

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 30 June 2022.

Present: Ex officio members
Chair of the Standing Committee
Dr S Miller

Chairs of the Diocesan Boards of Finance

St. Asaph: Mrs S Allin
St. Davids: Mr N C P Griffin
Monmouth: Mr P E Lea
Swansea & Brecon: Sir E P Silk

Elected members

St. Asaph: The Very Reverend N H Williams, Mrs H Wiseman
Bangor: Dr H Parry-Smith, the Reverend M Beecroft
St. Davids: Mrs J A P Hayward, the Venerable P R Mackness
Llandaff: Mr G I Moses, the Venerable M Komor
Monmouth: Miss P R Brown, the Venerable J S Williams
Swansea & Brecon: The Venerable A N Jevons, Mr J M Watson

Nominated members

Mr R Davies
Mr P Kennedy

Co-opted members

Professor M Hughes (Chair)
Mrs J Heard

Apologies: Apologies were received from the Archbishop, Mr Michael Lawley and Mr Thomas Lloyd.

In attendance: The following members of staff were present: the Chief Executive, the Head of Finance, the Deputy Head of Finance, the Head of Legal Services, the Head of Property Services, the Governance Officer and the Governing Body Officer.

Prayers: Opening prayers were led by the Venerable Alan Jevons. The Representative Body remembered Mr Douglas Hogg and Mrs Lis Perkins, former members who had recently died.

Conflicts of interest: All clergy present declared an interest in the item on the allocation of stipend and salary levels for 2023 (item 22/24).

10-year plan

22/16

The Chair invited the Chief Executive to introduce a key area of work, the 10-year plan for the Church in Wales, which had been debated over the course of several months, noting that a copy of the paper relating to this item would be provided to the Standing Committee.

The Provincial Secretary set out progress so far, making the following points:

- There had been good engagement between provincial finance department staff and the diocesan secretaries;
- The Finance Committee had considered the questions of what could be done straight away to help the dioceses, given the reported post-pandemic reductions in congregations;
- In order to reduce anxiety for the Diocesan Boards of Finance, it was essential to have supportive and transparent conversations between the dioceses and the Representative Body;
- If a decision to release an additional £1.85million in the second half of 2022, it should be noted that this was being done by bringing forward the start date for a change of distribution rate from 3.5% to 4.5%.
- The £100million being released should be seen as a total over ten years not simply ten years of £10million per year. The funds were allocated for evangelism and church growth.

At its next meeting, the Bench of Bishops aimed to develop a strategy to present to the Standing Committee, which was charged with joining up the work undertaken by the Representative Body and its Finance Committee and by the Bench of Bishops, by engaging with the Governing Body, dioceses and the wider Church in Wales.

A financial planning meeting had been arranged for 15 September at which the bishops, diocesan secretaries, Finance Committee, the Chief Executive and Head of Finance would consider plans for use of the £100 million and the allocation of the additional £3.5million per annum released by an increase in the distribution rate.

A fourth joint meeting of the Bench of Bishops, the Standing Committee, the trustees of the Representative Body, the diocesan secretaries and senior provincial staff had been arranged to take place on 10 and 11 October, with the intention for this to be a decision-making meeting which drew on discussions at the Governing Body on 8 September, the discussion at the financial planning meeting on 15 September and from those present. The anticipated output was a clear direction of travel, the adoption of ambitious goals, and the approval of clear mechanisms for accessing additional funds.

The Representative Body:

- Authorised the release of £1,850,000, to be split seven ways (the six DBFs and the Representative Body for national projects to provide immediate financial assistance);
- Supported provincial staff working with the diocesan secretaries to develop:
 - Allocation of partnership funding;
 - Organisation of shared funding process; and
 - Mechanisms for grants from £100million fund for discussion with the Finance Committee;
- Supported a meeting on 15 September of the Bench, DBF Chairs, Finance Committee, diocesan secretaries and provincial staff; and

- Supported the fourth joint meeting of Standing Committee, Bench and Representative Body on 10-11 October.

