
Synod Council Report

Since Synod Together last met in October 2020 the Synod Council has met by Zoom on 9 December 2020 and 18 February 2021.

1. Korean Ministry (Presbyterian Church in Korea [PCK])

The review of Revd Suk in Lee's post has been completed and it has been agreed that it be extended for a further 5 years from September 2021. An application to fund the expenses has gone to the Strategic Mission Fund.

2. Induction of Revd Bridget Banks

We were pleased that Bridget's induction went ahead on 30th January, albeit it by Zoom.

3. Deployment

A working group met on 14 January to further consider the development of a Synod Strategy. A further meeting is planned in the near future.

4. Moderator's Day

A day for refreshment for Ministers and Local Church Leaders was hosted by the Moderator on 28th January which was greatly appreciated by those who attended.

5. Mission Projects

A small group comprising Mr Martin Hayward, Revd Bernard Fidler and Revd George Watt has met to consider how Mission Projects can be supported without having to replicate the same structure in each project. By the time Synod Together will meet a second meeting will have taken place.

6. Kent Workplace Mission

The Council encouraged an application to the Strategic Mission Fund for significantly greater funding to support this important work now that some of its other funding has dried up. Annually we were making a grant of £2,300, this will rise to £44,000 spread over the next 3 years.

The application highlighted the potential for a conflict of interest where the Council applies for funding since several of the members of the Strategic Mission Fund Panel are also members of Council. It was agreed that third parties can apply to the Fund when approved by the Council, although it would be for the panel to consider the merits of the application.

7. Racial Justice

Sharon Henriquez (Kingston URC) and Janet Layne (Charlton URC) will together act as Racial Justice Advocate Coordinators for the Synod and will be members of the Council and report directly to the Council.

8. Synod Area News

At recent meetings there has been a slot to feedback from Synod Areas. Topics covered included churches' concerned at appointing Church Secretaries and Treasurers, the induction and ordination of Elders in the current situation and marking the anniversary of the first lockdown.

9. Funding of Synod Directed Work

There has been some confusion as to who should fund the expenses of Stipendiary Ministry for those parts of the scoping which is Synod Directed. The funding should be agreed at an early stage. Applications for funding could go to the Strategic Mission Fund if appropriate.

10. LEP Governing Documents

Governing documents for the LEP's at Margate and Ramsgate were agreed by the council.

The next meeting will be held on 20th May 2021.

Revd George Watt
March 2021