
The Moderator, the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, was in the chair. She welcomed all those attending, especially new members and guests.

The meeting opened at 14:00 with worship led by the Chaplains, Miss Karen Campbell and the Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo.

Assembly Executive appointed a Facilitation Group comprising:

The Revd Kim Plumpton; Ms Nneoma Chima; the Revd Neil Thorogood; Mr Peter Knowles.

The Assembly Clerk moved adoption of the minutes of November 2022 and November 2023.

Assembly Executive

Mr Alan Yates, on behalf of the Finance Committee, updated Assembly Executive on the progress on addressing the M&M fund deficit. He commended the Synods for their generosity in subsidising the M&M fund in 2023, and outlined something of the various consultations that had taken place since November 2023.

The Convenor of the Ministries Committee, the Revd Mary Thomas, presented paper H1, and moved the resolution.

Following discussion, the Revd Fran Kissack moved that the resolution

Seconded by Mr Chris Atherton.

A vote was taken, and the proposal that the resolution failed to achieve the required majority, and therefore

At the suggestion of the General Secretary, the resolution was remitted to the Facilitation Group.

The General Secretary reported on progress of the Church Life Review (CLR), and noted that the deadline for nominations and applications for people to serve on task groups is being extended.

He explained that, while much of the CLR's work will be seeking ways to 'free up' busy people, it cannot be achieved without the involvement of more people in the short term. 'A medium-term solution but a short-term problem'. He asked if it might be conceivable that some of the work needs 'professionalising' eg consultants etc, and asked how the meeting might respond to such a proposal.

The meeting spent some time in informal group discussion, and the following points were raised:

- Church House and Synod staff have the knowledge and expertise – would secondment to CLR task groups be feasible?
- Secondment from Synods and/or committees – are these people not busy enough already?
- A consultant would need to understand fully the structure and governance of the URC.
- If we employ consultants, they are likely to want to consult groups!
- If we were going to pay consultants, why not pay anyone on the groups?
- What would be the financial implications?
- Could the tasks be further subdivided without adding further complications?
- Does all the work have to be done at the same time? Could the tasks be staggered?

- What about 'headhunting' volunteers, rather than seeking applications and nominations?
- Could people volunteer to serve for a limited time?
- What are other denominations doing?

The General Secretary thanked Assembly Executive for its input.

The Convenor of the Children's and Youth Work Committee, the Revd Paul Robinson, presented Paper B1. Assembly E2 (r)7 (at)2 a.mbl&M0 gR2-7S2 (r)7 (at)2 a.mbl8

Peter Knowles, on behalf of the facilitation group, reported that the Facilitation Group had sought to retain the clarity of the original proposal while being respectful of the variety of ministries involved, and proposed that a new clause be added:

Assembly Executive that clause d) be included in resolution H1, and continued to address paragraphs 2 and 3:

In discussion it was suggested that the words 'to intentionally grow' be omitted. The clear mood of the meeting, however, was to retain them.

The substantive resolution now became:

Assembly executive

The Chief Operating Officer, Mrs Victoria James, on behalf of the Business Committee presented paper A1 and moved the resolution:

The Deputy General Secretary, Discipleship, the Revd Adrian Bulley, presented paper A3, and moved the resolution:

Assembly Executive

The Secretary of the Education and Learning Committee, the Revd Jenny Mills, reported on the appointment of the Revd Dr Peter McEnhill as principal of Westminster College. In doing so, she paid tribute to the work of the Acting Principal, the Revd Dr Robert Pope.

The meeting adjourned at 17:25.

The meeting resumed at 19:45.

The Convenor of the Mission Committee, Ms Sarah Lane Cawte, introduced Mr Roo Stewart and Ms Maya Withall, Moderator-Elect of the Youth Assembly, who gave an overview of the effects of global warming and reminded Assembly Executive of resolution 17 of the 2022 General Assembly:

Assembly Executive met in small groups to reflect on the questions:

- Is your church an eco-church, and is your Synod aiming for a bronze/silver/gold award. If not, why not?
- Share an example of where the issue is being discussed in your church or Synod.
- What practical support do you need to help the church towards net zero.

The Chaplain, Miss Karen Campbell, led Assembly Executive in worship, and the session ended at 20:51.

Assembly Executive resumed at 09:30.

Opening worship was led by the Chaplains, Miss Karen Campbell and the Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo.

The Convenor of the Children's and Youth Work Committee, the Revd Paul Robinson, presented paper B1 and moved the resolution:

In discussion, the following points were raised:

- Should we be talking about financing a project when we haven't decided its exact nature?
- The project is not advanced enough for funding patterns to be decided.
- If this is going to be a formal ministry, then it should be funded from M&M.
- 'Seek funding' sounds like asking for funds. Does not a) include b)?
- The CYWC ought to look at this, rather than Assembly Executive deciding.
- We compare this to Children's and Youth workers, but it is different. It is the difference between 'working with' and 'ministering to' young people.
- Make it clear this is a pilot study, and outside funding could be available until it is permanently established.
- The best model is of a CRCW specialising in youth or family work.
- We need a wider discussion about the uses of M&M funding. Where are the priorities?

The Treasurer noted that a) and b) are not mutually exclusive.

Mr Robinson withdrew the resolution and thanked the AE for its input.

The Revd Ken Forbes was thanked for his long service as Minutes Secretary across two periods of service, presented with a card and gift, and wished well in his retirement.

Mr Forbes made suitable reply.

The meeting was concluded with worship and the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, led by the Chaplains, and the Assembly Executive was adjourned.