The Representative Body endorsed and strongly encouraged the work being undertaken to develop a structure of partnership funding in order that dioceses could prepare budgets for 2023. The Representative Body felt it was essential to ensure the provision of funding was done in a way that allowed rigour and accountability to ensure the funds were used in the most efficacious way for growth. The principle that everything that was done should be focussed on growth was re-affirmed.

In discussion, several points were made and noted:

- The need to be careful to avoid a scramble for the money;
- The need for all projects to be costed and thought through with rigour and accountability, recognising that projects may not all work;
- Concerns about the dioceses of Monmouth and Swansea & Brecon not having sufficient resources to drive agreed change;
- The need to enable ministry areas to plan five years ahead;
- The need to ensure the Representative Body received reports on the efficacy of the Evangelism Fund before new projects were agreed;
- That the Representative Body and the DBFs needed to work together urgently and avoid duplication;
- That the purpose of the Representative Body was to fund the mission and ministry of the Church in Wales;
- That the bishops would need to work together to achieve closer integration of the dioceses and the Representative Body to change from decline to growth and ensure most efficient use of resources.

Net zero carbon framework

22/17

The Representative Body noted an update on the Net Zero Carbon Framework approved by the Governing Body in April 2022, which contained three recommendations:

Recommendation One: Train People Well

The Representative Body will offer externally delivered carbon literacy training to key church people. The Representative Body noted that a series of training events had been scheduled for the autumn for key church leaders and influencers.

Recommendation Two: Audit Buildings Well

The Representative Body will fund one energy audit per church, and to scope a regularised energy audit format as guidance for use across the Church in Wales.

The Representative Body noted that a number of energy audits had been commissioned for a variety of buildings.

Recommendation Three: Measure Energy Well

The Representative Body will provide access to the electronic, online energy footprint tool (EFT) for all churches and cathedrals.

The Representative Body noted that a system was being finalised with the providers and would be pilot tested with a diocese later in the year with the aim of launching fully in 2023.

The Representative Body's committees would be asked to review the actions assigned to them and explore with officers how progress might be made on each of them and reported to the Representative Body through committee reports.

It was noted that the Climate Change Champion would undertake an internal audit role in terms of the day-to-day activities of the Representative Body and its offices to identify areas for future improvements.

Property management database software

22/18

The Representative Body was invited to support the recommendation of the Finance Committee to fund the purchase and adoption of a new property management system and related digital mapping system.

The Head of Property Services reported:

- that the current property management database system was no fit for purpose.
- Digital information concerning the properties held by the Representative Body was kept on a database system within the Infonet, the database created in-house in 2005.
- Whilst the current system provided a useful database of information about property, it was largely static. Crucially, it did not link to other applications in daily use such as Microsoft Outlook and SharePoint nor Xledger accounting software.
- Current systems for rent review and lease expiry were not adequate and there was no facility for digital mapping for property management purposes.
- The company Technology Forge had been identified as providing a flexible and effective system for the Representative Body's needs. This was cloud-based so registered users could access it from anywhere on any device.
- Also identified was a cloud-based mapping solution called LandApp, as used by many property owners and agents.

The Finance Committee had approved the following indicative costs:

- Technology Forge Property Management System at a cost of £18,300 in year one plus £41,364 per annum for year one and annually thereafter.
- Purchase of Landapp mapping system (£1,224 per annum).

Implementing the system would take until the end of 2023. The first phase of work was to set up a basic system to replicate the current database and migrate data across. The second phase would involve developing workflow and system management tools.

To facilitate this, the Finance Committee approved the proposal to make the current part-time Closed Church Officer post a full-time post, funded from church sales proceeds. The additional cost over the existing secondment arrangements would be £8,785 per annum.

The Representative Body approved the funding for the development of a property management database and related digital mapping system to improve general property management including collection of rents.

St. Paul's Church, Grangetown

22/19

The Representative Body was invited to support the recommendation of the Property Committee to fund a project to undertake works to this church in the sum of £566,653.66. The Representative Body had already allotted funds of £421,260 but to undertake the immediate necessary work to make the property safe and to place it in a stable condition whilst further funds were raised had been costed by tender.

