



LITLEROVER METHODIST CHURCH

A vibrant Christ-centred church at the heart of our Community

Minutes of the General Church Meeting 7.00pm Thursday 11th May 2017

The minutes of this meeting should be read in conjunction with the review of priorities for LMC document ('What will be') – Update 2016 -17.

Rev Gareth Higgs chaired the meeting.

There were 80 people present and 14 apologies as recorded in the attendance book.

Section A:

1. Gareth welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer of praise and thanks. The meeting was being recorded and there were no objections to this.

2. Review 2016 -17:

- The minutes of the GCM in June 2016 were agreed and signed by Gareth as a true record.
- The Annual Report 2016 - 17 (as a one-off) was a compilation of photos taken on the occasion of the February ministries celebration. The boards were again on display in the church for this meeting. The report included the safeguarding report. The accounts were recorded separately and had been submitted to the Charity Commission.

The meeting agreed to receive the reports as a summary of the activity of the past year.

Gareth expressed huge thanks to all those who contribute to the life of the church, to the many volunteers who put in hours of dedicated service, both seen and unseen, who are involved in many different ways.

Gareth paid particular tribute to Audrey Lowndes, who for many years has been responsible for the 'banner ministry', producing banners, with a team of helpers, whose craftsmanship has been an inspiration and has brought pleasure to so many people. The beautiful banners on display this evening are representation of some of the favourite banners chosen by Audrey. Gareth encouraged the meeting to look at the interesting display of materials and detail representing the process of banner-making. Gareth voiced a celebration of Audrey's long-serving dedication and expressed thanks to her for this ministry to God's glory as she is now stepping down. The meeting responded with warm applause.

- Review of Priorities 2016-17: 'What will be'. This colour-coded document – (red - yet to be done, yellow – some aspects are on the way, green – work mostly done,

but not put aside) has already been widely circulated. Item 6 – D will not be presented at the meeting and therefore is to be coded red.

There were no questions raised concerning this document.

Gareth expressed appreciation and thanks to all the leadership team who have shepherded the work and energy towards these priorities - to the staff and the stewards who take the major responsibility for the work that has been done, for the many hours that are put in – over and above the paid hours for the staff and the unpaid hours of service by the stewards.

- Mission audit: The results of the summer mission audit in Littleover had been presented to the church in December and are currently displayed on the wall of the prayer room. Mairi Radcliffe, who had coordinated this audit, was invited to give a brief summary presentation to the meeting:

Of the Littleover people interviewed:

Only 34% knew that LMC existed – we need to improve our visibility.

25% thought LMC lacked a café – the café attendees themselves thought the café was brilliant!

The 10 ‘key’ people (e.g MP, police, social worker) felt isolation and loneliness was the biggest problem – how can we help this problem in the community?

50% thought Littleover had little real sense of community – how can LMC help to build this sense of community?

Everyone mentioned parking in Littleover as a problem in the community.

There was opportunity in the second half of the meeting to pursue these points further in small group discussion.

3. Nominations for Church Stewards and Church Council Representatives: Gareth gave clarification that only LMC members can vote.

Alma Tagoe and Julian Pratt, as retiring stewards were appointed as scrutineers to count the votes and this was agreed by the meeting.

Church Stewards:

The following nominations had been received:

| Name | Nominator | Secunder |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Glen Baxter(2015 –2021) | Mike Williams | Graham Penny |
| Dave Bell (2013 – 19) | Katherine Harrison | Julian Pratt |
| Rob Collinson (2014 -20) | Glen Baxter | Graham Penny |
| Anne Naylor (2013 – 19) | Jane Speake | Cath Patterson |
| Graham Penny | Katherine Harrison | Julian Pratt |
| Penny Sutherland | Jane Goodfellow | Anne Naylor |
| Heather Newstead* | Jane Speake | Marina Taylor |
| Mairi Radcliffe | Anne Naylor | Jane Speake |

Gareth expressed thanks to Alma and Julian for their service as stewards, for their faithfulness to God's call to serve in this way. Their contribution to the team of stewards would be missed. Gareth thanked Julian for his wisdom, integrity, passion and dedication. He thanked Alma, who was stepping down because of work commitments, for the gifts she had brought to the role of steward, for her love for God, her heart for prayer and God's word.

Gareth confirmed with the meeting that, as was now customary, the team of stewards who had been nominated and were continuing for the year 2017-2018 would be elected 'en bloc'. Gareth asked them to stand.

By a show of hands, Glen Baxter, Dave Bell, Rob Collinson, Anne Naylor, Graham Penny and Penny Sutherland were re-elected as Church Stewards for the year 2017-18.

They were re-elected by a large majority, there were no votes against and 1 abstention.

Mairi Radcliffe and Heather Newstead had offered and were nominated as stewards for 2017-18. Mairi has served as a steward in a one-year appointment and Gareth expressed the hope that all had been blessed by her ministry. As she is now offering for a new appointment to this role, with a view to completing a maximum 6-year service, she was asked to share why she feels God's call.

Mairi shared with the meeting that along with her husband Dave, arriving in Derby 2 years ago, they had felt God's strong call to LMC. Mairi has felt humbled and privileged to have served already on the leadership team. Mairi senses God's purpose for her to be involved particularly in mission in the coming year.

