



Business Meeting Minutes of the Children's Ministry Network (formerly CGMC)

Friday 15th January 2016

at the High Leigh conference centre, Hertfordshire

Present: Aled Davies (Treasurer), Penny Fuller (Moderator), Grant Barclay, Mary Hawes, Nick Harding, Denise Cooper, Sian Hancock, Joy Raynor, Jacky Storey, Andy Hughes, Sara Barron, Ann Sankey, Jenny Warbrick, Mel Cook, Sarah Smart and Martyn Payne (Secretary).

Apologies: James Mulhall, Ed Jones, Lorraine Darlow, Karen Morrison, Naomi Wood, Gail Adcock, Andrea Harrison, Richard Knott, Mo Baldwin and Alan Charter.

Penny chaired the meeting.

1. Matters arising from the previous CGMC business meeting (18/03/15)

Action

Follow up to the Family Ministry conference in September 2015 was discussed during a separate session of this 24 hour conference

2. Finance

Aled presented a draft copy of the annual accounts for 2015. Our balance at the beginning of 2016 was £12,809.15. The Liverpool Family Ministry conference covered its costs when we take into account the Methodist grant towards this.

Because of our current healthy financial situation, it was agreed that subscription fees for 2015 would be waived. Aled handed out invoices to those present for the annual membership fee for 2016.

All

Our current financial balance is larger than it has been in the past and there was some discussion as to how best to use some of this money. It was suggested that CMN (CGMC) sponsor a special event or activity at the ECCE conference this May. The balance also means that we have the possibility of investing in a further big conference (like the 'The Hidden Congregation') with a focus on Family Ministry in 2017.

3. Matters arising from the CMN Executive Minutes (06/11/15)

At this meeting the Executive had approved the change of name from CGMC to Children's Ministry Network. Our terms of reference have also been amended following discussion at the last Business Meeting. At the moment our bank details will stay as CGMC and so we will need for a while to refer to ourselves the Children's Ministry Network (formerly known as CGMC). Our present logo would need to be changed as well and the Executive would look into this. In addition it was suggested that a new web address be sought for the UK and Penny Fuller agreed to look into this

Exec

PF

with the help of the IT department at Methodist Church House. For a while we will clearly be in a time of transition when both names will need to be used.

Aled agreed to amend the existing Pdf leaflet all about our network with the change of name, new terms of reference and current membership. It was agreed that we would pay for 200/300 of these leaflets to be printed so they could be made available for the ECCE conference and for other networking opportunities.

AD

The Executive also reported that a working group had compiled a letter to be sent to the Department of Education in response to its call for evidence re. out-of-school education settings. This letter had been shared with the membership for approval before the deadline earlier this month.

4. Membership update

The Secretary welcomed a number of suggested new contacts that could be made in order to widen the network in accordance with our constitution. Martyn will approach Hannah Field about contacts with black majority churches and Ian White and Caroline Edwards as individual members from Cliff College. Andy Hughes agreed to pass on some other contact details and Martyn will also pursue a new contact for the Congregational Federation.

MP

5. Future conferences

a. ECCE conference 9th – 13th May 2016

Penny reported on behalf of the ECCE UK working group, which is meeting again at the end of this month. The theme of the conference will be 'accompanying children on their life-long journey of discipleship'. Penny invited members to put in bids for leading workshops and also said there would be a need for hosts for the walking tour in London on one of the days as well as volunteers for various parts of the programme. Penny was very grateful for help from the Salvation Army who have agreed to host a group at their Elephant and Castle Headquarters following the day in London.

All

Bookings are very low at the moment. It is hoped that there will be 25 representatives from UK organisations and denominations. Penny agreed to look into the possibility of day attendance at the conference for some British delegates.

PF

CMN agreed to sponsor with £1000 'goodie bags' for the conference.

Simon from the URC is collecting video clips of children's and family ministry to be compiled into a presentation about work in the UK and he would welcome all contributions from members.

All

b. November CMN conference in Birmingham

This will be a 24 hour conference in Birmingham to be held in the week of the 14th November – days to be confirmed as soon as possible (hopefully Tuesday 15th - Wednesday 16th). The focus will be on mapping children's ministry training and children's ministry

MP

research across the UK. Sian has kindly agreed to lead one of the sessions during this conference.

c. Spring 2017

James Mulhall has kindly invited us to come to southern Ireland for a 48 hour conference in Feb/March 2017. Further details and dates will be made available as soon as possible.

d. November 2017

This could be an opportunity to run a bigger conference on the theme of family ministry inviting Principals and Directors of Study from a wide range of training colleges. The Executive will discuss this and set up a working party as soon as possible.

e. Spring 2018

It was suggested that a 48 hour conference in Scotland might be a possibility.

6. CMN (CGMC) website issues

Joy reported on the existing website. It is a basically a tool for us as members and as such is deliberately not particularly 'all singing and dancing'. She urged us to check links to our denominations and organisations; she is regularly making changes to make it easier to find current information and forthcoming conferences.

All

Joy will await the result of Penny's discussions at Methodist Church House (see above) concerning migrating the content of the website to a new domain name.

7. The meeting ended with silent prayer for each other and the wider ministries we represent.

Date of next meeting: 16th November at IMC, Birmingham (tbc)