

Sheffield District of the Methodist Church  
Learning and Development Working Group

**Report on learning and development September 2020 – August 2021**

### **Introduction**

The Learning and Development (L&D) Working Group manages a devolved budget of £10,000 for learning and development activities across the District.

They met 4 times over Zoom to

1. Discuss and agree grant applications
2. Consider ways in which L&D opportunities could be promoted and continue to revise the database
3. Consider future activities

### **1. Grants and activities**

The group awarded 9 grants as follows:

<b>Type of grant</b>	<b>Number of grants</b>	<b>Total awarded £</b>
Academic Grant	3	3085
Provision of L&D opportunity/activity within District/Circuit/Church	2	650
Individual Course/Workshop/study programme	3	550
Donation to outside body to provide L&D opportunity/activity	1	500
<b>Total awarded</b>		<b>4785</b>

### **Location of requests**

District wide events	3
Individual	
- Sheffield	3
- Doncaster	1
- Barnsley	1
- The Peak	1

### **2. L&D Opportunities**

The group organised two events – a wellbeing webinar and a monthly book club. Both were well received and there are plans for a second book club in the new year. Katrin continues to promote events via the District Newsletter and on the District Website.

It was felt that the COVID lockdown had led to more people using online training opportunities, many of which are free. The use of Zoom has allowed easier access to events where travel times would have been a barrier.

Siggy has produced a series of cartoons to help promote the grant application process. A meeting with Sam Roberts, District Communication Officer and Neil Harland, Mission Development Support Worker, has been arranged to see how these can best be used across the District.

### **3. Future activities**

In light of the restructure of the District, it was recognised that the role and remit of the group is will change. This is something that will be explored further over the next year. Current membership is Katrin Hackett; Revd Debora Marschner; Rachel McCallam; Siggy Parratt-Halbert. The group are seeking additionally members.

The group would like to express their huge thanks to Jan Eldred who stepped down as co-ordinator at the end of the year. Jan's drive and commitment over the years will be greatly missed. They wish her well for the future.