St. Paul's was listed grade II but in a key part of Cardiff for mission. Officers had been working with the congregation for over 15 years to explore opportunities for the property, including demolition, outright sale, and even conversion to an office for the Representative Body.

In 2019 it was agreed Wales and West Housing Association would acquire the nave for conversion into flats with the chancel would be retained for worship. To facilitate such a scheme attracted significant costs and the Representative Body had agreed to support the project with a package of funding from general and glebe funds. The scheme collapsed in late 2020, but the Association had donated £80,000 towards the future restoration.

Since then, an alternative scheme involving the restoration of the church to a multi-purpose space funded in part by the Representative Body's grant and partly by the sale of the church hall on the site had been investigated. In 2021, it was estimated that this project would cost £1.2million so it appeared that the Representative Body's funds, plus sale proceeds, would meet the costs. Part of the funding made available by the Representative Body had been used for the design and tender the works. The project had been costed at £1.6million, meaning there was a significant shortfall in funding.

In the meantime, the property was in poor condition and deteriorating, representing a significant risk to the Representative Body given the close proximity to the church hall and vicarage. Both the diocese and bishop were clear that, missionally, a church in this part of Cardiff was fundamentally important.

The Property Committee proposed that the project be funded by the Representative Body as outlined, given that:

1. The building's current state of repair represented a significant liability to the Representative Body.
2. The condition of the building was affecting reputation and mission in the ministry area.
3. Achieving this work would demonstrate commitment and give courage to the local church to seek funding for the next phases.

It would be made clear to the ministry area that no further funding (beyond future sale receipts) would be available for the project.

In discussion, concerns were expressed that this might be a precedent where the Representative Body supported a project that was more appropriate for the diocese to complete. The Representative Body therefore decided that the proposal be deferred for further discussion at a future meeting, following appropriate discussion with the Bishop of Llandaff and her senior staff.

Infonet replacement

22/20

The Representative Body considered and approved expenditure on the replacement of the provincial Infonet database, a proposal which would see a replacement system that allowed greater flexibility and interaction with other dependent systems such as diocesan databases.

The Infonet was a database that ran from a server held at the provincial and was built using a combination of ColdFusion and Structured Query Language (SQL), accessed through VPN connections by users around the province. The reliance on VPN connections meant it was only accessible by people using Church in Wales issued computers or those working from a Church in Wales provided network.

Three critical problems faced the Infonet:

1. ColdFusion was likely to become obsolete in the next decade;
2. The member of provincial staff who built and maintains the Infonet has indicated he plans to retire in three years: given the rarity of people familiar with the ColdFusion programming language, a replacement would be difficult to find;
3. The central architecture of the Infonet system was specifically designed to be based on a fixed and permanent organisational structure.

It was recommended to use System Serve, which had an existing relationship with the Church as it provided various other database systems including the Gift Aid portal and the St. Padarn's student database: the firm therefore had a good understanding of the structure and requirements of the organisation.

The costs would be:

Total development cost of £209,000

Total ongoing costs of £27,000 per annum.

The Representative Body approved the funding for the development of the necessary software. It was anticipated that the development work would be complete by the end of 2023.

Audit Findings Report

22/21

The Chair welcomed Mr Adam Halsey, Partner at Haysmacintyre, to the meeting, who delivered the Audit Findings report. Mr Halsey drew members' attention to the fact that Haysmacintyre was able to give an unqualified audit opinion.

Mrs Jane Heard, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, noted that the Committee had reviewed the auditor's report and had no comments to make.

As directed by the meeting's agenda, all provincial staff in attendance left the meeting to allow Mr Halsey to meet with the trustees alone.

After staff had returned to the meeting, the following resolutions were proposed and passed unanimously:

That the Audit Findings Report be received.

That the Chair of the Representative Body and Chair of the Finance Committee be authorised to sign the letter of representation on behalf of the Representative Body.

Mr Halsey left the meeting.

Representative Body Annual Report and Accounts 2021

22/22

The draft Annual Report and Accounts for 2021 was introduced by the Head of Finance. She confirmed that there was a positive net movement in total funds of £103 million, largely due to investment gains of £84million, and that funds increased from £804million to £907 million. Investment income during 2021 increased by around £1.4 million with expenditure increasing by £0.898 million. The deficit was 9.1 million, which was offset by capital gains, but it was reiterated that such deficits could not be sustained long term.

