

Sheffield Methodist District Mission Policy Action Plan

Developing a positive culture for discipleship through learning, changing and joining in

Learning: We will help people grow into and learn to be confident disciples of Jesus

Aim	Action	When	Responsible person or body	Financial resources to be applied	Human resources to be applied	Expected outcomes	
Learning: helping people to become, learn and grow into confident disciples of Jesus through sharing their stories	L.1	Support the take up of opportunities for missional, evangelistic and bespoke learning, including those offered locally by Cliff College and the Urban Theology Unit.	Ongoing	L&D group Grants Committee or other group	Financial support through grants where appropriate	L&D group Grants Committee or other group	People equipped to exercise their particular ministry to a greater potential.
	L.2	Identify needs for learning and development which are not being met, and develop or determine ways to meet them.	Ongoing	L&D Group	Minimal	L&D Group	More comprehensive information and opportunities
	L.3	Create and continuously update a promotional folder of information which sets out in an attractive and accessible way the available opportunities for learning and development.	Spring 2016	L&D Group	Funding being sought from DMLN and possibly Connexion	L&D co-ordinator, L&D Group and DMLN	Information about L&D opportunities better prepared and shared
	L.4	Enthuse and inform individuals and groups of materials and resources that are relevant to them.	2016, through Supers' meetings Circuit meetings Church councils News bulletins Meetings Websites	L&D group, District officers, Administrator, website managers	Funding being sought from DMLN and possibly Connexion	Folder to be widely distributed and promoted across District as well as via websites using L&D group and District Admin	Individuals better equipped to fulfil their calling.
	L.5	Monitor take up of opportunities for informing, sharing and sign-posting.	Ongoing	L&D group to track via calendars and meetings, Administrator	Minimal	L&D group	Quantified information and evaluation of opportunities, leading to changes as appropriate

Key: Chair = District Chair; Administrator = District Administrator; DLT = District Leadership Team; L&D Group = Learning and Development Group; DMLN = Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network

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Changing: We will support Circuits and local churches as they respond to the transforming work of God's Spirit

Aim	Action	When	Responsible person / body	Financial resources to be applied	Human resources to be applied	Expected outcomes	
By enabling change through support and advice in the form of e.g. Building Consents, Safeguarding, Lay Employment, Lay Stationing, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders' training and the pastoral support of the Chair of District.	C.1	Continue to provide paid or volunteer workers, some of whom may be shared across the Yorkshire Plus area, with expertise not available at local level to facilitate and accelerate change through pro-active work.	2016	Chair, DLT	Existing District budget	Various District Officers	Reaffirmation of the value of these roles in the life of the District. Radical change in churches and circuits taking place.
	C.2	Encourage and enable Circuits to share stories of the impact these different offices have had in Circuit and church projects.	2016	Chair and Mission Forum	Minimal	Supers	Stories of change used to renew hope and raise expectations.
	C.3	Promote and encourage networking by District, circuit and church officers	2016	DLT District Officers	Minimal	District Officers	Officers and others across the District given opportunity to see new ways of doing things.
By challenging and supporting people to recognize the movement of God's Spirit through prayer, worship, service and social justice.	C.4	Encourage and enable Circuits to be bold in reviewing their work, purpose and culture	2016 - 2017	Chair, Supers, Circuit Meetings. Learning Network.	Travel expenses	Possible external support provided through the District.	Sharing of experience, resources and ideas on a District wide level. Enhancing our sense of Connexion, and increased sense of identity as a District
By facilitating change through offering a shared vision of transformation, looking at specific theological aspects of our faith.	C.5	Promote broader and deeper theological study and reflection across the District by adopting a specific theme throughout the District each year, and providing material for use in churches and circuits to study, explore and respond to the theme.	2016 onwards	Chair, Planning Group, Mission Forum, L&D Group	Modest	L&D Group, someone to prepare suitable material	More people across the District engaging in theological study and capable of deeper reflection. Increased sense of togetherness as a District. Increased dialogue across the Circuits.
By celebrating, modelling and promoting good practice at Synod	C.6	Ensure that the Representative Synod consistently models good practice in all of its activities.	Ongoing	Chair Planning Group	Minimal	Chair, Officers and others	Good practice widely shared and celebrated

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Joining in: We will resource Circuits and local churches as they join in God’s mission both within their own life and the life of the world.

Aim	Action		When	Responsible person or body	Financial resources to be applied	Human resources to be applied	Expected outcomes
Sharing in the mission of God through our relationships in all areas of the Church’s life, by joining in the local context by encouraging and enabling church and circuit community audits	J.1	Identify mentors to give support and advice to those undertaking a community audit	2017	L&D Group, and Nominations Group	None	Minimal in finding mentors Potentially substantial for the mentors	Churches and Circuits more fully engaged with and reaching out to their local communities
	J.2	Provide small District grants, through simple application process, to churches and circuits undertaking a community audit	From 2016	Grants Committee or other group	Amounts to be determined.	None	
	J.3	Identify and make available a suitable resource pack for use by those undertaking a community audit, and identify an existing or develop a new supporting training course.	From 2016	L&D Group	Minimal	Significant time and effort for a small number of people	
Sharing in the mission of God through our relationships in all areas of the Church’s life, by joining in with other partners by encouraging churches and individuals to engage with community organisations	J.4	See Joining in the local context: the resources and support should ensure that the audit and resulting plans are wide enough to encourage churches to look for partnerships within their community.	From 2016	L&D Group	Minimal	Minimal	Circuits and churches engaging more and better with community groups to address identified issues

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Sharing in the mission of God through our relationships in all areas of the Church's life, by joining in the wider context by improving communication across the District through developing the Weekly Mailing and the District website	J.5	Promote regular District themes showcasing creative ideas and activities, linked where possible to the season of the year or to current issues	From 2016	Chair, Administrator and (new role of) website editor	Minimal	Administrator and website editor	Better informed churches and circuits, leading to new activities.
	J.6	Increase the coverage of "District" events and news, with a particular focus on the work of the Chair and other District Officers, in both the Weekly mailing and the District website	From 2016	Small group as for J.7, Chair	Minimal	Administrator and District officers	Raised profile and awareness of the work of the District.
	J.7	Increase the Weekly Mailing's effectiveness by more selective decisions, more focussed content, greater use of hyperlinks and summaries, reviewing the circulation and possible targeted mailings	From 2016	Small group to work with the Administrator to develop a new approach	Minimal	Small group of volunteers for a limited period	Better and more concise flow of relevant information to churches and circuits, and to appropriate individuals.
Sharing in the mission of God through our relationships in all areas of the Church's life, by joining in ecumenically / inter-faith by continuing to maintain the District's engagement with ecumenical and inter-faith partners, and where appropriate sharing stories and ideas across the District	J.8	Promote and celebrate existing positive relationships and activities of the Chair and others (e.g. through the website, Weekly Mailing and Synod), and thus model such relationships.	From 2016	Chair, Administrator and (new role of) website editor, and the Planning Group	Minimal	Administrator and website editor, and District Officers	Increased awareness of such activity and more positive perceptions, leading to more missional activity