

Notes from Committee for Ministry Officers Meeting

10:30 Wednesday, 29 April 2015

'Melanesia' Church House, Daresbury, WA4 4GE

Apologies: Lorraine Reed

Attendance: Christopher Burkett , Anne Cody, Vivien Gisby , Graham Green, David Herbert, Jane Hood, John Knowles , David Lamb, Helena Mayles, Gary O'Neill, Maureen Pickering , Calum Piper, Magdalen Smith, Liz Shercliff

1. Officers and appointees:

- a. Maureen Pickering is leaving as PWTO at the end of the current academic year.
- b. Thia Hughes has been appointed Assistant Warden of Pastoral Workers. She will attend the selection day on 23 May and be welcomed and licensed at the Pastoral Worker licensing service on 26 September.
- c. Ruth Ackroyd is now incumbent Thornton le Moors and will finish as tutor for IME programmes; Alison Fulford will take her place from September 2015.
- d. Mike Gilbertson on Sabbatical from September to November; David Blackmore will chair the September Committee meeting.

2. Notice of matters for discussion nothing received

3. Task Group Reports

a. Resourcing Ministerial Education.

Consultations are in the early stages but implications huge in terms of resources, eg increasing numbers by 50%; deployability issues. MS waiting for visit from central church before proceeding. Could improve what's going on with something creative. +Steven Croft issued update yesterday: continuing consultation with visits. Questionnaire has been issued to all bishops with short response deadline; updates should be issued in autumn 2015. There have been criticisms about the lack of theology which has been omitted on purpose. It is not a cost-cutting exercise – it is a huge investment – the biggest ever in theological education. Funding changes will ensure that expenditure decisions are made near where the expenditure occurs. Dioceses can choose to do all sorts of things from pooled resources. Leads to increased opportunities and increased risks. One of the keys to the viability of All Saints is its combination of Reader and Ordination training. Some have argued that real costs of residential training are obscured by current arrangements.

b. Developing Discipleship

Diocese of Chester PW training course is unique. The University of Chester has encouraged its oral assessment, although this is labour-intensive. Requires the reintroduction of a lay training officer. A business plan is required which details student and facilitator targets. Something between FfM and training for lay ministries is often requested. The deadline for rewriting is autumn 2015. Should encourage those with leadership skills who aren't lay ministers. FfM costs can be covered: need to make people theologically literate and equipped with

leadership skills.

4. **Biblical Literacy Year** Title/logo needed.

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At initial planning meeting, title *The Word of the Lord* not well-received. Bible Life suggested. The group will be meeting again and all ideas welcome.

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5. **Scope of CfM's work.**

Update of previous terms of reference. Discussion deferred until next committee. Could be a topic for the day conference.

6. **Theological neutrality and inclusivity** as an issue in courses. DL has been contacted by a couple of people who felt their comments on courses had been dismissed. Do we take a viewpoint on being theologically neutral? Courses with university accreditation have to abide by university inclusivity requirements.

7. **Social Evening, 7 July.** Dinner on canal boat. GON offered to host.

8. **CfM Day Conference 19 Nov.** Committee suggests input from outside speaker plus working together (?Ketso – group planning learning) on themes from Task Group Reports. Ask Elaine Graham to attend and expand on the theme of her inaugural lecture <http://www.chestercathedral.com/canon-theologian.html> and be a part of the rest of the day's discussions.

9. **MDR** Bishop's Staff has agreed GON's proposal for way in which to action MDR; work on this should be start in the autumn.

10. **Women's Voices Conference 20th June** at university. Web advert at www.genderandpreaching.weebly.com Please push this conference.

2105 Meetings

7 July 2015, CfM social evening, time and venue to be confirmed

[29 September 2015, 19:30, Melanesia. Committee Meeting]

30 September 2015, 10:30, Melanesia, Church House – officers' meeting

19 November 2015, CfM Annual Conference, 09:30 – 15:30, Foxhill

2016 Dates

Committee Meetings; all Congo; 7.30pm to 9.30pm

- Thursday, 14 January 2016
- Thursday, 28 April 2016

- Tuesday, 27 September 2016

Officers Meetings; all Congo; 10.30am to 1pm

- Tuesday, 19 January 2016
- Tuesday, 3 May 2016
- Thursday, 29 September 2016

Social Evening

- Wednesday, 13 July 2016

CfM Annual Conference

- Tuesday, 8 November 2016. Foxhill has availability so will make provisional booking