The following resolutions were proposed and passed unanimously:

That the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Representative Body for the year ended 31 December 2021 be approved and adopted.

The Annual Report and Accounts was approved for finalising, translation and circulation to the Governing Body.

Common Investment Fund Annual Report and Accounts 2021

22/23

The Head of Finance presented the draft accounts for the Common Investment Fund for 2021, confirming the Fund was separate to the Representative Body's main investment fund and explaining that it was a fund in which parishes were able to invest any legacies or special trusts they held and use the income generated.

The total value of the Common Investment Fund at 31 December 2021 was £71.4million with its total return to 31 December 2021 being 13.6% (compared to the Teknometry comparator return of 12.1% and RPI inflation of 7.5%).

The Head of Finance noted the Investment Committee was reviewing the investment strategy of the Common Investment Fund. As many of the parish trusts were only able to spend income and not capital, a different investment strategy may result in more funds available to parishes in the future.

The following resolutions were proposed and passed unanimously:

That the accounts of the Common Investment Fund for the year ended 31 December 2021 be approved and adopted.

The Common Investment Fund Annual Report and Accounts were approved for finalising, translation and circulation to Governing Body.

Stipend and salary levels 2023

22/24

The People Committee had undertaken the annual review of stipends and salaries in line with the policy adopted by the Representative Body in November 2015. The policy stipulated that:

- Any increase would be based on the CPI published for the April preceding the date of the pay award.

- An option to add a discretionary 0.5% to the pay award each year depending on the financial context of the time and discussions with the dioceses.
- The pay award would be effective from 1 January the following year.

The People Committee noted that the published CPI figure for April 2022 was 9.0% and, having considered several factors including responses from dioceses and a comparison of Church in Wales stipend levels with CPI, Average Weekly Earnings and the Church of England border dioceses, agreed not to recommend the additional 0.5% discretionary award.

At a meeting with the diocesan secretaries and Representative Body staff on 10 June 2022 some of the diocesan secretaries expressed concerns about the affordability of the 9% proposed increase. The matter was subsequently raised with the Finance Committee on 14 June, which felt a need to review the policy but that it should not be done retrospectively. Therefore, in line with the stipends and salaries policy, the People Committee and the Finance Committee recommended to the Representative Body that a 9.0% increase to stipends and salaries was applied from 1 January 2023.

During discussion it was noted that while the current inflation figure was significant it would commit the dioceses to potentially unaffordable future increases if adopted.

In their discussion the trustees sought to balance affordability with the increased costs all were facing at present.

Therefore, following discussion the Representative Body:

- Approved an increase of stipends and salaries by 5% from 1 January 2023 together with a minimum of 4% increase from 1 January 2024;
- Agreed to review the Stipends and Salaries Policy and its linking of the annual increase to CPI; and
- Agreed in principle that consideration would be given to making a one-off cost of living allowance to stipendiary clergy in the autumn. The amount and how this would be funded would be a matter for discussion between provincial staff and diocesan secretaries.

One member voted against and three abstained.

Vacancy fees 2023

21/25

The Head of Finance reported the People Committee had undertaken its annual review of vacancy fee levels.

It was noted that the People Committee's recommendation was to increase each category of vacancy fees in the Church in Wales by £2 (from £25 to £27).

In line with the advice of the People Committee the Representative Body approved an increase by £2 in vacancy fees. From 1 January 2023 therefore vacancy fees would increase to:

| | Fee from 1 January 2023 |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Cleric in receipt of a pension by virtue of service in Holy Orders | £27 |
| Cleric in the non-stipendiary ministry over 70 years of age | £27 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Licensed Reader (fee payable to the Readers' Association) | £27 |
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Parochial fees 2023

