

41. Wales Synod Cymru

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The Council received a report from the Wales Synod Cymru Implementation Group, which was set up by the Synod Cymru and Wales Synod at their meetings in September 2021 to work on the details of establishing a single Synod for Wales.

In the light of the feedback from the two Synods the group's 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*

The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference that a new Synod be established, Wales Synod Cymru, to operate under a modified constitution, as permitted under Standing Orders. That constitution has been agreed by the spring Synods of Synod Cymru and the Wales Synod.

A budget for the new Synod has been prepared and agreed by the Policy Committees of both existing Synods.

The Cymru Synod and the Wales Synod, meeting on 23 April and 9 April respectively, gave 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

The proposed amendments to Standing Orders are shown below:

Section 49 Yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd yng Nghymru/The Methodist Church in Wales

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490 Definitions.

(1) The work and witness of Yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd yng Nghymru/The Methodist Church in Wales shall be carried on in **one District** ~~two Districts~~: **Wales** Synod Cymru, comprising **the Cymru Circuit working in the Welsh language** ~~one Circuit working mainly in the Welsh language~~, and **other Circuits working generally in the English language** ~~the Wales Synod, comprising Circuits working mainly in the English language~~.

(1A) ~~Within Synod Cymru the one Circuit called Cylchdaith Cymru,~~ **The Cymru Circuit may** will be divided geographically into areas, each called an Ardal. The Local Churches within an Ardal shall meet together from time to time as they may agree.

(2) The ~~term~~ terms '**Wales Synod Cymru**' ~~'the Wales Synod'~~ and '~~Synod Cymru~~' shall in these Standing Orders refer to the **District** Districts, or, where the context so dictates, to the **Synod of that District** district Synods of those Districts.

(3) The name 'Yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd yng Nghymru/The Methodist Church in Wales' shall refer to ~~the sum of the work and witness of~~ **Wales Synod Cymru** ~~and the Wales Synod~~.

491 Y Cyngor.

(1) ~~Y Cyngor is the leadership and co-ordinating team for Yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd yng Nghymru/The Methodist Church in Wales, facilitating and encouraging Synod Cymru and the Wales Synod to collaborate in the service of Yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd yng Nghymru/The Methodist Church in Wales.~~

(2) ~~Y Cyngor shall be constituted as follows:~~

(i) ~~the chair of Y Cyngor, who shall be appointed by Y Cyngor, Synod Cymru and the Wales Synod in turn being entitled to bring a nomination;~~

(ii) ~~the Chairs of Synod Cymru and the Wales Synod;~~

(iii) ~~representatives of Synod Cymru and the Wales Synod in numbers determined by Y Cyngor;~~

(iv) ~~a treasurer appointed by Y Cyngor.~~

(3) ~~Y Cyngor shall have the following responsibilities:~~

(i) ~~the co-ordination of overall mission and training strategies in Wales;~~

(ii) ~~the oversight and co-ordination of ecumenical strategy, policy and relationships in Wales, in line with connexional policy;~~

(iii) ~~the authorisation of representatives to speak with ecumenical partners and government on behalf of Yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd yng Nghymru/The Methodist Church in Wales;~~

(iv) ~~the facilitation of effective working relationships with the Connexional Team;~~

(v) ~~the development of longer term strategies on presbyteral and diaconal stationing in Wales.~~

(4) ~~Y Cyngor will work bilingually in the Welsh and English languages.~~

(5) ~~If Y Cyngor decides to employ one or more lay persons under contracts of service it shall appoint a Lay Employment Sub-committee to oversee the management of such employments, to which the provisions of Standing Order 438A shall apply, with the substitution of Y Cyngor for the district Policy Committee and any other consequential changes.~~

494 Candidates. A candidate for the presbyterate in the Welsh language work who is eligible for and desires to pursue a university course may be permitted to do so by **Wales Synod Cymru** if, in the opinion of the Synod, he or she possesses exceptional qualities likely to render the intended course of special advantage both to him or her and to the Welsh language work. Any cost involved shall be met by **Wales Synod Cymru**.

495 Ordination.

(1)(a) When all the requirements of presbyteral training have been fully met those preachers on trial for the Welsh language work who have completed their probation may be ordained during the meeting of **Wales Synod Cymru** in a service at which the President or a deputy, being a presbyter, shall preside.

(b) Those so ordained shall be proposed to the next Conference for admission into Full Connexion.

(c) The ordinations authorised by sub-clause (a) and the proposal to the Conference required by sub-clause (b) above shall require a resolution giving a direction to that effect

by the Representative Session of the Synod, on the recommendation of the Presbyteral Session.

(d) Before the meeting of the Presbyteral Session the district Probationers Committee shall consult the connexional Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, and the secretary of the connexional committee shall be entitled to attend the meeting of the district committee at which the recommendation to the Synod required by clause (1) of Standing Order 728 is made.

(e) In the event of any disagreement between the Synod and the connexional committee in relation to a particular probationer his or her ordination shall be postponed until the Conference has resolved the matter. Thereafter, if there is to be an ordination service, it shall be held in accordance with sub-clause (a) above.

(2) Each ordinand shall be ordained by the laying-on of hands with prayer by the President or a deputy, being a presbyter, assisted by other ministers in accordance with Standing Order 729, one of whom may be nominated by the ordinand.

