

Minutes of the Council Meeting
23 September 2021
Zoom Meeting

Present

Jim Lyon
Mark Taylor
Peter Butler
Tom Wilson
Gerry Simonis
Margaret McGuinness
Chris Gillham
Eric Fenwick
Betty Bentham
Foday Kamara
Hilary Biggin
Chris Damp
Caroline Stott
Judi Holloway

Representing

Chair
President Elect
Chair of F&SS Comm..
CF Scotland
CF Scotland
CF Scotland
CF Wales
Eastern
North East
North West
North West Midlands
South East
South West
South West Midlands

Participant Observers

Yvonne Campbell
Mark Tucker

Bill Bentham

General Secretary
Operations Manager/
CFL Company
Assembly Rep.

Apologies

Suzanne Nockels
Craig James
Martin Spain
John Bentham

President
CF Wales
CF Wales Observer
Chair of CS Comm

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair of Council, Jim Lyon welcomed all to the meeting.

Especially welcoming Tom Wilson to his first meeting as Chair of CF in Scotland.

Judi Holloway opened the meeting in prayer

2. Apologies Were noted as above.

3. Partner in Mission

(Paper 1)

Nigel Lindsay has commenced the role in Grenada. He has settled in but still adjusting to the climate and the country is in lockdown because of Covid. Council were advised that CF are not required to cover Nigel's expenses for home visits (covered by CWM) but it was proposed that CF do cover pension contributions for the duration of the assignment.

Poll

Do you support the proposal to pay approx. £900 per annum to cover 8% pension contributions?

This was agreed unanimously with 2 abstentions.

4. New Church Application Process and forms (Papers B1, B2 & B3)

B1 Church application form
B2 Church & Fresh Expression
B3 Church self-assessment

The process has been updated and as stated at the top of B1, the process allows for Fresh Expressions of church applications as well as more traditional church.

Council made the following comments.

Chair Agreed Minutes Council 23rd September 2021

B1 needs to have the additional question of why do you want to affiliate to CF?
Point 10 (Infant Baptism) the word ambivalent needs to change to reflect acceptance of churches with different positions on this topic.

Allowance needs to be made for online churches – we need to ask for details on how your church meets.

It needs to be made clear that someone from CF will help with filling the forms – add to the form please complete this form with the help of your area rep.

Proposal

Foday Kamara proposed; seconded by Tom Wilson

That the amended versions of the forms be shared at Area executive meetings stating the Council are minded to accept these documents.

Comments to be returned to Chair of Council by November 2021.

Agreed with 1 abstention

Post meeting note – General Secretary will write to area secretaries, so all areas have the same brief

5. Law Congregational Church Application (Paper C)

For Information only.

Law haven't had time to answer the additional questions on the form but paper C shows the difference in the old and new systems – Law's application is still to be discussed at November Council.

6. Role Descriptions for Committee and Council Members (Paper D)

The role and expectations of committees and their members needs to be reviewed in more depth along with the Terms of Reference for committees.

To be discussed at the November meeting of Council.

7. Statistics (Papers E1, E2 & E3)

A discussion took place, and the following comments were noted.

The forecast is for church membership to continue in decline.

The need to look at the positives from churches who are increasing in membership.

To be discussed in depth at the November meeting

General Secretary suggested running an "If Only" along the lines of *if only we could grow our church* based on stories from growing churches.

Also consider looking at when things have gone wrong – decline & closure! This is to avoid repeating mistakes.

8. Agenda for November Council 19-21st

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It was agreed to go ahead with the residential meeting.

General Secretary, Operations Manager, Chair of Council President Elect & President to develop the agenda.

It was requested that Personal Membership be included in the discussions.

9. AOB

Replacements for Chairs of Committees needs planning; both Chair of F&SSC and Church Support Committee end their term soon.

The General Secretary requested that both Chairs write a paragraph to share as an encouragement for those thinking to doing the challenging roles.
To be returned for November meeting.

Yvonne gave 50th anniversary update: there is a 50th logo for using during the year and events booked for every other month.

Foday closed the meeting in prayer.