



GOVERNING BODY OF LINCOLN READERS
www.lincolnreaders.org

**Minutes of the 237th meeting of the Governing Body of the Association held at
 The Methodist Church, Horncastle on Wednesday 16th May 2018 at 7.30 pm**

Item:	Subject:	Actions:
1	<p>Opening Prayers: - led by Sue Slater, Elloe Deanery.</p> <p>Welcome: The Chairman welcomed all in attendance</p> <p>Present: Sally Buck, Warden of Readers; John Marshall, Chairman; Sue Slater, Susan Horle; Nigel Bacon; Margaret Smith; Marion Hewis; Kevin Onn; Derek Page; and Shirley Keyes (taking minutes)</p> <p>Apologies for absence: Neil Burgess, Chris Ladner, Paul Whiteley, Chris Woadden and Nigel Bacon.</p>	
2	There were no appointments or resignations to record.	
3	The Minutes of the 236th Meeting of the Governing Body held on 20 th January were approved and accepted as a true and accurate record.	
4	Matters Arising from previous minutes:	
4.1	The meeting with David Dadswell re Learning Communities had to be postponed because of inclement weather. Readers interested in participating in this initiative will be contacted with new dates.	
5	CRC Consultation	
5.1	<p>Sally Buck, John Marshall and Nigel Bacon attended the consultation in York in February. All the national consultations have now taken place around the country to gather information from all dioceses.</p> <p>SB felt that they were being listened to in a 'proscribed' way. SB and JM were able to report the views of +Nicholas and deaneries presented at the January meeting. Most dioceses were in agreement about way forward.</p> <p>The CRC AGM is in April. The CRC is about to appoint a 0.5 post to set up training and implement courses for Teachers of the Faith/Leadership in Community and Church/Mentorship and Coaching Skills. This post will sit alongside the Setting God's People Free appointment.</p>	

5.2	<p>JM stated that he was willing to do some research with current Reader membership. It is clear that different bishops have differing ideas of how Readers are deployed. Dioceses will have to pay for training which has significant cost implications. This cost implication would be reduced if enough dioceses opt in to make it viable.</p> <p>Research would also be required re recruitment. SH felt that Readers already do a lot of work especially in vacancy and need support. There is a lot of commitment from Readers especially those who are still in paid employment.</p>	
6.0	<p>Strategic Review</p>	
6.1	<p>This discussion of a review relates to Item 5 on the minutes of the 236th Meeting held in January. Following on from a dialogue of the Standing Committee, Nigel Bacon has carried out some work on area structure shape and vision and strategy within the diocese. +Nicholas is very supportive of taking a fresh look at this.</p> <p>Peterborough diocese have had similar issues to Lincoln i.e. lack of involvement. They now have a Reader Council of about 8 to 10 people including key positions which seems to be working well. This is not a criticism of active wardens and area secretaries just a need to collect information about roles/activity. JM reminded everyone that the role of the area secretary has changed considerably from a central contact for the Rural Dean and administering pots of separate finance.</p> <p>Is it worth maintaining an area structure that isn't meeting needs of its members? However, what structure is required? The results of a survey will feed into a long-term strategic review. Readers are an enabling function. What does that look like as a function of lay ministry? What does the structure of the governing body need to look like to support this vision?</p> <p>A strategy workshop has been organised for the 28th July and will involve a steering group of Readers/clergy including +Nicholas for ½ a day. Unfortunately, Reverend Chris Woadden is not available that day. SB is trying to get an idea from the bishop about the shape of the morning. SB would like an incumbent involved who is used to working alongside Readers. Names suggested included Canon Alan Hayday, Charles Patrick and Andrew Roberts. Whoever is chosen must be a process person.</p> <p>It was agreed that the survey would go ahead and include some open ended questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what are barriers to you participating • what would work for you • if you are not involved in area meetings, where are you resourcing yourself/training • are you happy with what is supplied by the centre <p>It is important that we all receive spiritual nourishment and nurturing. SB remarked that many people who attended the Learning Communities day on 5 May had not been to other activities.</p> <p>Cross diocese training could come out of CRC research. Currently some Readers in diocese already access information from other dioceses.</p>	

	<p>Timetable going forward: July 2018 – Survey Readers Gather background material Draft strategy review 10 October 2018 – Meeting of Governing Body 27 October 2018 – AGM of Lincoln Readers. Hopefully approval will be given for proposals to be put forward for 2019 AGM.</p>	
7.0	<p>Warden Updates</p>	
7.1	<p>2018 Annual Service SB had met with John Campbell and Sal McDougall to discuss the celebration of lay ministry. The event will run between 9.30am and 11.30am which will be framed in worship i.e. 3 x 20 minute worship times. There will be thanks for the past, present and the future; hopefully a road map will be forming for us to do something creative for ‘what next’. The AGM will be in the afternoon. Future themes: 2019- 50th Anniversary of women’s ministry – suggestion that the service moves to a different church 2020 - Quinquennial Discernment Day for Readers SB/MS and LB-Smith have had an initial meeting. Potential readers will articulate their vocation by any medium in a group which will be followed by an interview. SB has not had any names yet from Sally Myers. Possibly only one candidate coming through. Too many people are steered to ordination either consciously or unconsciously. Is this because there has been no lay people involved in discernment process? SB is the only lay vocations adviser. There is no substantial ALM course to attract those people who are lifelong learners.</p>	
8.0	<p>Warden Updates</p>	
8.1	<p>Launde 2019 – 6-9 September. David Shenton leading July 2020 – 17-19 July Retreat at Willersley</p>	
9.0	<p>Area Updates Sue Slater reported that the person leading the quiet day at Edenham did more of a study day. However, it was too late for SS to influence the content. Disappointing turn out as only seven attended. Captain Paul Whiteley was suggested to lead a future quiet day. JM reminded secretaries to let him know of any future events taking place. Susan Horle went to Spring Harvest for the first time. She attended a talk about getting people in the pew to talk about Jesus. The Evangelical Alliance in conjunction with the CofE and others is about to publish the biggest research of its kind on perceptions of Jesus, Christians and evangelism in England. 60% of people know a practising Christian and Christians are thought of positively i.e. “pleasant, nice, kind, generous.” See website www.eauk.org “Talking Jesus” for more information.</p>	
10.0	<p>Any other business Currently Lincoln diocese does not have a disciplinary process for Readers. JM briefly outlined the background why there were guidelines but no formal process. SB and JM met with +Nicholas on the 8 May to</p>	

discuss a governance procedure drafted by JM.

Future Dates:

10th October 2018 – Meeting of Governing Body at Horncastle Methodist Church. Please note that the meeting will start at **7pm**.

27th October 2018 – Annual Service and AGM

19th January 2019 – Annual Extended Meeting of Governing Body at The Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa.

Future Governing Body meetings - **prayers to be led by:**

	Lincoln Area	October 2018
	Horncastle/Bolingbroke	January 2019
	Holland Area	May 2019
	West Lindsey/Scunthorpe	October 2019

Signed:

Chairman Date: