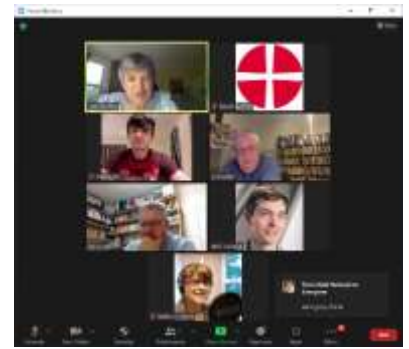




Sheffield Methodist District Leading Team
Meeting on 9 September 2021 at 7.00 pm via ZOOM

Present: Gill Newton; Neil Harland; Sean Adair; Mick Neal; McCauley Allcock;
Dave Burton; Katrin Hackett (non-voting)

A warm welcome, especially to McCauley who is joining the team for the first time. Brief introductions were made.



Opening Business

1. Opening worship

Led by Gill on Romans 12; reflecting on what passionate worship is about.

2. Apologies for absence

Margaret Mwailu; Jon Bellfield

3. Minutes of the DLT on 7 July 2021

These were accepted as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising

5. Report on delegated actions

There have been no delegated actions

Items for Discussion and Decision

6. Mission strategy update – Neil Harland

The paper has been circulated.

Transforming Mission: A Mission Forum is being planned for January 29 2022 to explore where there are opportunities for New Places for New People work in line with the connexional strategy. NH & GN are seeking additional members for a planning team. Sean Adair is willing to be involved. The team expressed the need for there to be clarity about who the event is for, what the purpose of the event is and what we hope to achieve through it. It was acknowledged that the primary audience at this stage would be leaders in the Circuits, not necessarily those who are keen to pioneer.

It was agreed that the timetable of focus on strands of the Resourcing Mission Strategy for future meetings would be “Sharing Stories” in November; Growing Disciples in January; and Transforming Mission in March

Saturday 26 February was suggested as a date for an awayday, but it was agreed that this may not be necessary given that the team will be meeting in on 29 January for the Mission Forum.

7. Passionate Contextual Worship – Neil Harland

The paper has been circulated.

Occasional Large Worship Celebration – It was agreed that many people are still anxious about gathering in large numbers at present as Covid restrictions are lifted. The Ordinands’ Testimony Service is one such celebration this year so we should focus our attention on that. Other recorded services may be of help to Circuits. Agreed that GN should discuss this further with Superintendents.

Local Preacher Training – SA reported that whilst the new course is an improvement on Faith & Worship, being more accessible and easier to engage with, it remains a challenge to get mentors and tutors. It is proposed that we create a team of tutors (tutoring on just one or two modules each) across the District SA will continue to work on this and will update Superintendents at their next meeting. Training for tutors/mentors will be offered by the Learning Network

Online Worship – Numbers of those watching online is dropping as people seem to be returning to church. The challenge remains as to how to engage with those who are dipping in & out. The idea of the District offering a regular short reflection was explored but there was recognition that for most people

the local connection is vital. So, any online offerings which the District make in this way should be because there is something important that the District wishes to say, share or draw to people's attention.

Hybrid Worship – the concept of a community of practice of those currently offering hybrid worship was supported. -NH will take this forward and see what happens.

Worship & Preaching Officer – The draft role description was supported and the role will now be advertised.

8. Treasurer's report – Neil Harland

The report has been circulated.

Pension Fund Deficit – NH had calculated that in order to at least meet the recommended 15% contribution to the Pension Reserve Fund which is being requested by the Connexional team, it would be appropriate for the District to make a contribution of £8000 from General Fund and £16,000 from Advance Fund. It was agreed that the District should lead by example on this in order to encourage churches and Circuits to be generous. Funds need to be transferred by 31 December. It was noted that the Connexion are discussing possible changes to the pension schemes.

NH to write to treasurers to emphasise the deadline. If sufficient income is not raised, a connexional levy may be required.

NH proposed that the District offer £26,000. NH will include this information (and how the figure was reached) in his communication to circuits and churches.

This was agreed.

9. Grants – The Grove, Retford – Christine White

Taken before Item 8

Chris White joined the meeting to answer any questions on the paper which had been circulated, prior to an actual grant application being submitted for our future consideration SA asked about community impact.. There is an awareness of a number of groups who are interested in using the building. MN asked what use is already being made. The existing rooms are in use almost all the time, it is rare to go to the church and not find people there. MA suggested getting schools involved early on in the building project, as young people are passionate about climate issues. Chris thanked the team for these pointers. We look forward to hearing the next stage.

10. Superintendency of Sheffield Circuit

The confidential paper has been circulated which provides a summary of the work GN has been undertaking with the Circuit Leadership Team.

Enacting SO 431 will have an impact on the workload of the Chair. DLT will be part of the conversations going forward, once the review of the structure of the Superintendency in the Circuit has been completed. GN will have terms of reference for the proposed review by the time the CLT meet on Monday. The review is hoped to be completed by the end of October, with a report planned for November.

It is a review of the Superintendency, but may make reference to the size of the circuit etc. The existing co-Supers will step back and relinquish all that they would normally do as a superintendent, although they will retain the status and the remuneration.

The time frame was to be added to the resolution (expect to be done prior to the end of this year).

With this addition – DLT unanimously agreed.

11. Nomination of Foundry Trustee

The paper has been circulated.

The nomination was supported by DLT. NH will communicate with the board.

Other Matters

12. Stationing update – Gill Newton

A verbal update – Barnsley will go for 1 presbyter with no pastoral charge, but a portfolio for discipleship and growth; Sheffield will seek 4 presbyteral appointments in order to replace ministers who are leaving but with some rearranging of pastoral charge.

13. Other business

There was no other business

14. Pattern for future meetings

Dates are set (see below). Away-days (to be planned) can be the opportunity to build relationships in person; with the evening meetings continuing on Zoom.

15. Closing worship

Led by SA

The meeting ended at 21:20

Dates for DLT meetings 2021/22

~~Thursday 9 September~~

Thursday 23 September – NPNP on Zoom

Tuesday 9 November

Wednesday 5 January

Thursday 10 March

Tuesday 3 May

Tuesday 5 July