

**United Reformed Church  
Wessex Synod  
World Church Group**

**Minutes of the meeting held at London Street United Reformed Church, Basingstoke on 17 January 2011 at 2 pm**

**Present:** Martin Waldron, Helen Everard, Clare Downing and Ian Simpson

**Apologies:** Derek Lindfield

**Welcome:** Martin opened the meeting with prayer. He welcomed Clare and Ian to their first meeting of the Group. Each one present introduced themselves with a brief personal pen picture.

**WC 11.01** Minutes of the meeting held at Elvetham Heath, Fleet on 25 September 2010 were approved.

**Matters arising**

**WC 08.08** Council for World Mission.  
There was still no response from CWM regarding an information pack. Derek would be asked to follow this up.

Action: Derek to follow up with CWM.

**WC 08.07** 2012 Olympics. Helen reported that she had attended a meeting in November 2010 organised by the 'More than Gold' ecumenical organisation which aimed to help all churches 'make the most of 2012'. Helen received an information pack which is available to all churches. Martin agreed to find out whether Mission Committee was supporting this initiative before we took action ourselves.

We felt that it would be helpful to have a 'More the Gold' flier available for each church pack at the March Synod. Helen will action this.

We agreed that it would be useful to know if ERF or UCZ are likely to have athletes in their squads. Helen and Ian will follow this up.

David Webb will be asked if he has any information on developments in local Methodist or United churches in the Dorchester/Weymouth area.

Action: Martin to contact Mission Committee about 'More than Gold'.  
Helen to obtain 'More than Gold' fliers for Synod church packs.  
David Webb to seek information on any developments in Dorset.

## **Links with the Église Réformée de France (Nord Normandie) and Le Weekend**

**WC 11.02** Helen reported on her visit to the Nord Normandie Synod held near Caen in November 2010. Their main business concerned the impending uniting of the ERF with the Lutheran Church in France.

Helen confirmed that the third 'Le Weekend' event will be in Salisbury from 29 April to 1 May. The theme will be 'Sharing our Stories'. A programme has been sent to all previous participants, a flier is on the Synod's website and they will also be available for church packs at Synod.

Representatives of Salisbury URC said they were confident that they could cope with hosting all the participants.

The programme has been agreed and Helen will invite Jane Rowell or David as keynote speakers. Clare Downing has agreed to preach at the Sunday worship.

Action: Helen to arrange Le Weekend fliers for Synod church packs.  
Helen to issue invitations to keynote speakers.

## **Links with the Lusaka Presbytery of the United Church of Zambia**

**WC11.03** Ian reported that following a handover meeting with Rob Weston he now had all the previous papers associated with the UCZ link.

Ian has made several unsuccessful email attempts to contact UCZ leaders and has written a letter in the hope that it will elicit a reply.

## **Co-operation with Southern Synod**

**WC 11.04** Martin reported on the meeting Helen and he attended in London with Jane Rowell and with 2 representatives from Southern Synod's World Church Group. A report had been circulated to members of the Group. Items of particular note were:

- There is very little money in the Global Partners budget this year
- Jane Rowell agreed to issue a quarterly newsletter on world church news and issues
- Alison Gibbs, a headmistress serving with CWM in Northern Zambia, is the only URC person serving with CWM at present. She is at home on leave staying near Portsmouth. Martin had contacted her by email and she had promised to telephone him but hadn't done so yet. Martin is hoping they might be able to meet up before Alison returns to Zambia in February.

Action: Martin to continue his attempt to contact Alison Gibbs.

## **Committee Membership**

**WC11.05** Martin reported that there was no interest in the Eletter advert for an assistant to Helen. In Peter's absence, we didn't know whether he had been able to identify anyone suitable.

A decision on recruiting a successor to Stephen Smith as our CWM representative had been put on hold while the ERF 'recruitment' was in progress. Clare Downing pointed out that Revd. Elizabeth Nash had retired to Banbury and had World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) interests and involvement. She might be prepared to join our Group. Martin to follow this up.

Action: Peter to be asked if he had identified anyone able to support Helen in her ERF role.  
Martin to contact Elizabeth Nash about joining the Group.

## **Job Descriptions**

**WC11.06** Copies of the draft job descriptions for Convener, Secretary, ERF and UCZ Co-ordinators were handed out. Understandably, they had been prepared in different ways so it was agreed that they would be reviewed by each of us before the next meeting when we would decide on a common format to adopt.

Action: Martin to circulate copies of draft job descriptions.

## **Future Events**

**WC11.07** Display Boards. Derek has purchased them and we will aim to have material on ERF, UCZ and CWM available for display at the November Synod.

Synod Day. Martin had obtained a quote of £380 for a Ghanaian drummer to hold 3 workshops during the day. Ian Simpson's son is a professional musician and Ian will ask his son if he is available and what the cost would be for him to provide something similar. Martin will contact Carol Rogers to find out if there are funds in the Synod Day budget for this.

Action: Ian to contact his son about his availability and costs.  
Martin to ask Carol Rogers about funds in the budget.

## **Annual Report**

**WC11.08** The draft annual report for 2010 was agreed apart from one or two minor changes.

## **Date of next meeting**

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> May at London Street URC at 2.00 pm

## **Close of the meeting**

The meeting closed with the members present saying the Grace with and to each other.