

Note of a meeting of the Inclusive Church Synod Campaign group held on 11th May 2013

Present –

Simon Sarmiento (IC), Sally Barnes (WATCH London), John Plant (Modern Church), Keith Elliott (IC), Colin Coward (CA), Anne Stephens (WATCH), Giles Goddard (IC), Mike Dark (LGBT AC, EFLGC), Bob Callaghan (IC),

Apologies - Jean Maitland, Tanya Ralph

1. Information exchange: Groups outlined their current position and plans for Synod.
   1. WATCH are revitalising their Diocesan network. WATCH London held a very successful meeting addressed by Lucy Winkett and Stephen France. Papers circulate
   2. Modern Church keen to participate
   3. Inclusive Church have made this a strategic priority: need to work into the Coordinator’s work plan
   4. Changing Attitude are developing their diocesan networks and will make this a key strategic priority
   5. LGBT AC and the Evangelical Fellowship keep to support
   6. GRAS are also keen to be involved.
2. The priority is to work alongside the WATCH campaign to ensure a more inclusive synod. Clearly women bishops is going to be the main issue, but we must do all we can to ensure that other questions of inclusion – poverty, disability, mental health, lesbian and gay matters – are on the agenda.

1. The challenge is to reach Deanery Synod members – the electorate. How? Single campaign with a number of phases

2 strands – 1 – get people to stand

2 - get people to vote.

We need a clear campaign strategy with clear calls to action and milestones: calling for change? What kind of church do we want to see? Creating a church like you!

We also need a clear manifesto, setting out what we envisage the church could be and what our aspirations are. And how we can detoxify the brand.

How is the campaign structured? Milestones

1. Agreed that Keith, John and Simon would work together on a draft campaign strategy, drawing on other similar campaigns – operation Black Vote etc – to see what they did and how it is effective. Also to talk to marketing agencies/consultants.
2. Crucial and urgent work: to build a database of Diocesan contacts for each organisation, so that the information can be pooled, WITH THE ULTIMATE INTENTION OF HAVING A CONTACT IN EVERY DEANERY. Bob, Rachel, Sally, Colin agreed to work on this, with the assistance of Jean Maitland. .
3. Money: GG to do a draft budget. Contributions from organisations hoped for. Or raise money independently?

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 21st September 2013 at 11 a..m at St Andrew’s, Short Street.