

Minutes of the Extraordinary Circuit Meeting of the Sutton Park Circuit
held on 23 January 2020 at Boldmere Methodist Church

Chaired by Rev Stephen Willey

Stephen opened the meeting with some words from Mark's Gospel and with prayer

Membership of the Meeting Attendees were asked to sign the attendance sheet. By signing the sheet, you are confirming details held by Steve Buck are correct. Stephen reminded the meeting that visitors were unable to vote on any items during the meeting.

Apologies for Absence There were 17 members present, 3 visitors and 19 apologies were received.

Background - Stephen

At our last Circuit Meeting in November we agreed the proposal : The Circuit Meeting supports the Emerging Church work at Falcon Lodge and in other circuit churches and encourages the CLT to explore the use of additional support to develop this work and enable individuals and families to make a commitment to Christ. Since November we have been invited by the Connexion through the District to explore if the Sutton Park Circuit would welcome an additional half time appointment of a presbyter. This presbyter will be coming from Zimbabwe to be the part time National Chaplain to the Zimbabwe Fellowship. We have been invited to submit a profile for a Minister of other church of Conference (MOCC). with view to the presbyter living and serving part time in the Sutton Park Circuit.

Marion explained the situation in Sutton Park Circuit. Rev Malcolm Oliver, current Superintendent, has pastoral care of 4 churches, Erdington, St Chads, Stockland Green and Witton. The possibility of a half time appointment for a Mission Presbyter at Stockland Green would free up Malcolm to continue his work as Superintendent supporting the churches around the Circuit while maintaining Pastoral care of his 3 other churches. (Erdington, Witton & St Chads) This would also give Malcolm more opportunity to explore and enable the development of Emerging Church such as that at Witton, Falcon Lodge and Four Oaks.

As a Circuit we benefited from having Andrew Brazier working with us especially in the Urban and Estates cluster. Andrew was a half time appointment, and working alongside the other ministers, he achieved more than we could have imagined.

As this would be a Mission appointment the financing would come from some of the proceeds following the sale of 2 Four Oaks Road.

Questions asked by the meeting:

Concerning the Emerging Church - how will the amount of Ministerial time, for example from Malcolm and Rachel Thomas-Prasad, be utilised at each church? It was requested that this be taken to and discussed by the CLT. Agreed.

What expenses will be needed to bring the proposed Manse (140b Chester Road) up to the required standard and how do the tenants feel about this proposition?

Marion said that MO & MW had visited the manse and had a long conversation with the tenants; they have always understood that it might at some point revert to use as a manse and of course they feel some anxiety. The property will need some money spending on it but until it is empty this amount cannot be assessed. As a Presbyter would be coming from overseas we will need to furnish it.

The Zimbabwe Fellowship Chaplaincy is a busy appointment, how can we be sure that there will be enough time to give half to the Sutton Park Circuit appointment?

Stephen responded - The presbyter would have supervision and a clear allocation of his time.

Stephen read the proposal:

Proposed Malcolm Oliver

The Circuit meeting agrees to pursue a part time 'Mission Presbyter' within the Sutton Park Circuit to support the current ministry at Stockland Green and further enable the development of 'Emerging Church'.

Seconded Giles Wheeler

Carried unanimously - 17 for + 3 proxy votes.

Meeting closed with the Grace at 7.49pm