496 [*revoked*]

497 ~~Joint Circuits and Ardaloedd.~~

~~(1) In this Standing Order, a "Circuit/Ardal" means a group of Local Churches which is both a Circuit in the Wales Synod and an Ardal in Synod Cymru which operates bilingually in the Welsh and English languages, or is formed to do so, and which is recognised by Synod Cymru and the Wales Synod as a joint Circuit/Ardal.~~

~~See S.O. 498 for joint Local Churches.~~

~~(2) Each such Circuit/Ardal shall appear in the stations both in Synod Cymru and in the Wales Synod. The Chairs of the two Synods shall consult on any issue of policy before them which affects the Circuit/Ardal.~~

~~(3) Presbyters, deacons and probationers stationed in the Circuit/Ardal in accordance with clauses (3) and (4) of Standing Order 785 shall be members of both Synod Cymru and the Wales Synod, except that each such presbyter and presbyteral probationer shall be answerable in matters of discipline solely to the Synod agreed between the Chairs.~~

~~(4) A member in such a Circuit/Ardal shall be eligible for membership of either Synod and the Circuit/Ardal Meeting shall be responsible for ensuring that the Circuit/Ardal is adequately represented in and appropriately supports both Synods.~~

~~(5) The Circuit/Ardal Meeting shall decide, after consultation with the Chairs of the two Synods, which District shall have jurisdiction over approval of property projects under Section 93, oversight of manses and review of circuit model trust money and any other matters which require allocation to one District only.~~

498 Joint Local Churches.

(1) A joint Local Church may be formed, with the consent of the relevant Circuit Meeting or Meetings, by the amalgamation of one or more Local Churches or Classes in **the Cymru Circuit** ~~Synod Cymru~~ with one or more Local Churches or Classes in **another Circuit within Wales Synod Cymru** ~~the Wales Synod~~, or by the coming together of members transferred from Local Churches in the two Synods; in all cases with a shared commitment to operate bilingually in the Welsh and English languages. Standing Order 605(4) shall apply, **with any modifications necessary for compliance with this Standing Order.**

(2) Such a church **shall be in both the Cymru Circuit and another Circuit within Wales Synod Cymru and their chapel or chapels** ~~may be in a joint Circuit/Ardal within Standing Order 497, but otherwise shall be in both an Ardal in Synod Cymru and a~~

~~Circuit in the Wales Synod and in that case the chapel shall appear in the preaching plans of each and clauses (3) to (5) below shall apply.~~

(3) The ministers, probationers, circuit stewards and members in both **Circuits**~~the Circuit and the Ardal~~ in which such a joint church lies shall owe a collective responsibility for supporting it; and its church stewards and members shall owe a collective responsibility for representing the church in and contributing to the life of both **Circuits**~~the Circuit and the Ardal~~.

(4) There shall be local negotiation to agree the details of how Standing Orders are to be applied, including agreements on whether **the Cymru Circuit**~~Cylchdaith Cymru~~ or the **other** Circuit in **Wales Synod Cymru**~~the Wales Synod~~ shall act in respect of local property schemes, the route through which pastoral discipline is to be exercised, how membership is to be returned and how the joint church is to contribute fairly to both assessments.

(5) If agreement under clause (4) above cannot be reached locally, the Chairs of **Wales Synod Cymru**~~both Synods~~ shall together determine procedure.

Consequential Amendments

Deed of Union

1 Particular Expressions

(iv) 'Church Courts' means the Conference, ~~Y Cynger~~, the Synods, the Circuit Meetings, the Local Preachers' Meetings, the Church Councils and the boards and committees appointed by or reporting to those bodies;

Standing Orders

Section 41 The Synod

410 Constitution. (1)

(xiv) such numbers of eligible lay employees appointed in the District ~~or for the purposes of Y Cynger~~ under Standing Order ~~491(5)~~ or 570, as may be determined by the Synod;

412 Functions. (1) ~~Subject in Wales to Standing Order 491 the~~ **The** Synod is the policy-making court of the District...

Section 79 Supernumeraries

791 Status and Stationing

~~(3) A supernumerary who was a minister in Synod Cymru may, by agreement with the Chairs of Synod Cymru and the other District involved, be stationed in a Circuit not in Synod Cymru but remain a member of Synod Cymru.~~

Section 96 The District

962 Development Plan. The district Policy Committee shall formulate and keep under annual review a development master-plan for the Methodist church buildings and circuit staffing of the District taking into account Planning Authority proposals (e.g., new residential areas, new road proposals, and urban redevelopment). Existing and proposed church buildings of other denominations shall be noted, particularly with a view to ecumenical co-operation or the formation of local ecumenical partnerships and the consideration of projects under the Sharing of Church Buildings Act 1969. ~~In Synod~~

~~Cymru and the Wales Synod the master plan shall take account of and give effect to any action of Y Cyngor under Standing Order 491(3). Any such project...~~

*****RESOLUTIONS**

41/1. The Conference received the Report.

41/2. The Conference, noting the adoption by Synod Cymru and the Wales Synod of the constitution of Wales Synod Cymru, a modified constitution within Standing Order 48A, directs for the purposes of clause 38 of the Deed of Union and in accordance with Standing Order 48A1(7) that the form in which the constitution and enumeration of the Districts required by Standing Order 400 are set out shall reflect the modified constitution so adopted.41/3. The Conference amended Standing Orders as set out above and directed that the amendments shall take effect on 1 September 2022.

Special Resolution

41/4. The Conference resolved to amend Clause 1(iv) of the Deed of Union as set out above, and directed that the required consultation under Standing Order 126(1) shall be with the Law and Polity Committee.

41/5. The Conference suspended Standing Order 494 until the close of the 2023 Conference, and directed that during the period of suspension the matter shall be regulated according to any connexional policy or provisions generally applying to candidates for the presbyterate.