



CGMC Business Meeting Minutes

20th November 2014 at the IMC Birmingham

Present: Gail Adcock; Grant Barclay; Lorraine Darlow; Aled Davies (Treasurer); Suzi Farrant; Nick Harding; Andrea Harrison; Mary Hawes; Hannah Field; Richard Knott; Chris Nicholay; Rosemary Nixon; Martyn Payne (Secretary); Joy Raynor; James Mulhall; Sarah Smart and Naomi Swift.

Apologies: Penny Fuller; Alan Charter; Denise Cooper; Sue Price; Karen Morrison; Mo Baldwin; Sian Hancock and Jenny Warbrick.

David Lankshear has written to say he can no longer represent St Mary's on CGMC and that there would be no possibility of an alternative representative in the near future.

Aled chaired the meeting and welcomed Sarah Smart and Naomi Swift as first-time visitors to CGMC.

1. Matters arising from the previous Business Meeting (01/04/14)

- a. A number of questions and suggestions regarding the future of CGMC and its conferences had been recorded at our last meeting and these were being considered as part of this November conference.
- b. Lorraine Darlow has kindly written a short article about Core Skills, for Children's Work Magazine which she has sent to the Secretary. **Martyn will pass this on to its editors.**
- c. CGMC is still awaiting responses to some invitations to new members, including Scripture Union Scotland.

All other matters arising had been added to the agenda of this meeting.

2. Finance

Aled reported on the state of the CGMC accounts which will be presented in full next March. We have about £8000 at present in unrestricted funds. Requests for this coming year's annual subscriptions will be sent out soon.

3. Report from the CGMC Executive Meeting (09-10/09/14)

Aled reported on matters discussed at the 24 hour meeting of the CGMC Executive in September. Much of this meeting was devoted to the planning of this November conference. In addition:

- a. It has been agreed that the Fink Table Talk cards for families would be shelved for the time being.
- b. James Mulhall has kindly agreed to take up the vacant place on the CGMC Executive.

4. CGMC membership update

It was noted that numbers attending recent conferences had been very encouraging and that several new representatives had been welcomed at the meetings. Aled invited the membership to suggest additional candidates for individual membership and also to encourage all denominations and organisations to take up their two places, if at all possible. **The Secretary would continue to seek representation from those denominations which for whatever reason not been able to attend in recent years.**

5. Progress report on the Family Ministry Research Project

Gail Adcock reported on the progress of the Family Ministry Research, which is being undertaken in partnership with The Methodist Church:

- a. The research company Merida has just finished its work and Gail passed on thanks to all those who had kindly agreed to be interviewed. A draft report would be available in the coming week and then this along with the Methodist findings will be put together into a fully integrated final report in the New Year.
- b. Headlines from the findings include: the great diversity work going on with families; the variety of understandings of the term 'family ministry'; the number of really interesting stories from around the country; the huge contribution to family ministry that the church does make.
- c. Merida has agreed to come and talk to CGMC at its spring conference in March next year and there will be a formal launch of the findings in September. Parallel to this research, a new Core Skills resource on family ministry is being written and will be published by BRF on behalf of CGMC. It is hoped to launch this book at an autumn conference. It was reported that there would be no publishing costs for this book and the download.
- d. A working party to plan the conference was set up to include: Gail Adcock, Jane Butcher, Andrea Harrison and Martyn Payne. **Information about the conference, including in particular the date and venue, would be made known as soon as possible.**

6. Future conferences

- a. 17th - 19th March 2015 is booked for a 48 hour conference in North Wales. The general theme will be 'Pilgrimage with children' and the conference will also include theological reflection from a keynote speaker as well as trips to projects and places of interest.
- b. The conference in September 2015 to launch of the Family Ministry Research findings and the new Core Skills book will take place over a weekend and will be open to a much wider audience than the normal CGMC membership. Most of the weekend will be given over to

the opportunity to experience workshops on each of the new Core Skills for Families modules.

- c. Information has been received from the planning group for the ECCE conference that takes place in High Leigh in 2016 (9th-13th May). The theme will be: 'Accompanying children on their faith journey' – thinking as, living as and being a lifelong disciple. **Martyn agreed to pass on to the membership the draft outline of this conference.** We will also need to appoint a working party from within CGMC to plan how best we can host this international gathering.

7. CGMC website

CGMC was grateful to Joy Raynor, who has begun work on revising and reorganising the CGMC website. At the moment it is all very wordy and we need to be clear what we want it to do and who it's for. We also have a Facebook page which is not well used. Issues of communication both within and from CGMC were discussed as part of this November conference and it is hoped that we can find more efficient and helpful ways to disseminate who we are and what we do. **Joy agreed to put together a series of suggestions which would be brought the Executive at their next meeting.**

8. Revised Core Skills

As recorded above, we hope to include an article in Children's Work Magazine to promote Revised Core Skills to a wider audience. The membership also wondered whether it was time to look again at More Core Skills and work out which of its modules are most used and whether they should be revised and republished, perhaps in a different format. 'Challenging behaviour' and 'Special needs', in particular, deserved a wider audience.

9. Roots 'election resource'

Rosy Nixon reported on the progress of the special Roots material on child poverty that would be available in election year. CGMC has agreed to put £500 towards this project and that we would promote it through our networks.

10. News Sharing

Aled gave members the opportunity to share news of particular resources or current projects being undertaken by denominations and organisations. We heard about: the successful partnership with Government by the Girls' Brigade who have set up new brigades in areas of deprivation across the country; a series of webinars on family ministry that is being broadcast over the next six months via the CYM office in Bristol; the renaming of Project Cube from Scripture Union as the Guardians of Anchora; copies of the latest Roots magazines were made available for everyone to take away; and the new CD from Fischy Music was introduced.

The next CGMC Business meeting will be: 17th March 2015, as part of our Spring Conference