



**Central Regional CCRS Meeting
Willson House, Nottingham
27th January 2012**

Present:

Eamonn Elliott. Newman University (Chair)
Julia Palmer, Nottingham.
Steve O'Brien, Northampton.
Deacon Paul Wyer, Northampton.

Apologies:

Stephen Yates, Maryvale.
Philomena Cullen, Mgt Beaufort Institute.

1.0. Previous Minutes: Accepted as correct.

2.0. Matters arising:

- 2.1. Previous item 3.2. No written confirmation from Irish Bishops recognising validity of CCRS in Ireland. Irish students in Ireland who studied in England will have to get the cert recognised individually with prospective employers.
- 2.2. Previous item 3.3. CCRS Cert for head teachers. Question, what is the aim of this? Is it Catholic Leadership? If so, then perhaps CCRS is not the right vehicle for this. Discuss at conference in March perhaps.
- 2.3. Previous item 5.0. Demise of Ushaw as source of studying CCRS `on line`. The last Board of Studies Meeting discussed this and a rep from Ushaw was to discuss with the Board. What would be required to get the scheme up and running at a new venue? Apparently Ushaw have been talking with Hope Uni, Liverpool, and have given them their resources etc. Various `permissions` still need to be sorted and Ros Buttle (Ex CCRS on line at Ushaw) is now at Hope and may be similarly involved there.

J.P. noted that one of her students is already doing a module `on line` at Hope. S.O`B, also noted that Lancaster Uni were offering CCRS `on line`. This was checked on the Lancaster website and they are in fact offering the full CCRS `on line` with relevant fees quoted etc.

Have these courses been approved by the Board?

Can we refer students to these courses?

This region would query the 10 hours contact time required for each module.

How is this handled?

Should `on line` be available for the odd module only or should the whole course be available for the cert. This Region would not as a matter of course, like to recommend this form of study in preference to peer interaction and tutor contact time that would be normal part of studying in a Centre.

There is concern that we were not told about this facility as we may have been disadvantaging some of our students who needed to pick up the odd module missed during the study year.

Lifelight Centre: This is the centre for taking modules by correspondence. Is it still functioning? Some of the Nottingham students are having trouble making contact etc.

3.0. Report from Centres:

- 3.1. Northampton: 15 – 20 people started in Slough September 2010 and 5 will gain their certs. It should be noted that most of the rest have passed between 2 – 6 modules, so hopefully they too will complete the course in a couple of years. In September 2011, 17 – 20 students started studying at our new venue in Bedford.
- 3.2. Nottingham: This centre offers the course over one Saturday and one evening per module. It also includes retreats and lasts a 2 year period. There is also a good emphasis on the `Living Ministry` course, which is in fact CCRS for those who do not want to do the essays. They instead write a journal and receive the Bishop`s Cert on completion. This is an interesting way of emphasising this aspect of the course and could be considered by the Diocesan Centres and marketed differently to the CCRS? 7 people received the CCRS Cert in Nottingham last year.
- 3.3. Newman: Large numbers registered for CCRS this year (partly due to a letter sent out by the CES encouraging schools to remind teachers that they should have CCRS). All following figures are approximate. 140 new students have started CCRS and Newman are awaiting payments etc. 60 continuing from last year.
55 certificates issued to students that had completed CCRS in 2011.
There are 4 classes (Evening group, two year 1 CCRS groups and one year 2 CCRS group).
Nearly all CCRS students are intending to become teachers thus their interest in the course.

4.0. Board of Studies Feedback:

- 4.1. Oonagh Stannard is resigning from her post.
- 4.2. Southern Region is having difficulty in getting reps to meetings. Considering doing this by Skype. Do we think this would work?

5.0. National Conference at Hothorpe Hall, 14/15th March 2012. The Board have asked us to suggest items for discussion.

- 5.1. Evaluation of course content. This Region discussed this for some time and considers that the module as currently set up, are good for what we are trying to achieve. It offers the flexibility to adapt the course to suit the varying needs of the students especially when linked with the Specialist Modules. They also cover all the key elements of our Faith. We do not consider serious alterations are required.
- 5.2. We should however make sure that the contents taught in the modules are up to date. Consider how this can be done. How can we exchange ideas to keep these modules current and fresh in the classroom?
- 5.3. Moderation, as carried out at this meeting is essential. Important that individual tutors are also involved in this. For example, in Northampton there are 8 tutors for the 8 modules. There should be a means of meeting/ moderating each others module to make sure there is consistency of standard and also to reassure the tutors that they are on the right level. Can we consider how to do this at our Centres?

6.0. Next Meeting: 6th July 2012, 11am – 2.30, at Newman University.

Note: Paul Wyr will be standing down as Administrator for the Northampton Diocese at the end of this academic year. Mr Warren Edwards will thereafter be looking after administration and a person yet to be appointed will look after the academic aspects of the course in Northampton. Mr Steve O`Brien is kindly and in the short term, acting as a `bridge` over this period and will attend the National Conference.