



**The Methodist Church**  
Louth Methodist Church Centre

**Minutes of the General Church Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**At Louth Methodist Church Centre**

**Action in Bold**

**Opening Devotions** Were led by Rev Margaret Asiedu

**Present:** Rev Margaret Asiedu, Kath Adams, Nick Adams, Nancy Cartwright, Fred Donner, Alison Fox, Paul Fox, Ken James, Heather Jeffery Jean Pridgeon, Bryan Utteridge,

1. **Apologies** , Gwenda Burgin, Mark Harrison, Catherine Rolph,; Chris Rolph, Elaine Watkinson..
2. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 1st June 2023, which had already been circulated, were approved and signed.
3. **Matters Aaising**
  - 3.1. **Churches for Refugees.** No volunteers have come forward to join Ros. Bryan may consider helping, but Gwenda to include a request in the next Newsletter. **Gwenda**
  - 3.2. **Church AGM.** After some discussion it was agreed to delay holding the AGM until March next year. Gwenda to advise members in the Newsletter. **Gwenda**
4. **Our Calling to Evangelism.**
  - 4.1. **Open Litehouse.** Discussion was centred on additional activities being associated with Open Litehouse, such as the 5 week Childrens' Link Course. Heather appealed for more volunteers, especially on Wednesdays. **Gwenda**  
Nick has met Jonathan, the new minister at Eastgate Union, who may provide assistance.  
It was agreed that the management team meet in the near future to review the work & operation of Open Litehouse. **Margaret**
  - 4.2. **TT4All.** Fred reported good and keen attendance, with a Harvest evening on 21<sup>st</sup>.
5. **Our Calling to Service**
  - 5.1. **Stewards.** Nancy advised that all arrangements for future services are in hand, including for the Christmas period.
  - 5.2. **Finance & Property.** Kath drew attention to the requirements in the Fire Risk Assessment. Council agreed that Kath & Chris be authorised to sign the risk assessment as CC members responsible for ensuring church compliance. **Kath/Chris**  
Council agreed that the positioning of chairs in the church should remain with a central aisle.  
Concern was expressed that cars parked at the base of the entrance steps made disability access very difficult. Council agreed that in future cars be excluded from that area. Users to be advised. Use of the Hall 2 exit to Cannon Street park & Generations also to be explored. **Kath/Chris**  
It was agreed that checks be made to ensure safety and use of storage freezers.

5.3. **Finance.** In addition to the report, Nancy advised that the full year accounts show a surplus of £2640.99, although direct giving was lower by £2k. There has been a £2k increase in giving since the year end.

5.4. **Work of Circuit.** Bryan reported that Rev Graham Miles has been confirmed in post and drew members attention to the God for All paper.

## 6. Our Calling to Worship

**6.i. Future Worship Structures** Margaret opened our discussion on worship by suggesting that we needed more than the short time available at this meeting. The meeting agreed to set up a small group to bring together a full consultation programme, involving our congregation members and leaders in the church. Paul's updated Action Plan will provide a useful tool in identifying elements of worship on which attention for modification or change may be needed. Recommendations then brought to a future CC for discussion and action.

It was agreed to form a small group led by Margaret to bring ideas/thoughts together and report to CC. **Margaret**

**6.ii) Advent/Christmas.** It was agreed that these services should involve both of our current congregations worshipping together.

The service on 31<sup>st</sup> December to be an own arrangement.

## 7. Our Calling to Learning & Caring

**7.i) Pastoral Visitors.** In her report Heather brought attention to new worshippers who are waiting to be brought into membership.

There is also an urgent need for more pastoral visitors. CC to seek possible members who would be prepared to take on this important role in our church. **All CC**

**7.ii) Church Family Worker.** CC agreed to appoint Margaret, Paul & Chris as the management group to work with Elaine. A support group will be chosen by Elaine.

**7.iii) Safeguarding.** The meeting approved the safeguarding policy document.

**7.iv) Disability Access** The meeting noted and approved the Disability Access Audit which had been tabled.

**7.v) Young at Heart.** The meeting was informed that Barbara Hand will provide future reports.

**7.vi) Advent Bible Study Group.** This will be arranged on 4 consecutive weeks, perhaps in person and on zoom. **Paul/Nick**

8. **Future meeting.** CC agreed that the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December will start at 7pm

9. **Members joined in the grace to close the meeting**