 30 April and 1 May 2025, at Venue Cymru, Llandudno.

This concluded the meeting and the President gave the Blessing.

Proposed amendments to Terms of Service

Work/Life Balance and Hours of Work

The upper limits as stipulated in the Working Time Directive do not apply 'to others with autonomous decision taking powers whose working hours are neither measured nor predetermined or who can determine their own working hours'. Clergy fall into this category, and it is the responsibility of the Cleric to ensure that they manage their working hours in a healthy way.

A Cleric should ensure a healthy work/life balance and that the normal working week includes one stated regular free day of twenty-four hours. Once per month, an additional rest day should be taken so that there is a continuous free period of forty-eight hours.

A Cleric should organise his or her working day to ensure that there is a reasonable period of time for rest and recreation.

Holidays

The annual holiday entitlement is ~~four~~ six weeks to include six Sundays per annum plus those Bank Holidays which do not fall on Christmas Day and Good Friday. ~~In addition a Cleric is also entitled to two periods of six days holidays to be taken after Christmas and Easter.~~ One of these weeks must be taken within a six-week period after Christmas Day and one of these weeks must be taken within a six-week period after Easter Day.

So far as is possible, cover for holidays should ~~must~~ be arranged by the Cleric for the normal range of services. If this is not possible because multiple clergy are on holiday (such as after Christmas and Easter), the Cleric must liaise with their colleagues to ensure that there is at least one service of Holy Communion in their Mission/Ministry Area each Sunday. In case of difficulty the advice of the Area Dean and/or the Archdeacon should be sought.

Annual holidays may not be taken ~~during~~ over the main festivals of Christmas Day, Good Friday or Easter Day. In exceptional circumstances, any plans should be discussed and agreed with the bishop. All holidays should be notified to the Area Dean or equivalent.

The annual holiday year runs from 1 January to 31 December. A Cleric appointed during the year will be entitled to an accrued proportion of the holiday entitlement. Unused holidays cannot be carried forward to the next holiday year without the prior agreement of the Archdeacon.

The annual holiday entitlement of a Cleric not in receipt of a stipend is not less than ~~four~~ six Sundays per annum plus Bank Holidays as above and such other periods agreed in the individual case having regard to the obligations of any paid employment or appointment in which the Cleric is engaged and the needs of the clerical office held.

Log Books, Terriers and Inventories - Cathedrals

Drafting

In Chapter IV C, Section 15 amend final sentence as shown below:

Provided that, in the case of a Cathedral (except the Cathedral Church of St Woolos), the responsibility for completing the Log Book, Terrier and Inventory shall be that of the Dean and Chapter.

Explanatory Note

When the Diocese of Monmouth was first established, there was no cathedral church within the boundaries of the new Diocese. The Parish Church of St Woolos Newport was designated a 'pro-Cathedral' but remained formally a parish Church with a parish and a Parochial Church Council. Historically, there were a number of places in the Constitution where the designation as a 'pro-Cathedral' rather than full Cathedral status meant that the Parochial Church Council had responsibilities which were the responsibility of the Dean and Chapter in the other five Cathedrals.

Subsequently, St Woolos (now more commonly known as Newport Cathedral) was granted full cathedral status and (more recently) pastoral reorganisation means there is no parish annexed to Newport Cathedral (and therefore no PCC/MAC). This amendment therefore makes clear that the Dean and Chapter have responsibility for the Log Book, Terrier and Inventory at Newport Cathedral rather than the (no longer existant) PCC.

An equivalent amendment in the Cathedral and Churches Commission Rules was passed by the Governing Body in April 2024; this is one of the other two places in the Constitution where there was a reference to the PCC of St Woolos Newport. A solitary reference will remain for now, in the Courts and Tribunals Rules. This will be drawn to the attention of the Rule Committee in due course (the body with power to amend these rules).