

United Reformed Church

Wessex Synod

World Church Group

**Minutes of the meeting held at London Street United Reformed Church,
Basingstoke on Monday, 19th July, 2010 at 2.00pm**

Opening Prayer: Martin led the committee in prayer.

Present: Martin Waldron, David Webb, Rob Weston, Helen Everard, Peter Pay and Derek Lindfield.

Apologies: Stephen Smith and Adrian Bulley.

WC 10.09 Minutes of the meeting held at London Street URC, Basingstoke on Thursday, 28th January 2010. These were approved.

Matters arising

WC 08.04 Register of Churches in Wessex with links to churches overseas
Derek reported that there had been one addition to list, namely *The Friends of Matthew Rusike Home* in Epworth, Harare, Zimbabwe which is supported by the Trinity United Church, Ringwood. Martin read part of a letter concerning *The Heal Project* in Zambia from Joyce Ayles, also from Ringwood, in which she asks that churches be made aware of the project and that a request be made for funding. The group was sympathetic to this request but felt that Joyce's best course of action was to ask Carol Rogers to include details of the project in the Synod e-newsletter. Derek was asked to communicate this to her with an offer that if she wished to have a display at the next Synod in November then we would be very happy to make a display board available to her.

There was a discussion about churches taking on projects overseas and the concern was expressed that there ought be safeguards when money is raised and sent. David reported that the Methodist Church had a set of clear and practical guidelines and he was asked to get these so that we might use them as a basis for guidelines that we will devise at the next meeting.

Action: Derek to write to Joyce Ayles.
David to obtain the Methodist Church guidelines.

WC 08.08 Council for World Mission. The group agreed that Steve Cox's presentation had been most disappointing. However it was also agreed that CWM, through Kenwyn Pierce, should be asked to put together an information pack for churches for an annual CWM Sunday. Derek agreed to contact Kenwyn.

Action: Derek to e-mail Kenwyn Pierce.

WC 08.07 2012 Olympics. Peter reported that Wareham had been involved in a recent meeting at the national level. It was agreed that Derek should contact Jane Rowell and Martin Hazell for an update on what the URC is doing nationally for the Olympics.

Action: Derek to e-mail Jane Rowell and Martin Hazell.

WC.08.02 Links with the Eglise Reformee de France (Nord Normandie) and Le Weekend. It was agreed that Le Weekend in Lunere had been a resounding success. There had been lovely weather, great people and a splendid programme (including a Barn Dance). The next weekend is in 2011 from 29th April to the 1st May in Salisbury. Helen agreed to ask Ruth White and Phil Ray to lay on special activities for young people. It was agreed that a small group be formed to discuss the programme for the weekend and Helen will liaise with Martin on this. The theme for the weekend is 'Evangelism'.

Action: Helen to contact Ruth white and Phil Ray.
Helen and Martin to consider the composition of a small group to plan the weekend programme.

WC 08.03 Links with the Lusaka Presbytery of the United Church of Zambia. Eight young people, with three leaders, are going to Zambia on the 5th August band returning on the 29th August. They will meet up with a French contingent in Johannesburg and then travel on to Zambia. Rob reported that an interesting and worthwhile programme had been arranged. It was agreed that Derek should e-mail Phil Ray asking that a report be prepared, on the group's return, accompanied by photographs. Derek was also asked to convey the WCG's best wishes for a successful and rewarding trip.

It was also agreed that Martin would put a note in the Synod's e-newsletter about the trip with the promise that members of the group will be most willing to visit churches and speak about their experiences upon their return.

There was some discussion about the funding obtainable from the 'Belonging to the World Church programme' and Rob agreed to e-mail Jane Rowell and get clarification about this.

David stated that the hope was that the URC Synod Moderator and Methodist District Chairman would visit Zambia in 2011. This visit was an essential part of the process in determining what the next stages of the link with Zambia will be.

There is a URC/Methodist meeting to begin thinking about this next stage on the 13th September.

Rob announced his wish to stand down at the next Synod meeting as the person responsible for Link. Now that he is Convener of the national church's Youth and Children's Work Committee he finds that he does not have the time

to devote to the Link. The Group recognised this and Martin, on behalf of everyone, thanked Rob most warmly for his devoted service and wished him well in his future ministry.

Martin will stand in for Rob until a replacement is appointed.. He will put a note about the vacancy in the next Synod e-newsletter.

Action: Derek to e-mail Phil Ray with good wishes..
 Rob to e-mail Jane Rowell about funding.
 Martin to contact Carol Rogers about advertising the v
 vacancy.
 Martin to stand in as the person responsible for the Link
 once Rob stands down at the next Synod in November.

WC 08.06 Website. Martin reported that now that Anton had taken over responsibility for the website all is working extremely well, just as we would want.

WC08.11 Zimbabwe. Derek reported that a recommendation that Johnston Simpson be given a national honour in recognition of his tireless for Zimbabwe has now been submitted to the Cabinet office.

WC09.04 Synod Report. This has been submitted.

WC09.05 Display Boards. It was agreed that Derek would obtain these.

Action: Derek to purchase display boards.

WC09.08 Co-operation with Southern Synod. Derek reported that he had conversations with Bob Woods, on the recommendation of the Southern Synod moderator. It transpires, however, that the convener of that Synod's WCG is Barrie Scopes. Sadly he has been very ill. Hopefully he is now on the road to recover and Derek will endeavour to explore possible co-operation again.

Action: Derek to contact Bob Woods and possibly Barrie Scopes.

WC10.10 Committee Membership. Peter agreed to give some thought to a possible new member of the Group particularly to assist Helen in the link with the French Church.

Action: Peter to suggest possible candidates.

WC10.11 Objectives and Priorities. It was agreed that we should give further consideration about this at our next meeting. Among the issues to explore are the next stage of the Zambian Link and the coming together of the two world bodies of Reformed Churches.

Date of the next meeting: A joint meeting with the Mission and Outreach Committee at Elvetham Heath on Saturday, 25th September. WCG will meet

at 10.30 am. Lunch will be provided and those who are able are invited to stay for the joint meeting of the Mission and Outreach Committee and its constituent parts after lunch.

The meeting closed with the Grace.