



CGMC BUSINESS MEETING
26th February 2013 at Sheldon House, Devon

Present : Mary Hawes, Shelley Porter, Suzi Farrant, David and Lankshear, Naomi Wood, Penny Fuller, Joy Raynor, Richard Knott, Andrea Harrison, Denise Cooper, Wendy Houston, Aled Davies (Treasurer), Rosy Nixon, Cathy Smith, Hannah Field, Julie Currie, James Mulhall and Martyn Payne (Secretary)

Apologies: Karen Morrison, Carl Dodd, Stephen Hayward, Grant Barclay, Alan Charter, Ed Jones, Beth Bailey, Sian Hancock, Peter Fishpool, Audrey Simm, Nicky Blair, Chris Nicholay

Action

1. Penny chaired the meeting and new representatives were welcomed. Once again it was encouraging to see new faces at CGMC for this conference.

2. Matters arising from the previous Business Minutes (23/12/12), not already on this agenda)

- a. Penny reported that the files of digitalised material of previous CGMC publications have been broken down into smaller packages and that she was in the process of arranging to upload these onto the CGMC website
- b. Penny reported that she is pursuing conversations with Table Talk as to whether they would be interested in the 'faith at home' questions portfolio that we had drawn up as a group

PF

PF

3. Finance

Aled reported on CGMC accounts as of 1st of January 2013. The big conference at Woodbrooke had been subsidised by over £4000 pounds and so when this was taken into account CGMC at present has about £7,500 in the bank

4. Membership Update

The conference was pleased to welcome Cathy Smith as a representative of CURBS - Children in Urban Situations. An email had also been received from Lorraine Darlow who hoped that soon she may be able to represent The Episcopal Church of Scotland on CGMC. CGMC is always seeking to include new denominations and organisations with a national advocacy for children and family work and is open to receive suggestions about whom to contact.

5. CGMC Executive 2014-17

Following Peter Hamill's resignation, there is a vacancy on the Executive and also the existing Executive needed re-elected for a further term. Mary, Aled, Penny, Alan, and Martyn were willing to stand for a further term and they were elected. The Executive was grateful to Andrea Harrison for standing in temporarily for its January 2013 meeting. Nominations for the vacant place were sought. It was important that any new elected member should if possible represent children's work in one of the nations outside England. Richard Knott was nominated but he indicated that he would first have to seek approval for this from his line manager. Other reserve nominations were invited and pending the results of Richard's enquiries it was agreed that CGMC would elect Richard if at all possible to be the new member of Executive.

At a subsequent Executive meeting at the conference, Penny Fuller was elected to be CGMC Moderator.

6. Future conferences – 2013/14

- a. Mary shared details about the ECCE conference in Helsinki in June 2013. Accommodation will be at the Lutheran Training College and the programme looks set to be a very exciting one indeed. Early bird bookings needed to be in very soon. It was noted in this context that in 2016 the UK would be the host nation for ECCE - the dates being the 9th - 13th May. The CGMC Executive will be sending out more details later this year, working on budgets and is looking for denominational sponsorship for some of that conference input.

- b. It has been agreed that our November 2013 conference on 14th - 15th November will now take place at the International Mission Centre in Selly Oak and not at the Woodbrooke Study centre. The theme will be: **Children and Family Ministry - Separate or the Same?** It was agreed to invite a number of additional guests, who each have a particular interest in family ministry. Various names and contacts were suggested by CGMC members. A working party was set up to plan this conference, comprising Penny Fuller, Rosy Nixon, Naomi Wood and Martyn Payne. **MP**

- c. The spring conference 2014 is still has to be finalized. It seems likely now that this will take place in North Wales and the focus will be on technology and social media and its impact on our work with children. **AD**

- d. Finally it was also agreed by CGMC members that in future both the booking forms and the cheques for these conferences should all be sent to the Secretary.

7. Follow up to our Hidden Congregation conference 2013

The Executive has discussed a number of possible ways forward following the success of the November 2012 conference.

Aled reported that Cliff College had requested 60 copies of the CD we had given out at the conference and that further copies would soon be available at £3.00 each plus postage and packing through our website. We also wanted to keep in touch regularly with the colleges offering them support to develop children's and family ministry as part of their curriculum and also to put them in touch with any new resources. CGMC members were invited to consider further ways in which we could develop the good conversation that had begun. One possibility was that we run a similar conference in November 2014.

8. Core Skills Revision

The new revised Core Skills book is now edited and is due for publication in June 2013. Andrea Harrison, Joy Raynor and Martyn Payne agreed to meet one more time to finalise what will be on the website to support this new revised book. David Lankshear agreed to check with Peter Hamill where we have got to with any possible accreditation for Core Skills.

Action

The Executive has suggested that, rather than there being a particular conference to launch the revised book, a ½ day template for a taster of Core Skills will be devised that can be rolled out regionally by CGMC members around the four nations.

9. The future role and impact of CGMC

A discussion took place at a separate session at the end of the Spring conference where members present looked at a number of issues concerning how CGMC can both have a greater role to play within CTBI and a greater voice among the churches of Great Britain and Ireland.

The CGMC Executive is pursuing the idea of producing conversation papers as result of each conference and also of making stronger network connections with other children's work forums. In this context we had invited Martin Saunders from Children's Ministry magazine to join CGMC and although he had written to say he could not come, it was agreed to pursue other possible representatives from CWM. In addition it was agreed to investigate further how we might more effectively work with our parent body of CTBI and wondered why we were not included in some of their major conferences.

MP

The following suggestions were made in the response to a series of four questions about the present and future role of CGMC drawn from some rapid group work on the last day:

Ideas from working groups at the Spring conference 2013 on the future role and work of CGMC

1. What are not doing that we should be doing?

- Communicating better and feeding back to our networks
- Producing press releases and summaries of information for organisations
- Publicising our work better
- Connecting to CTBI
- Getting involved in campaigning and advocacy
- Speaking to people of influence
- Working together outside of conferences
- Mapping all our connections and potential spheres of influence
- Raising the profile of Children's work
- Creating a concrete action plan from discussions with set tasks and feedback
- Sharing resources

2. What are we not saying that we should be saying?

- Making clear statements and speaking out
- Speaking to the right people of influence
- Producing papers for encouragement
- Speaking to strategic people
- Producing ideas about how to change what is being done and providing new ways forward
- Articulating how what we do connects to the bigger picture of what is important

Producing a joined-up piece of work for others to see
Creating prayer links for ourselves outside of conference times

3. What we are not taking away from this conference that we could be taking away?

Practical answers
Press release and summaries
A project piece of work
Some theological reflection at a deeper level
Something concrete to feed back to others
A statement of our position on children and evangelism
A united voice for future advocacy
A more effective means for future communication between members
Awareness of each other's new resources

4. Who isn't here, who could be here?

Roman Catholics
Orthodox Christians
Premier Radio/Children's Work Magazine
Representatives of other training organisations
The Baptist Union
Presbyterians
Boys' Brigade
Ethnic minority churches
Fresh expressions/Emerging networks representatives
Some people outside of children's ministry but who have an interest
Decision makers
Connectors/Joined-up folk
Free and Independent churches
Hand in Hand connections

Date of the next CGMC Business meeting will be: November 15th 2013 as part of our November 24 hour conference in Birmingham

