



MODERATOR: REVD DR ANDREW PRASAD
SYNOD CLERK: SIMON FAIRNINGTON

Island House — Cover Letter

September 2015

Dear Friends,

You will have seen on the agenda for the Synod Meeting on 19th September, an item concerning the new trust document for Island House, a charity, administered under the auspices of our Synod, which does valuable community work in the Docklands area.

In January last year, Synod representatives met with representatives from the URC Trust (Professor David Thompson — URCT chair, Augur Pearce, and Andrew Middleton — the URC's solicitor). At that meeting matters were discussed concerning irregularities that have their roots in the history of Island House going back to the formation of the URC, and earlier.

For the purpose of placing the affairs of Island House on a better legal footing, it was thought that a fresh trust deed should be drafted, modelled on the original 1940 deed. Andrew Middleton drew up the new draft deed, to be offered, in due course, for approval by the various parties concerned: Thames North Synod, the URCT, and not least the members of the current Island House Committee who will be Managing Trustees of Island House, under the new deed.

It should be noted that the URC's interests in the new deed are safeguarded in that the Managing Trustees shall at all times comprise a majority of persons who are URC members.

It was also decided that final approval of the new deed should wait until Resolution 21 was passed at General Assembly. This resolution, duly passed, vested in the Synod all powers with regard to any trust or any power of nomination that were previously vested in The Presbytery of London North. (i.e. confirms Synod's power to approve the new Island House deed.)

Our own solicitor, Simon Leney (of Cripps, Harries, Hall) is amenable to this new approach.

It was hoped to bring this matter to Synod in November 2014 and the draft Trust Deed was circulated by email. However a number of minor changes were not agreed in time. These changes have all been agreed and the new Island House deed to Synod is now presented to Synod representatives to allow close scrutiny, especially from those who are more legally minded.

My hope is that at Synod 19th September, members will approve the new deed.

For those who are interested I have also attached a brief history of Island House. If you require a printed copy of the draft deed, please contact my PA, Sue Russell, at the Synod Office (modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk or 020 7799 5000, option 1).

If you have any queries, I would ask that you raise them with me before we get to the Synod Meeting, in order not to waste Synod time on what will hopefully be a straightforward matter.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Fairnington
Synod Clerk

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