



CGMC Business Meeting Minutes

18th March 2015

at the Eryl Môr Hotel, Bangor in North Wales

Present: Aled Davies (Treasurer), Penny Fuller (Moderator), Grant Barclay, Mary Hawes, Nick Harding, Naomi Wood, Richard Knott, Denise Cooper, Andrea Harrison, Sian Hancock, Joy Raynor, Ed Jones, Gail Adcock and Martyn Payne (Secretary)

Apologies: Andy Hughes, Mo Baldwin, Karen Morrison, Jane Butcher, Suzi Farrant, Lorraine Darlow, Sarah Smart, Julie Currie, James Mulhall, Rosemary Nixon, Jenny Warbrick, and Chris Nicholay

Penny chaired the meeting

1. Matters arising from the previous Business meeting minutes 20/11/14

The Roots material on child poverty is now available and will be sent round to members following this meeting.

All other matters arising from this meeting are included in the present agenda.

2. Finance

Aled presented the audited accounts for the year ending December 31st 2014. When deductions are made for the costs of the forthcoming Family Ministry conference in September then CGMC has left around £9000 in unrestricted funds.

3. Matters arising from the last CGMC Executive meeting -15/01/15

- a. The Pdf of the original CGMC promotional leaflet is now with Aled and waiting an update depending on the outcome of discussions about our name and new terms of reference.
- b. Martyn reported on CGMC membership updates including:
 - Our response to *The Bible Curriculum* who do not qualify as members.
 - The response from *Urban Saints* who wish to become a member.
 - Conversations with *CURBS* who are interested in joining us at our next conference.
 - The fact that Alan Charter has agreed to continue his links with CGMC as an individual member.
 - The resignation from CGMC of *Children's Ministry* represented by Sue Price

- An e-mail from *Godly Play* which said they would discuss at their next Trustees meeting if they needed to continue to be members
 - The possibility of including a representative from *Cliff College*. There are of course several colleges running children's and family ministry courses and it was felt that it would be preferable to see them as a separate Training Associations Network with whom we would hope to organize a follow up to The Hidden Congregation conference in the near future.
 - We are still awaiting a reply from *Scripture Union Scotland*
 - The Secretary will pursue a new contact with the *Presbyterian Church of Ireland* as suggested by Richard Knott
 - The second *Church of Scotland* representative is Catherine Falconer.
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- c. It was agreed that the membership list both on the website and through our closed Google group should be updated once a year

All other matters arising from this meeting are included in the present agenda.

4. Follow-up to our 'Signposts and Milestones' conference in November 2014

- a. The new CGMC Terms of Reference were circulated for discussion including the new wording for the section entitled 'the work of CGMC' which came out of our discussions in November.
- b. There was some discussion about changing our name and *The Children's Ministry Network of Britain and Ireland* was suggested. However concern was expressed regarding the complications of changing bank details and other official documents that include the title CGMC. One solution is to keep the initials alongside the new suggested title and only use the logo without the wording around the outside.
- c. The present strap-line is: '*a network of children's and family ministry professionals from Britain and Ireland*'. People were uneasy about including the word family because of its very wide interpretation by different groups and also many felt that the intergenerational impact of our work should be reflected in some way. A possible strap line could be: '*promoting reflection and best practice for the whole church*'
Thus our new name could be:
CGMC - The Children's Ministry Network of Britain and Ireland
Promoting reflection and best practice for the whole church

It was agreed that the CGMC Executive should take the final decision on this at their next meeting.

5. CGMC workload sharing

Penny thanked those who have volunteered recently to take on roles within CGMC, including being part of the Family Ministry conference planning group, the ECCE working party and also Joy Raynor for her continued, valued work on updating the website. It was recognised that there would soon be others needed to form planning groups for future conferences.

