

Unity Methodist Church

Charity number: 1173520

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

1. STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Unity Methodist Church is part of the 'Methodist Church of Great Britain' whose status as a charity has historically been derived from the Deed of Union 1932 and the Methodist Church Act 1976. We are connected to Cheshire South Methodist Circuit which itself is part of the Chester & Stoke-on-Trent Methodist District.

We operate in the administrative unitary authority area of Cheshire East.

Our constitutional practices can be found in

www.methodist.org/ministers-and-office-holders/cpd

As a Methodist Society we are accountable to Circuit, District and Connexion and are required to comply with regulations laid down in the Constitution, Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, which is updated annually. As a Society we make decisions at Church Council meetings of which we are required to hold at least two per year and more as and when required by the local situations. Voting members of Church Council must be members of The Methodist Church of Great Britain and trustees of Unity Methodist Church. The Church Council is supported by a number of sub-committees responsible for such things as finance, property, stewards, pastoral care.

Risk management - the major risks to which the charity is exposed have been identified and mitigating actions are being developed. Appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and financial error.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act having due regard to public benefit as per guidance published by the Charity Commission.

2. OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

On September 1st 2020, Unity Methodist Church (UMC), based in Sandbach formally came into being.

UMC was formed with the merging of three Methodist Churches, Sandbach, Wheelock and Sandbach Heath Methodist Churches following the approval of their three Church Councils (as Trustee Bodies) in January and February 2020.

UMC Church Council became the new Trustee Body and continued to meet monthly on Zoom. It has responsibility for three sites and nearly 200 church members.

As the country was still in a period of restrictions due to the COVID pandemic, all meetings and most acts of worship continued online with weekly worship services uploaded on the audio distribution platform, SoundCloud and a fortnightly act of worship on Zoom. Our weekly prayer group continued to meet on Zoom and this has continued after the ending of lockdown with an appreciably higher number in attendance.

In-person services (with restrictions) were begun in the autumn of 2020 but were suspended again in December and were only re-introduced in the summer of 2021. Throughout this period of uncertainty, personal contact with church members and those on our pastoral roll was maintained through telephone calls, messaging and outdoor meetings when the weather allowed!

Our popular weekly community coffee mornings were suspended during lockdown and were replaced by a Saturday morning meeting on Zoom. This was particularly appreciated by those living alone and by members from the local Dementia Friendly Sandbach group.

Our toddler group, Stepping Stones resumed in early 2021, working under an approved Risk Assessment with pre-booking required and a restriction in numbers, under the supervision of our Circuit Children and Family Worker. Our C&FW also scripted and filmed a "virtual" Nativity Story with church members filmed separately in costume, telling their story. These interviews were then edited and sent to local primary schools in the run-up to Christmas. Two local Primary Schools also received a follow up "visit" on Zoom from some of the characters in the story.

By August 2021, we were pleased to be able to hold our annual Holiday Club in-person.

Members also contributed to the recording of a Churches Together in Sandbach YouTube Carol Service and a "drive-in" carol service in the town centre. Unity were also part of the making and delivery of Christmas Teas on Christmas Eve.

The foodbank continued to operate throughout lockdown with a steady increase in numbers of those being referred. It remains an internal organization of Unity. In January and February, Unity's Justice and Peace Group hosted 3 discussion sessions on Zoom on the subject of Racial Justice. For these sessions we were glad to be joined by members from the local Black Lives Matter Group, members from other churches who had experienced first-hand racial injustice and prejudice. For our final session we were pleased to be led by Rev. Anthony Reddie, a Methodist theologian and author, and an expert in this field.

Under testing circumstances, the life of the church continued albeit under the restrictions in place at the time.

5. FINANCIAL REVIEW

5.1 Financial Report

The forced closure of the church building and other government guidance relating to Covid19 restrictions has inevitably affected both regular income and expenditure throughout the financial year in which this review applies.

Total receipts in the year amounted to £89,379 and total payments amounted to £94,537. The main sources of income were regular giving with tax recovery (£56,112), room lettings (£14,713), preschool lease (£7,000), and other donations etc (£8,267). The main outgoings were, the contribution to circuit assessment (£61,243), utility costs (£12,102), employment costs (£7,672), building maintenance (£6,131) and insurance (£3913). Two Trust funds, total value £1,120 were closed during the year and proceeds transferred to the General Fund to meet general costs.

5.2 Accounts (incorporated into pdf)

5.3 Report on Assets & Liabilities (incorporated into pdf)

5.4 Independent examiners report (incorporated into pdf)

6. RESERVES POLICY

The reserves policy for 2022/2023 is to ideally hold £63,000 in readily available funds in the General Fund (unrestricted). This is sufficient to meet typical general expenditure for a normal period of six months, based on pre-Covid evidence.

Our restricted funds are generally derived from collections and events advertised as for other charities. This type of income is normally paid out in the same financial year. There was very little activity to raise funds during the year due to Covid.

