

GENERAL SYNOD

Anglican-Methodist Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group

Annual Report

Introduction

1 The Joint Advocacy and Monitoring Group has met twice this year and has continued its work of encouraging and enabling both churches to live and grow in their covenant relationship. While significant time has been given to monitoring the ongoing processes in relation to *Mission and Ministry in Covenant* the group also wishes to affirm and advocate the important opportunities for mission already afforded by the Covenant, and to affirm the work of Methodist-Anglican Panel of Unity in Mission (MAPUM) in identifying and sharing these.

Living in Covenant

2 It continues to be important to enable the sharing of experiences of working together, both when this is positive and encouraging and when it is more challenging. Stories have been gathered and posted on the Covenant website and this continues to be one way in which to share information and learn from one another.

3 Having met with the Digital Content Officer of the Methodist Church, the Group has proposed the production of a variety of resources to support conversations around the Covenant. These might include:

- i) 5-6 short videos of good news stories that can be used through social media channels.
- ii) A 10-15-minute video presentation of the covenant relationship for use in meetings such as Deanery Synods and Circuit meetings. The short 'story' videos could be included in this.
- iii) An update to the existing Frequently Asked Questions document.

A small amount of funding is needed to support this advocacy work. The Methodist Church has committed its share of this funding, and colleagues within the Church of England are seeking to match this; I hope and expect that this will be done.

4 As Co-Chair of JCAMG, I met with the Methodist Anglican Panel on Unity in Mission (MAPUM) in March 2018 and presented on the work of the Group. While recognising that there is support in both Churches for the Covenant, both MAPUM and JCAMG wish to encourage a deeper connection with, and passion for, the Covenant relationship.

5 The 13 Covenant Champions met with the National and Connexional Ecumenical Officers and Mr David Walton (our Methodist Co-Chair) in March 2019. We are grateful for their commitment and acknowledge the important role they have in encouraging the development of relationships within the Covenant.

6 *The gifts we receive...* is a consultation over two days in June and October 2019. Participants will use the methodology of Receptive Ecumenism to identify and focus on gifts received from the other church, consider how the gifts received can help each church in its life and mission to flourish. Thought will then be given to ways of sharing this with others.

Mission and Ministry in Covenant

7 The joint work of the Faith and Order Committee of the Methodist Church and the Faith and Order Commission of the Church of England has been much appreciated by the JCAMG. It is anticipated that the *Mission and Ministry in Covenant* proposals will come to the General Synod in July 2019 and then to the Methodist Conference for debate and decision.

8 The group has identified the need for accessible resources to support discussion of *Mission and Ministry in Covenant* in local contexts and will be doing further work on this should the proposals be commended for further decision by the General Synod and the Methodist Conference.

The Rt Revd Paul Bayes

Bishop of Liverpool and

Anglican Co-Chair of the Anglican-Methodist Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring

Group

May 2019