22/26

The Head of Finance confirmed the People Committee had undertaken its annual review of parochial fees. Following discussion, the Representative Body agreed to increase the parochial fees from 1 January 2023 in line with the advice of the People Committee as set out in following two tables:

| Burial fees | 2023 fee |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Ministry fee (payable to the officiating minister) | £94 |
| Committal* (payable to the officiating minister) | £24 |
| Church fee (payable to the PCC) | £118 |
| Burial fee in Church in Wales burial ground | |
| - Body | £528 |
| - Cremated remains (payable to the PCC for the Churchyard Maintenance Fund) | £176 |
| Memorial fee | |
| - Plain wooden cross | £26 |
| - Grave headstone | £200 |
| - Cremated remains tablet | £106 |
| - Additional inscription (payable to the PCC for the Churchyard Maintenance Fund) | £47 |
| Search of burial registers (payable to the PCC) | £24 per hour (or part thereof) |

* For a committal following a separate funeral service elsewhere, at which a different minister has officiated.

| Marriage fees | 2023 fee |
|--|-----------------|
| Marriage service (including fee for publication of banns) | |
| Ministry fee (payable to the officiating minister) | £215 |
| Church fee (payable to the PCC) | £290 |
| Total fee | £505 |
| Publication of banns (to include certificate of banns) | £45 |
| Marriage blessing (following a civil marriage) | |
| Ministry fee (payable to the officiating minister) | £200 |
| Church fee (payable to the PCC) | £250 |
| Total fee | £450 |

The Representative Body confirmed all proposed increases to marriage and funeral fees for implementation from 1 January 2023.

Rules made under the Welsh Church (Burial Grounds) Act 1945

22/27

The Head of Legal Services reminded the Representative Body that certain burial fees approved by the Representative Body formed part of the Schedule to Rules made under the Welsh Church (Burial Grounds) Act 1945. All amendments to these rules had to be approved by Welsh Government.

The Head of Legal Services was in discussion with the Welsh Government about the possibility of streamlining this process and a proposed draft of revised Rules had been prepared and was being considered by Welsh Government lawyers.

If the proposed changes were acceptable the need for annual scrutiny and approval by the Welsh Government of changes to the fees would be removed, which would result in a significant saving of time.

In redrafting the Rules, opportunity had been taken to update terminology and introduce gender-neutral language.

The Representative Body approved the revised Rules.

(If the proposed revisions to the Rules were not supported by the Welsh Government lawyers the Representative Body was content for the usual schedule of fees (as approved under item 22/26) to be submitted to Welsh Government for approval in the usual way.)

Parsonage Board contributions 2023

22/28

The Head of Property Services informed the Representative Body that the Property Committee had undertaken its annual review of the Parsonage Board contributions and recommended an increase in the contribution of 7.3% to £6,033 per house for 2023. This represented the minimum amount to be allocated by each diocese to each parsonage for repair work.

The BCIS (Building Cost Information Service) suggested that price increases would stabilise towards the end of 2022. It was agreed that the 2023 increase should follow the BCIS All Construction Output Price Index: All Construction (new work and repair and maintenance), which was 7.3%.

The Representative Body accordingly approved increase of 7.3% to £6,033 per parsonage from 1 January 2023.

Investment properties – debt management

22/29

The Head of Finance reported that, at the start of the pandemic, five of the Representative Body's investment property tenants stopped paying rent. Although two of these tenants, a restaurant and a coffee shop, were initially unable to trade they had since reopened but had not repaid either the current or back rent due – a total of £1.1million.

The total arrears outstanding as at 1 June 2022 (prior to the June quarter day) stood at £1.6million (a figure which includes the £1.1million referred to above). The Representative Body's accounts for the year to 31 December 2021 included a bad debt provision for outstanding rent of £913,000.

The matter had been discussed in detail with the Representative Body's property managers, Cluttons LLP, who had met with staff and members of the Investment Committee in June 2022.

As a charity, the Representative Body had a duty to attempt to recover the debt and therefore it was agreed to issue the tenants whose arrears totalled £1.1 million with a Statutory Demand, which could result in the winding up of those companies.

The intention was to continue to have dialogue with all tenants to recover the rent but also to take legal advice on the issue of the Statutory Demands.

The Representative Body trustees noted the position and gave authority to the Chair and the Chair of the Investment Committee to approve settlements with debtors.