Financial statements for the year ending 31 August 2021 (first year following merger)

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account (Unrestricted)

A RECEIPTS

1 Voluntary receipts

Regular Giving

Cash	£3,289.30	
Envelopes	£7,244.50	
Standing Orders	£24,815.00	
Regular donations	£3,184.01	
Income Tax recovered	£17,579.12	£56,111.93

Other voluntary receipts

Donations	£3,616.35	
Internal organisation's donations	£600.00	£4,216.35

2 Receipts from activities for generating funds

Fund raising for church funds		£845.37
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2a Legacies

3 Receipts from Investments

£50.62

4 Receipts from trading activities

Room lettings	£14,713.00	
Pre school lease and additional costs	£7,000.00	£21,713.00

5 other income

Funeral fees etc	£300.00	
Grants	£560.95	
Miscellaneous	£3,189.90	£4,050.85

Total receipts

£86,988.12

B PAYMENTS

1 Principle payments for church activities

Circuit Assessment	£61,243.20
Donations	£1,317.50
wages and associated costs	£7,671.56
Premises repairs/maintenance/fire	£6,131.13
Other cleaning costs	£118.09
Utilities	£12,101.87
insurance	£3,912.76
Telephone and broadband	£237.58
Licences	£593.20
Office costs	£285.97
fundraising costs/catering	£120.33
Young people and family work	£389.26
Other costs	£262.18

Total payments

£94,384.63

	opening balance	receipts	payments	closing balance
Restricted funds receipts and payments				
Church Charity Fund	£143.85	£268.98	£150.00	£262.83
Total of restricted funds	£143.85	£268.98	£150.00	£262.83

	opening balance	receipts	payments	closing balance
Account analysis				
Unrestricted Funds	£82,733.34	£86,988.12	£94,384.63	£75,336.83
Restricted Funds	£143.85	£268.98	£150.00	£262.83
Closure of TMCP Trust Fund		£1,120.00		£1,120.00
TMCP transactions on closure (unrestricted)		£1.88	£2.24	-£0.36
Internal transfer from Foodbank for use of facilities (unrestricted)		£1,000.00		£1,000.00
total	£82,877.19	£89,378.98	£94,536.87	£77,719.30

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31st August 2021

Monetary assets

cash in hand	£2.47	
current bank accounts	£10,380.44	
Church CFB account	£67,336.39	
total	£77,719.30	£77,719.30
less included unrepresented cheques	£4,380.00	
income received and not yet banked	£688.20	
less monies received for charities and not yet distributed	£0.00	
	-£3,691.80	£74,027.50

Assets, buildings and land (insurance value)	£8,934,850
Contents (insurance value)	£201,815

Internal organisations with separate funds

	starting balance	receipts	payments	closing balance
Sandbach Foodbank	£13,720.00	£13,668.19	£6,441.41	£20,946.78
Lifeline Debt Advice	£2,803.09	£8,270.00	£8,085.14	£2,987.95
Wesley Guild	£7.79	£0.00	£0.00	£7.79
Bowling club	£872.26	£1.06	£600.00	£273.32
Ladies Circle	£1,542.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,542.00
Mums & Tots (NH)	£743.39	£0.00	£0.00	£743.39
total	£19,688.53	£21,939.25	£15,126.55	£26,501.23

signed 

DJ Priaux (treasurer)

signed 

Revd. Jeremy Tresise, (Chair of Church Council)

Date 23/6/22

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Unity Methodist Church

This Report relates to the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year

under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is the examiners responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act),
- to state whether particular matters have come to his/her attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- _ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- _ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act and regulations

have not been met or:

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be

I have not obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB")

Name KATHLEEN E WHARTON

Signature K E Wharton

Relevant Professional qualification or body

Address 5 Lloyd Jones Road, CW1 5AE

Date 13 January 2022

7. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

7.1 Appointments in the 2020/21 financial year

Minister and Chair of Trustees: Reverend Jeremy Tresise

Treasurer: David Priaulx, Finance Steward: Ann Horsfield

Trustees: Timothy Cooke, Linda Jones, Karen Foster, Robert Glassonbury, Ann Horsfield, Stephen Parker-Aiken, Isobel Brislen, Nilda Eyre, Jayne Bunn, Katy Lowe, Alan Pimlott, Pauline Sherwin, David Wharton (deceased May 2021)

In addition to the Trustees, many volunteers provide support to the running of the charity in various roles.

More details about our church can be found on our web site and Facebook page.

Website: www.unitymethodistchurchsandbach.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UnityMethodistChurchSandbach>

7.2 Principal address for Correspondence

16 Chapel Street
Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1DS

7.3 Independent examiner

Mrs Kathleen Wharton
5 Lloyd Jones Road
Haslington
Cheshire
CW1 5AE

7.4 Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
PO Box 250
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT