

Independency and Interdependency

Towards the end of 2019, the idea of setting up an organisation to support and plant churches was discussed. A meeting was arranged to discuss and propose this new venture. Malcolm Watts spoke at the meeting on 'Independency and Interdependency'. The need of independent churches to help and support one another was the essence of the message. There was a warm response to the proposal.

Steering Group

The proposals of the new venture were further discussed at Salisbury Reformed Seminary and Christian Worship Committee. Early in 2020, it was agreed to form a steering committee for the purposes of setting up a new organisation to support and plant churches. The seven men on the committee are Malcolm Watts, Roland Burrows, Richard Clarke, Dewi Higham, Jonathan Northern, Neil Pfeiffer and John Thackway; Patricia Dunn helps with administration.



Church Support Fellowship

'Church Support Fellowship' was the chosen name for the new organisation. One of its first actions was to agree a doctrinal statement. In due course, the plan is to acquire charitable status with the Charity Commission. At present, the finances are in the care of Beacon Park Baptist Church, Plymouth.

An overwhelming need

Church Support Fellowship has contacted a dozen or so churches with the offer of support. It is hoped to add to this list over time.

Over these months of establishing this work, it is already apparent there is an overwhelming need to support our churches and help maintain the gospel cause in our land.

A need for prayer

We have made these churches a matter of prayer. The churches contacted would echo the prayer of Paul "Brethren, pray for us" (1 Thess. 5:25).

We shall pray for them.

A burden shared

We respect the need of confidentiality. When we share some details about a church, it will be with their permission.

An elder in Robert Street Baptist Chapel, Lower Gornal said, "in respect to our own gathering and its needs, the crux of the matter is we need a true under-shepherd as Jeremiah proclaims 'a man according to mine heart' ... this is not a want or a hope, it is a real need".

Support for churches

We have plans to visit the churches, support with practical help and provide administrative or financial advice.

We are also working on a list of preachers who could provide a faithful ministry to the churches. Those on the preachers list would include pastors, retired pastors, students training for the ministry and men set aside by the churches to preach.

Future and Additional

There are many more things we would wish to do to help the gospel cause in our land. We trust the Lord will equip us with the vision and the resources for this great work. We are reminded that it is the Lord's work.

"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain." (Revelation 3:2)