Clergy Housing Loan Scheme

22/30

The Head of Finance explained that in 1991 the Representative Body had established a Clergy Retirement Housing Loan Scheme which closed to new applicants in 2005. Clergy at that time were told of the position and were reminded that they needed to consider their housing options in retirement.

It was clear before the old scheme closed that many clergy had not made provision for retirement housing and therefore a new scheme was introduced in 2005. Again, all clergy were told that the new scheme would close in 2025 and that they needed to make provision for their retirement housing.

In October 2021 at the annual clergy retirement course which addressed the issue of retirement housing, a number of clerics expressed discontent that the current scheme would end in 2025.

Following some discontent from clergy, the People Committee had considered the matter and, following consultation with the Bench of Bishops, recommended that the Scheme be closed but that it be extended by five years to allow the youngest of the clergy eligible for the Scheme apply for their loan before they reached 70 years of age. The People Committee did not recommend that the cohort of clerics who could apply for a clergy housing loan be extended.

The Representative Body noted that since the inception of the original loan scheme in 1990 and the second scheme in 2005, the homebuyers' market had changed considerably. The age profile of ordinands who commenced training in the Church in Wales had also changed considerably in that time. It was felt that that such lending should be left to those organisations for which it was a core business activity.

Following discussion, the Representative Body agreed:

- i. That the Scheme continue to be limited to serving stipendiary clergy who were born on or before 31 December 1960;
- ii. To extend the expiry date of the scheme from 31 December 2025 to 31 December 2030 to allow those clergy currently eligible for a housing loan to apply before they retire at 70;
- iii. No new arrangements would be made after 31 December 2030;
- iv. Communication to all clergy would be arranged provincially via the annual remuneration letter.

Minutes of the meeting held of 31 March 2022 and matters arising

22/31

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record. The minutes would be signed by the Chair as soon as possible. Various matters arising from the minutes were noted.

Representative Body membership and committee powers and duties

22/32

The Governance Officer updated the Representative Body on matters relating to its membership and the powers and duties of its committees.

Representative Body membership

It was noted that since the last meeting of the Representative Body the Right Reverend Mary Stallard had stepped down as Chair of the Bangor Diocesan Board of Finance following her appointment as Assistant Bishop in Bangor.

The DBF had not yet appointed a new Chair so this position within the Representative Body's *ex officio* membership remained vacant. When a new appointment was confirmed the new Chair would become a member of the Representative Body *ex officio*.

The intentional vacancy within the nominated membership category remained.

Committee membership and powers and duties

The Representative Body considered amending the membership criteria of one of its committees and to appoint two members to two of its committees.

i. People Committee

The Governance Officer reminded the Representative Body that at its meeting in November 2021 (minute 21/60) it had approved a number of changes to the People Committee's powers and duties to reflect the changed arrangements following the establishment of the Safeguarding Committee. Then, in March 2022 (minute 22/07) the reduction of the overall membership of the Committee from 10 to seven members had also been approved.

Following this reduction in membership the Committee had two vacancies and, following the Representative Body's comments in March, it was proposed the Venerable Eileen Davies and the Reverend Justin Davies be appointed to the Committee.

ii. Finance Committee

The Representative Body had established the Finance Committee in March 2021 (minute 21/09) and confirmed the powers and duties of the new committee, and appointed its membership, in May 2021 (minute 21/23). The Finance Committee had been operational for just over a year and, at its meeting in May, had reviewed its powers and duties, considering them to remain satisfactory were functioning well.

A vacancy in the Committee's membership had arisen following Bishop Mary Stallard's stepping down as Chair of the Bangor DBF in April: at that point she ceased to be a member of the Representative Body and therefore of the Finance Committee also.

Currently, the Finance Committee's membership criteria were:

- Up to five members were permitted
- All members must be members of the Representative Body
- Membership must include the deputy-chair of the Representative Body and at least one DBF Chair
- The RB's deputy-chair would Chair the Finance Committee.