Heather shared that this was not a role which she had been looking for, but having been asked to pray about it, she felt it was right for her. She is passionate about *prayer*; she has been involved in prayer ministry, with intercessory prayer and the newly-formed prophetic group. She is passionate about *God's word*, being a house-group leader, keen to develop and encourage understanding of the scriptures. She is passionate about *worship*, the importance of worship and responding to the power of the Holy Spirit. Heather has much to offer and is organized and flexible and willing to offer herself in this role.

Gareth expressed gratitude to Mairi and Heather for offering themselves to serve in this way.

Church Council Representatives:

The following nominations had been received:

| Name | Nominator | Secunder |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Les Allen (2015 – 21) | Keith Varney | Jean Johnson |
| Jean Booth | Jean Booth | Rosalie Wiggett |
| Gary Dilley (2015 – 21) | Lianne Green | Andy Sutherland |
| Brian Miller (2015 – 21) | Peter Snelling | Dave Radcliffe |
| Heather Newstead*(2014 - 20) | Jane Speake | Cath Patterson |
| David Radcliffe | Peter Snelling | Dave Bell |
| Katie Smith | Dave Bell | Julian Pratt |

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Mike Williams (2015 – 21) | Graham Penny | Glen Baxter |
| John Bird | Peter Martin | Les Allen |
| Jeff Dixon | Mairi Radcliffe | Annie Winkler |

*If Heather is elected as a steward she will automatically be a member of the Church Council.

Gareth asked those who had offered and been nominated to the role of representative on the Church Council for the year 2017-18 to stand up. There were 10 nominees.

Section B:

Voting and refreshments took place during the break, after which the meeting moved into small groups for worship, followed by discussion led in each group by a member of the leadership team.

Gareth expressed thanks to the worship group, to the organisers of the audio and PA systems and to those who organized and served the refreshments.

Section C:

1. Election results – announcements were made after the small group discussions but recorded here:

Church Stewards:

Total Votes/74

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Heather Newstead | 63 |
| Mairi Radcliffe (2016 – 22) | 68 |

Heather Newstead and Mairi Radcliffe were duly elected to serve as Church Stewards for the year 2017-18.

Church Council Representatives:

Total Votes/74

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Les Allen (2015 – 21) | 70 |
| John Bird | 63 |
| Jean Booth (2016 -22) | 69 |
| Gary Dilley (2015 – 21) | 71 |
| Jeff Dixon | 70 |
| Brian Miller (2015 – 21) | 64 |
| Heather Newstead (2014 -20) | 66 |
| David Radcliffe (2016 -22) | 66 |
| Katie Smith (2016 -22) | 71 |
| Mike Williams (2015 – 21) | 73 |

Les Allen, John Bird, Jean Booth, Gary Dilley, Jeff Dixon, Brian Miller, David Radcliffe, Katie Smith and Mike Williams were duly elected to serve as Representatives on the Church Council for the year 2017-18.

Prayers were offered for the Leadership team, by the laying on of hands - for strength, energy and wisdom for the coming year.

2. Vision for LMC: Gareth reminded the meeting to reflect on why we do what we do – to live like Jesus, reflecting his image and likeness, reaching out with God’s hope and love - not to fill rotas or give jobs to staff. We do this in 3 ways – encouraging Christian maturity, equipping for ministry by discovering and using God-given gifts and talents and these have been emphasized in the past 2 years, to lead mature and equipped Christians enabled to reach out to the world in mission – and that is why we do what we do – to be missional disciples, carriers of the gospel and ambassadors of the Lord Jesus.

This ties in with Hope 2018: a national, multi-denominational, key groups focus on reaching the nation, with 2017 as a year of preparation. It is the right time, therefore, to focus more and more on mission and evangelism, for which Gareth sees 2 strands:

1 – ‘Come and See’ – the invitation to join in where God’s people are meeting, with an increased awareness of the need to respond to people’s needs – e.g. debt counselling, mental health, internet provision, use of the café as a central hub, but requiring investment of money as well as time and energy.

2 – ‘Going out’ - Gareth senses a continuing burden to move out towards church planting. He clarified that he does not envision the traditional idea of church planting where a group of 40-50 members leave to establish a new fellowship (as happened in the case of The Haven) but, more likely, a small group from LMC, joined by some from other churches, go and re-plant something where once-existing church-life has dwindled and there is no longer a church provision or presence. In response to the blessings that God has poured on us we should be able to give out where there is need.

Gareth has no pre-conceived idea of where this would lead us, but feels that by Christmas 2017 we should know whether we are pursuing this or not, and where we might be focusing.

Gareth suggested 20 minutes group discussion with responses to the question of where our energy and effort should be used in the next year. Each group should come up with at least 6 areas where LMC could focus energy, time and money in the area of mission and evangelism. All the suggestions will be collated and put to the Church Council in June who, together with the leadership team, will seek God’s priorities for the next year.

Following discussion the group leaders presented to the meeting 2 or 3 of their suggestions. Group leaders handed into the secretary of the Church Meeting the written compilation of their group suggestions and these are presented in summary form in appendix A at the end of the minutes.

Gareth said that he was encouraged by the verbal feedback. He added that if the café is to be developed in its scope and physical space then it will require significant work, given the good work which had been started by Amanda Key and developed by Michelle Belsom,

leading to some very busy periods. The leadership team will discuss the suggestions and present to the Church Council in June in order for decisions to be made.

Gareth expressed excitement as to what God might do through us in the next 2 years

Gareth expressed thanks to the secretary for her administrative work. He reminded the Church Council that there would be a brief meeting immediately following the end of the GCM.

The meeting was closed with prayer and a hymn.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

Anne Penny

Secretary to the General Church Meeting.