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**Corff Llywodraethol Yr Eglwys yng Nghymru  
The Governing Body of The Church in Wales**

# Standing Committee

A meeting of the Standing Committee of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales was held at the Future Inn, Cardiff on Wednesday and Thursday 17 and 18 May 2023.

## **Present:**

### Ex-officio Members

The Most Reverend the Archbishop of Wales  
 The Right Reverend the Bishop of St Asaph  
 The Right Reverend the Bishop of Monmouth  
 The Right Reverend the Bishop of Swansea & Brecon  
 The Right Reverend the Bishop of Llandaff  
 Professor Medwin Hughes, Chair of the Representative Body

### Nominated by Diocesan Standing Committees

The Reverend Christine Owen  
 Mr Paul Whittaker CBE  
 The Reverend Richard Wood  
 Ms Susan Fogarty  
 The Venerable Paul Mackness  
 Mr Tim Llewelyn (Chair)  
 The Venerable Rod Green  
 Dr Heather Payne (Vice-chair)  
 The Reverend John Connell  
 The Reverend Justin Davies  
 Mr Paul Murray

### Co-opted

Sir Paul Silk

In Attendance:

The Provincial Secretary, the Governing Body Officer, the Governance Officer the Head of Legal Services and the Human Resources manager for the whole meeting.

## Apologies

Apologies were received from the Bishop of St Davids, the Reverend Canon Steven Kirk, Mrs Hilary Wiseman, His Honour Judge Andrew Keyser KC and Dr Jayne Collier.

## Opening Prayers

The Archbishop opened the meeting in prayer.

## Welcome

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting and in particular Mr Paul Murray, recently elected lay Member for Swansea & Brecon Diocese, to his first Standing Committee meeting.

The Chair outlined the two types of Standing Committee meeting planned this year, the operational for necessary business and this residential strategic meeting.

The Chair indicated that the residential meeting was planned to that members would look at and discuss the following subjects over the next 24 hours.

- **What is the Standing Committee and where does it fit into the governance structure of the Church in Wales?**

The Standing Committee discussed the context and position of the Standing Committee of the Governing Body within the overall structure of the Church in Wales, looking at the necessary dynamic tension between the Bench of Bishops exercising leadership, the trustees of the Representative Body holding and growing assets, and the Governing Body as the parliament of the Church to ensure good governance, policy development and accountability in all parts of the Church. This was explored with reference to the Standing Committee being, effectively, the Governing Body, when the Governing Body was not in session.

- **What does it mean to be Episcopally Led and Synodically Governed**

A discussion was led by the Reverend Canon Trystan Hughes, Director of Ministry Development, between the Bishops of St Asaph and Monmouth and the Archdeacon of Llandaff on what it might mean for a church to be episcopally led and synodically governed.

- **What is the difference between Vision, Strategy and Tactics?**

The Reverend Justin Davies led a discussion about vision, strategy and tactics.

## - Teamworking and Group Dynamics

Mr David James, of DJ Learning Limited led a discussion on teamworking and group dynamics, with reference to John Kotter's book *Our Iceberg is Melting*.

## Vacancy in the See of St Davids

**23/18**

The Archbishop informed the Standing Committee that the Bishop of St Davids had announced her intention to retire on 31 July 2023, therefore a vacancy in the See of St Davids would exist from that date.

The Standing Committee recognised that the timing of the Bishop's retirement meant that would be very difficult logistically to arrange a meeting of the Electoral College within the usual 30 days.

Therefore, the Standing Committee unanimously resolved to authorise the President to extend calling a meeting of the Electoral College for the See of St Davids from 30 days. The College was therefore required to convene within three months of the Bishop's retirement.

Mindful that a Bill to reform the Electoral College was currently before the Governing Body, which would mean that the Church in Wales would be in the middle of an electoral process when the Governing Body met to consider passing the Bill, the Standing Committee agreed to recommend to the Select Committee that it consider proposing an amendment to the Bill to provide that the current electoral system be used for the election of the next Bishop of St Davids to ensure clarity and certainty of process.

## Archbishop's Priorities

**23/19**

The Archbishop reflected on the meeting and the Standing Committee agreed the next steps.

The Standing Committee asked the Archbishop to gather a group to produce clear proposals for priorities for the Church, recognising that the Archbishop was called to discern God's will in the Church in Wales.

The group would report back to the Standing Committee in due course.

## Closing Prayers

**23/20**

The Archbishop closed the meeting in prayer.

## **Date of the next meeting**

**23/21**

The Standing Committee was scheduled to meet online for a business meeting on Tuesday 8 July 2023 at 09.00.

J.R. June 2023  
SC Minutes May 2023