|  |
| --- |
| **DIOCESE OF LLANDAFF****MINUTES** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| MEETING | Diocesan Conference |
| DATE | 22/09/22 – 6pm |
| LOCATION | Zoom |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ITEM AND ACTION** | **BY WHOM & WHEN** |
| Welcome from Bishop June followed by Opening PrayersDiscussion around the second part of the conference – it will be held at St Teilos on Saturday and the conference will begin with the Eucharist.**Previous Minutes** Review of last year's conference minutes. A suggestion was made that action points should be made clearer in the future. It was clarified that an objection which had been withdrawn had correctly been noted in the minutes. The draft minutes incorrectly stated that “The Conference reconvened on Saturday 26th September 2020” and were amended to state that “The Conference reconvened on Saturday 25th September 2021”. With this correction, the Minutes were approved.**Matters arising**Motion related to Gay Conversion therapy repeated Diocesan support which had been previously expressed, of the Bench of Bishops statement about banning conversion therapy. The Archdeacon of Llandaff has been working with Revd Gareth Rainer-Williams, one of the authors of the motion, to establish a LGBTQIA+ chaplaincyA diverse team has been assembled from across the diocese following an invitation by the Bishop in an *Ad Clerum*, has attended a training day, and drafted a set of principles. An *Ad Clerum* had been sent out regarding this and when launched it will also be in Llandaff Matters.Conference recommended that regular updates should be reported, on any action committed at Conference, either to Conference Members directly or published in Llandaff Matters.**Report from the Board of Finance**The Annual Report was presented on screen by the Chair of the Board of Finance, Mike Lawley.The Long term budgetary aim over 5 years is a balanced operational budget which included making £3m of reserves to deliver the Diocesan Vision over 5 years.Surplus of investments in the year were £653,000.There is a continued commitment to work towards a more balanced budget over 5 years.The principal cause of the deficit to date for 2022 was investment losses (£822,000)Budget for 2023 includes 5% increase in stipends and salaries, 7.3% rise in parsonage board repairs & maintenance, and 5% increase in fairer share in order to fund these rises and continue the strategy and Diocesan Vision for growing the Church.Over the last year Covid 19 has had a huge impact on Diocese. The 29 Ministry Areas are now all formed, with financial and staff resources from DBF to continue support for the diocese. The formation of colleges for Lay Chairs, Treasurers and Safeguarding offers also offers informal support. Various suggestions were made for targeting financial support for outreach and evangelism:* Invest in Valleys communities to keep a presence and the Gospel there (Geoff Lake - Pedair Afon)
* Procure and distribute Bibles for children (Heather Payne - Church in Wales Governing Body member)
* Warm spaces, warm welcome as being implemented in the Rhondda (Rosina Morgan - Llan, Philip Leyshon - Rhondda).

Organisation & staffing – recruited Mair Henry (Director of Finance, HR and Administration) and Paul Booth (Director of Mission). The Diocese organisation chart was presented on screen. In response to a question from Revd Dean Atkins (South Cardiff), Mr Booth confirmed that the reported number of children engaged by Evangelism Fund supported projects identified new children in new initiatives.**Report of the Diocesan Standing Committee (DSC)** The Standing Committee report summary was presented by the Conference Secretary, Howard Rees.With new Ministry Areas many members will be new to Conference and the Standing Committee. The Opening paragraph of the report confirms the position and delegation of the standing committee to consider matters on the Ministry Areas behalf. The DSC has met three times. A significant consideration was the development of Ministry Areas. DSC acknowledge and are grateful for the hard work in establishing Ministry Areas including registering as a charity. The Diocesan Vision reports have been considered over last twelve months including the success and rapid growth of Citizen Church and the work they are doing. The DSC is responsible for the Diocesan Constitution and this has been updated. The Board of Finance also reports to DSC and is involved in the planning of the Diocesan Conference. At the suggestion of the Bishop the electing of Vice Presidents of the Conference was also proposed and implemented. The Clergy survey has also been looked at as part of DSC and the BLT and SDT. The potential improved efficiency and effectiveness from office hybrid working and deaneries/ ministry area boundaries are also part of the DSC deliberations. Diocesan Conference received the report with no questions.**Deanery motions**Deanery Motion submitted by Cardiff Deanery requesting assistance for Ministry Areas (MAs) to find and pay for auditors – Revd Dyfrig Lloyd proposed, Mike Payne seconded the Motion. Following the formation of ministry areas in many cases MA treasurers and Councils are being asked to look after larger sums of money than they did in the former parishes.* Often qualified auditors are needed to examine the accounts. Since approved architects are listed for the MAs, the Motion requested a list of recommended qualified auditors to be shared amongst MA’s.

This may bring additional cost to the MA’s and the Motion requested the Diocese to support in covering the cost. During debate, some support was noted:* the DBF have approved a grant of up to £1000 to cover fees along with a grant of up to £4000 for administration support.
* Increased support from the DBF may be passed back to MAs in the form of request for Fairer Share contribution, which is the DBF’s only significant income source.
* Deaneries might be requested to help with preparatory work to redeuce costs.
* MyFundAccounting software can produce a set of accounts automatically, or the independent examiner or auditor can be given appropriate access to MyFundAccounting to carry out the inspection which saves time and cost.

The Deanery Motion was amended as follows: "We therefore call upon the Diocesan Conference and the Diocese to assist Ministry Areas to find appropriately qualified auditors or examiners and look at possible way to support the cost" – amended Motion approved by Dyfrig Lloyd, seconded by Mike Payne, and approved by a vote of a clear majority to support the amended Motion. **Result of Elections**A summary document was provided by Howard Rees:There was an unprecedented number of elections. Nominations were sought but it was a disappointing response. Due to the limited response, the only elections that were necessary were for clergy, the electoral college and DBF and also for laity just for the electoral college. 75% of the clergy took part in the process and 55% of the laity. Last year only 64% of clergy and 34% of laity so there is improvement in people taking part. There are a substantial number of vacancies which the Bishop will consider in due course to decide how they can be filled. There are lessons to learn for next year but there will not be as many elections expected – we need to communicate what all the committees and boards do as we may well have the right skills across the diocese to support these vacancies. The nomination process is cumbersome and paperbased - these points need to be addressed so that the process is easier moving forward. **AOB**The Bishop responded to a point made about the Ad-Clerum only being sent to clergy – advising that it is the Bishop’s right to communicate directly to clergy but can issue a wider communication if appropriate. The Bishop agreed to circulate the recent Ad-Clerum which advised of her retirement to those who had not received it. **Closing prayers** | JL, Aug 2023MH+JOElections Secretary+JO |