6. Report on the Family Ministry research project with the Methodist Church

- a. The research company Merida had met with the CGMC Executive who had had a chance to go through the research findings thoroughly, making comments and suggestions for the way ahead. There were still some aspects of the research that needed to be completed including a few corrections and additions, particularly including reference to the scope of Gail's own research with focus groups across the country.
- b. The breadth of this report was welcomed and it was felt that it would be an excellent launch-pad for further discussions among children's ministry professionals and church leaders at a national, regional and local level. To help this process, it was agreed that CGMC would support Gail Adcock in producing a shorter executive summary of the report which would be made available at the launch of the findings at the September conference.
- c. It was suggested that the conference planning group might like to consider how the report's findings should be made public through a press release and also that CTBI could have a role in helping it to be disseminated to churches.
- d. It was also felt important to make it clear that this was not just a piece of Methodist research but that it should also be clearly flagged as coming from CGMC.
- e. One of the key messages of the report was that the church is heavily engaged in working among UK families.

7. Report on Core Skills for Family Ministry

- a. Gail reported on the progress of the new book which has an introductory chapter and then six sessions looking at: the Biblical background to families; why family ministry; seasons in family life; family well-being; family relationships; and families at home.
- b. The book would be launched at the same time as the research during the September CGMC conference to be held at Hope University, Liverpool.

8. Future conferences

- a. 11th – 12th September in Liverpool would be the Family Ministry Conference entitled **'We are Family - the Changing Face of Family Ministry'**
 - Gail Adcock outlined the shape of the conference and showed us some draft publicity.
 - There was an extended discussion about the budget for the conference and finally it has been agreed that the cost will be £115 for a delegate who books before the end of June and £125 thereafter. This should make the books balance with up to 100 people coming.
 - The Methodist Church has kindly agreed to handle the bookings for this conference.
 - A Pdf of the flier will be sent to members as soon as possible.

- b. 9th -13th May 2016 is the **ECCE conference at High Leigh** in Hertfordshire, which CGMC is hosting.
- Nick Harding, Karen Morrison and Penny Fuller are on the working party on behalf of CGMC, along with the ECCE Executive
 - Penny listed a number of jobs that she hoped CGMC members could volunteer to cover including: people to welcome guests at the station; people to register guests at the conference centre; people to help run a gathering activity on the first evening; and people to help lead worship at the opening welcome event. Andrea Harrison kindly agreed to co-ordinate the latter, and Mary volunteered to co-ordinate registration.
 - The theme of the conference is: 'Children as lifelong disciples'. Rev. Dr. Howard Worsley will be the key speaker each day.
 - Each day there will also be a creative Bible study, workshops, worship from different regions and, on the Wednesday of the conference, time out which will be a walking tour in London with a possible visit to either the House of Lords or Lambeth Palace.
 - The planning group is also looking for a central venue in London to gather the party. Both Grant Barclay and Denise Cooper are going to look into the possibility of using either a Church of Scotland venue or The Salvation Army International Headquarters.
 - An Irish Dance group and also a Bagpipe Band have been identified for the entertainment evening and there will also be an Open Source Market Place.
 - Aled expressed concerns about the costs of the conference for those coming from Europe because of the strength of sterling.
 - Denominations and organisations are invited to consider sponsoring some aspect of the conference.
 - The UK delegation is limited to 25 people

c. Other CGMC conferences in 2016

- a. It was agreed that a February and a November conference in 2016 would take place, each being just 24 hours in duration.
- b. The February conference would pick up themes from the Family Ministry conference in September 2015 and the existing conference planning group for that will consider how this second conference might be shaped and also where and when.
- c. It was suggested that a November 24 hour conference should look into the issues surrounding intergenerational worship including inclusivity for all abilities. The title suggested was: *What makes an Intergenerational Leader?*

Finally the question of a follow-up to 'The Hidden Congregation' was raised, but as 'Common Awards' are only starting this September, 2016 was felt to be too soon to look at this but this could possibly be a CGMC conference focus in 2017.

9. CGMC website issues

CGMC is very grateful to Joy Raynor for all she has done on the website so far. Joy is still updating links but also wishes to consider a wider reformat of the website. She invited the group to send her any ideas and promised to bring some possible ways forward to our next meeting.

10. Notice of next meeting

It was noted that there would not be an opportunity for a Business Meeting at the September conference this year and so our next CGMC Business Meeting would be during the Spring Conference 2016 – date to be advised.