

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH IN WALES

A meeting of the Representative Body of the Church in Wales was held via video conference on 7 September 2021.

Present:

Ex Officio members

Chair of the Standing Committee

Dr Siân Miller

Chairs of the Diocesan Boards of Finance

St. Asaph: Mrs H R Jones

St. Davids: Mr N C P Griffin

Llandaff: Mr M A Lawley

Monmouth: Mr P E Lea

Swansea & Brecon Sir E P Silk

Brecon

Elected members

St. Asaph: Mrs H Wiseman

Bangor: Dr H Parry-Smith

St. Davids: Mrs J A P Hayward, the Venerable P R Mackness

Llandaff: Mr G I Moses, the Venerable M Komor (items 21/50 onwards only)

Monmouth: Miss P R Brown

Swansea & Brecon Mr J M Watson

Brecon

Nominated members

Mr R Davies

Co-opted members

Mr J J Turner (Chair)

Mrs J Heard

Apologies:

Apologies were received from the Venerable Jonathan Williams, the Venerable Mary Stallard, the Very Reverend Nigel Williams, the Venerable Alan Jevons, Mr Thomas Lloyd and Mr Peter Kennedy.

In attendance:

The following members of staff were present: the Chief Executive, the Head of Finance, the Head of Legal Services, the Governance Officer and the Executive Assistant.

By invitation:

The Right Reverend the Bishop of Bangor, as an observer.

Prayers:

Opening prayers were led by the Venerable Paul Mackness.

Conflicts of interest:

No conflicts of interest were noted.

Welcome to new Representative Body members

The Chair welcomed Dr Siân Miller to her first Representative Body meeting. Dr Miller had been appointed Chair of the Standing Committee in July 2021 and was accordingly an *ex officio* member of the Representative Body.

Appointment of the next Chair of the Representative Body

21/49

The Representative Body was reminded that at its meeting in January 2021 (minute 21/04) it had appointed a small working group to lead a process to identify candidates for consideration for appointment as the next Chair of the Representative Body. The Representative Body had also agreed that the role should remain an unremunerated one.

Mrs Hilary Wiseman, Chair of the working group, provided the Representative Body with a comprehensive briefing of the recruitment process undertaken.

Recruitment process

The working group had engaged the recruitment consultancy firm Gatenby Sanderson to provide professional assistance with the advertisement of the role and the identification of suitable candidates. Diocesan and provincial networks were also used to advertise the role.

Mrs Wiseman explained a shortlist of three candidates had been identified and had been interviewed by the working group (and, in the absence of an archbishop, the Bishop of Bangor as senior bishop) in late August. The interviews had been accompanied by two additional interactions: the candidates met and engaged with a group consisting of trustees and members of the Standing Committee; and with a group of staff. The working group's work had been supported by the Chief Executive and the Director of People Services.

Following this process the working group had unanimously identified Professor Medwin Hughes, currently Vice-chancellor of the University of Wales Trinity St. David, as its preferred candidate for appointment as the next Chair of the Representative Body.

Discussion

Discussion followed during which support was expressed for Professor Hughes's suitability to the role. It was confirmed that Professor Hughes was aware of the time commitment required to undertake the role of Chair of the Representative Body and that he had the support of the University of Wales to allow him to undertake it. It was also noted that Professor Hughes was on a trajectory towards retirement.

As the University of Wales Trinity St. David was one of the awarding institutions of qualifications from St. Padarn's Institute, it was possible a conflict of interest may arise while Professor Hughes was Vice-chancellor: this would be managed as and when necessary.

It was noted that whilst neither of the other candidates interviewed were being recommended to the Representative Body for appointment as Chair, they were highly capable people who could make valuable contributions to the Church in Wales. It was agreed the Chief Executive would make contact with them to discuss possible engagement with the Representative Body and the wider Church in Wales in other roles or areas of work.

The Chair thanked Mrs Wiseman and the other members of the working group, the Venerable Mary Stallard, Mr Peter Kennedy and the Bishop of Bangor, for their diligent work in overseeing the recruitment process.

The Chief Executive would work with the current Chair to arrange a programme of handover.

Summary

Following discussion, the Representative Body:

- Unanimously endorsed the appointment of Professor Medwin Hughes as its chair-designate;
- Confirmed it intended to co-opt him to the Representative Body and formally appoint him as Chair following the retirement of Mr James Turner; and
- Gave permission for otherwise confidential documents to be shared with Professor Hughes as part of the handover programme prior to his appointment.

Segregation of the Clergy Pension Scheme

21/50

[Redacted from public minutes – confidential business].

OneFamily Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) Scheme

21/51

[Redacted from public minutes – confidential business].

St. Padarn's Institute

21/52

The Chief Executive informed the Representative Body that the Bench of Bishops was reviewing the arrangements for oversight of St. Padarn's, feeling some refinements to the current arrangements were necessary. It was possible adjustments to the Representative Body's relationship with St. Padarn's may be proposed.

Work continued and the Representative Body would receive detailed written proposals for consideration in due course.

Finance Strategy Forum meeting - September 2021

21/53

The Chief Executive noted that a meeting of the Finance Strategy Forum had originally been planned to take place on 8 September but, due to the restructuring of the Governing Body meeting in September 2021, the meeting had not taken place.

There were currently no plans to reschedule this meeting as the next joint meeting of the Bench of Bishops, Representative Body and Standing Committee was taking place in October 2021.

Next meeting

The Chair confirmed the Representative Body's next ordinary meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday 18 November 2021.

Closing prayers

The Bishop of Bangor closed the meeting with prayer.