

# Wales Synod Cymru Implementation Group Report to the Methodist Council

MC/22/39

Date of meeting	2-4 April 2022
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The Wales Synod Cymru Implementation Group, set up by the Synod Cymru and Wales Synod at their meetings in September 2021, has worked on the details involved in setting up the proposed Synod. Our remit was outlined in the document ***Wales Synod Cymru: more detailed proposals to go before both Synods in September 2021:***

## **6) Synod Implementation Group.**

Finally, we recognise that should both Synods in September approve these more detailed plans and that these proposals be agreed also by the Methodist Council in October, there will be a need for more detailed work to confirm appointments, arrangements, financial and other matters from September 2021 onwards, in time for the new Synod to come into being in September 2022.

In order for this work to be carried out effectively, we recommend that a Synod Implementation Group be established to undertake this role, comprising:

- An independent Chair
- The current 2 Synod Chairs (and proposed 2 Chairs of the new Synod)
- Members of the existing conversations
- Key officers proposed for the new Synod

That document, along with comments made at the two synods, has been the foundational document upon which we have worked. In the light of the feedback from the two synods our initial focus was to agree, in consultation with the synod policy groups, a ***Language Policy***. Work was undertaken on three other key areas to produce:

1. The structure of officers and meetings for the ***Wales Synod Cymru***
2. In consultation with the treasurers of the two current districts a budget for the ***Wales Synod Cymru***, with the consequential assessments for the Circuits
3. A modified constitution as permitted in CPD ***Section 48A District***

Throughout our work we have consulted with the relevant officers in the two current districts and the Secretary of the Methodist Conference. Because ***Wales Synod Cymru*** will operate under a modified constitution, as permitted under Methodist standing orders, that constitution had to be agreed with the Secretary of the Methodist Conference. The appropriate documents will go to both current synods for their spring meetings.

The following documents will go to Synod Cymru 23 April 2022 and Wales Synod 9 April 2022:

1. ***Wales Synod Cymru: more detailed proposals to go before both Synods in September 2021*** (this is the document presented to Synods in September 2021)
2. ***The Constitution for Wales Synod Cymru***
3. ***Wales Synod Cymru Language Policy*** (Agreed by Synod Policy/Leadership groups)
4. ***The Structure and Membership of committees for Wales Synod Cymru***

To set up the new synod each synod will now need to adopt documents 2 to 4 as per the resolution in this paper. The ***Wales Synod Cymru*** will formally come into existence, by the decisions of the 2022 Methodist Conference, from 1 September 2022 replacing the two previous districts.

A budget for the new Synod has been prepared and agreed by the Policy Committees of both existing Synods. While there is always some uncertainty in planning ahead at a time of significant change, we believe that the budget does the key things we need, in that

- it enables the new Synod to meet its commitments but doesn't add to the pressure on circuit assessments
- it provides for the Cymru circuit to contribute on the same basis as other circuits going forward
- it recognises that to do this in this transitional period we will have to use some Synod reserves
- but notes that the new Synod will have the benefit of 2 reasonably large Synod Advance Funds as well as some other reserves.

The following resolution needs to be adopted by the two synods:

The Cymru Synod and the Wales Synod, meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> April respectively, give thanks for the life of worship, mission and ministry the two synods have exercised across Wales since their formation and trusting in God's guidance for the future received and adopted the documents:

- i)        *The Constitution of Wales Synod Cymru***
- ii)       *The Language Policy of Wales Synod Cymru***
- iii)      *The Structure and Membership of Committees of Wales Synod Cymru***

Looking forward in hope and anticipation to the formation of the ***Wales Synod Cymru***, committing ourselves to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we continue the life of worship, mission and ministry across Wales in the Welsh language and in English.

As convenor of the Implementation Group I would like to express my deep thanks to the members of that group for the tremendous amount of work they have put in, the two Chairs of District, the officers and policy committees of both synods and the Connexional officers. I believe that with the creation of the ***Wales Synod Cymru*** we have a unique opportunity to move forward with a streamline structure that enables our energies and resources to be focused in a missional way towards the people and communities of Wales. I hope and pray that you will join me in embracing this opportunity.

The Conference Office has been provided with the following documents which are available on request from Jane Bates at [batesj@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:batesj@methodistchurch.org.uk):

***Wales Synod Cymru: more detailed proposals to go before both Synods in September 2021***

***The Constitution of Wales Synod Cymru***

***The Language Policy of Wales Synod Cymru***

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**39/1.    The Council receives the report.**

**39/2.    The Council recommends to the Conference the creation of Wales Synod Cymru as a District with a modified constitution (Section 48A) from 1 September 2022 and asks that the Law and Polity Committee draft the necessary changes to Section 49 of the Standing Orders.**