Given the current discussions about devising a ten-year plan, the strategic direction this would set for the Church in Wales and the Representative Body's provision of the financial resources to follow this strategy, the Finance Committee considered it would be helpful if the Archbishop and the Chair of the Representative Body, Professor Medwin Hughes, were to be appointed as members of the Committee. This would allow them to be directly involved in the Finance Committee's role of providing oversight of the planning of expenditure and future budgets, providing strategic insights directly to the Committee for discussion as necessary. The Committee also felt these appointments would provide a direct link with the Bench of Bishops and a strong cross-membership with the Standing Committee.

In order to accommodate this proposal the overall membership of the Finance Committee would need to be increased from five to six members.

Summary

The Representative Body agreed to:

- Appoint the Venerable Eileen Davies and the Reverend Justin Davies to the People Committee, initially for the remainder of the current triennium.
- Increase the overall membership of the Finance Committee from five members to six; and
- Appoint the Archbishop and Professor Medwin Hughes to the Finance Committee, initially until the end of the current triennium.

Legal department update

22/33

The Head of Legal Services updated the Representative Body on various legal matters.

Clergy Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) scheme

[Redacted from public minutes – confidential business].

Clergy Pension Scheme

[Redacted from public minutes – confidential business].

Rights of reverter

It was explained that rights of reverter were where land, given for a specific purpose, reverted to the donor (or the donor's heirs) if and when the use for which it was given ceased. Reverters sometimes applied to properties such as churches, parsonages and schools.

Recent research by the legal department had called into question previous assumptions made about whether certain of the Representative Body's properties were subject to a reverter under the Places of Worship Sites Act 1873. It was possible that several properties which had hitherto been assumed to be subject to reverter were, in fact, not. Counsel's advice was

currently being sought on the question and it was possible litigation may follow in relation to at least one property.

The current position had been reported to the Property Committee at its meeting in June 2022. The Representative Body would be kept informed of developments.

Investment performance update

22/34

The Head of Finance reported that the stock market performance was closely and regularly monitored. It was noted that currently the Representative Body's portfolio was valued at around £73million lower than at the 2021 year end. The situation would continue to be closely monitored.

Sales of consecrated property

22/35

In accordance with Chapter III, section 23(2) of the Constitution, the Representative Body authorised the sale of the following consecrated property:

- A.233 - the former Ss Mael & Sulien's Church, Cwm
- D.424 - the former St John's Church, Carmarthen
- D.431 - the former St Barbara's Church, Lanmiloe
- L.202 - the former St George's Churchyard, St George-super-Ely
- L.261 - the Former St Tydfil's Well Church, The Quar
- M.613 - the former St John's Churchyard, Llangwm Isaf
- M.615 - the former St Philip's Church, Liswerry
- S.467 - the former St Michael's Church, Lower Chapel

Updates from Chairs on the work of the committees

22/36

Brief oral updates were given on the work of the following committees by their Chairs:

- Investment Committee
- Finance Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee
- People Committee
- Property Committee
- Cathedrals and Churches Committee (by the Head of Property Services)
- Evangelism Fund (by the Chief Executive)

Some concerns were expressed about the details of the work of the Evangelism Fund. The Chief Executive reported that the Evangelism Fund Committee was in the process of meeting with all the active projects as part of its ongoing scrutiny of the projects. A presentation from two of the projects would be made to the Governing Body in September.

Use of the Representative Body Seal

22/37

It was reported that the Representative Body Seal had been used from numbers 36823 to 36850 inclusive. As the meeting was taking place by video conference it was not possible for members to inspect the Seal Register. Photographs of the relevant pages of the Seal Register were available on request.

Deemed business

22/38

The Representative Body noted the minutes of committee meetings that had taken place since its last ordinary meeting in March 2022.

Other business

22/39

The Head of Legal Services advised the trustees that within the last twenty-four hours a serious incident report had been made to the Charity Commission, relating to serious allegations about a now deceased cleric. The matter was being investigated by police and others.

Next meeting

The Chair confirmed the fourth joint meeting with the Standing Committee and Bench of Bishops would take place on 10-11 October. The Representative Body's next ordinary meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday 24 November 2022.

Closing prayers

The Venerable Jonathan Williams closed the meeting with prayer.