

## Sheffield Methodist District Leading Team Meeting on 10 March 2022 at 7.00 pm via ZOOM

Present: Gill Newton; Jon Bellfield; Mick Neal; McCauley Allcock;  
Sean Adair; Neil Harland; David Burton; Griff Wynne  
(non-voting) Katrin Hackett



### Opening Business

#### 1. Opening worship

The season of Lent is a time of resolving to follow Christ more effectively, giving back more than a time of giving something up. Matthew 6: 25 – Ask and it will be given to you.

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Margaret Mwailu

#### 3. Minutes of the DLT on 5 January 2022

These have been circulated and were accepted as an accurate record.

#### 4. Matters arising from the minutes:

- Stationing – Deacon Alison McCauley has been matched to the Barnsley appointment; she will move to the Circuit in November. A visit has been arranged this weekend for the Superintendent role in Sheffield, please hold this in your prayers. The other Sheffield appointment remains unmatched and may be withdrawn.
- Sheffield Circuit Superintendency Review – The CLT is working hard on the resolutions, particularly focussing on Pastoral Charge between now & September and then beyond. Work is taking place on the shape and membership of the Circuit Stewards team. Thanks to GN for the work she is doing. We also thank MN for the work he is doing in Doncaster.
- Extension to LP Training – Tim Rossell: Following last DLT SA has had the conversation regarding being removed from the plan until progress is shown. Tim R is considering his call to preach. Two new names have been brought forward for training which will make a small cohort and may encourage him. We hold Tim in our prayers around this decision.

### Items for discussion and decision

#### 5. Mission Strategy Update

The mission update has been circulated. There were no questions on this.

- Mission Strategy Focus – New Places For New People  
The paper has been circulated. How do we take this forward? It was agreed that during the next few months, circuits should be given time to discern some possibilities, then in the summer explore which might be the most significant and which can be supported. Once possibilities have been identified, encourage these new projects to emerge.  
Need to also recognise that this might not work for all circuits who may be engaged in other types of work, not necessarily doing something new but doing existing work better. The challenge is also to generate the enthusiasm at ground level. Each project is likely to look different and may not exactly match the NPNP criteria. Need to have contextual conversations in each instance.  
Seed-funding – the Keep Fishing Fund went mainly to things which may have happened anyway. Consideration was given to setting up something similar but it was acknowledged that personal support via District staff team members might be just as valued and helpful.  
The July meeting will look at this again.

#### 6. Treasurers Report

- Grant Applications – the paper has been circulated. DB declared an interest on The Foundry grant request. Rose joined the meeting to answer questions on their request for a grant towards

replacing the fixed seating. JB suggested that there is a market for the old style seats. They discovered at Alder Grove that the price received for the old seating more than covered the replacement costs. Rose will explore this further. DLT supports this work in principle and looks forward to hearing further from The Foundry.

Other grants: Mosborough were offered a grant conditional on receiving circuit funding. However, they had not previously been informed of this condition, and now want the grant. DLT agree to honour the grant. NH will inform Mosborough. The King's Cross Church (JB has an interest) are requesting a slight change of use for monies offered under a previous grant and the DLT were content to support this request. The Connexional received for the same purpose may not be fully claimed. NH will formally respond.

- Peak Park Rural Development Enabler: the paper has been circulated. The meeting was joined by Rod Hill (PPRDE Management group). The PPRDE is in the 8th of 10 years of funding. The role is making a positive impact, but connexional funding will stop in 2023. A recent review recommended that the role should continue for a further three years at least and the PPRDE Management Group were delighted to learn that Lorraine Brown would be willing to stay in post for that period. Proposal is that District will continue to support for the next 3 years with the Peak Circuit agreeing to make a contribution to the total District commitment as set out in the paper. Rod spoke of the work Lorraine does in the Manchester & Stockport District. The M&S District are happy to continue to support this role and possibly increase their financial contribution share if necessary, recognising the value of the work done across 3 Districts. The Nottingham and Derby District have also indicated a willingness to increase their financial support in line with the revised proposal. Rod was thanked for joining the meeting prior to leaving.  
The funding of £12,000 will come from District Advance Fund. This was agreed. GN will take this decision to the next meeting of the Management Group.
- Annual Report has been circulated. There were no questions on this. The accounts were approved. Our thanks go to NH for the clear way in which the accounts are presented.

## **7. Lay Authorisations**

- Sheffield Circuit  
Michelle Deans (probationer)  
Nick Waterfield (missional)
- Doncaster Circuit  
Jack Key (missional)  
Susanna Brookes (renewal)  
Alice Curry (renewal)  
Christine Ogley (renewal)
- Rotherham and Dearne Valley Circuit  
Clive Taylor (renewal)  
David Guy (renewal)  
Anne Holmes (renewal)
- Trinity Circuit  
Keith Abel (renewal)

The Sheffield and Doncaster authorisations were approved last year but due to an admin error were not sent in so only received a single year's approval.

Training was provided a few years ago, it would be good to offer a refresher/new appointment course. GN & SA will explore this.

DLT agreed to take this en bloc. This was approved. KH will send completed papers to GN for final check and signing.

## **8. Appointments**

- Worship & Preaching Officer – two expressions of interest were received. Both were interviewed by GN & MA and a reasoned statement has been circulated about the appointment of Claire Rawlinson to this role. This was approved. GN will send formal confirmation.
- DLT Members – additional members are being sought. NH & SA had interviewed two presbyters who had expressed interest. Looking at the balance of DLT, it did not feel right bring their names

forward. MN suggested using Synod as the place to share the story of the value in being on DLT, to encourage, especially lay, to consider volunteering. MA may be interested in doing this, but will have a conversation with GN first. Will keep advert on District Website and continue to draw attention to this.

#### **9. President's Visit to District – May 14th – 16th 2022**

It will just be the President (Revd Sonia Hicks) who will be travelling up on Saturday morning. Trinity Circuit requested a visit to The Grove on Sunday morning, possibly followed a meeting with the Grove Street community groups (discuss with Julie C). An event around the re-opening of Bolsover, suggestion of a service on Saturday mid-afternoon, followed by food (possibly evening meal). MN suggested "Who Is Your Neighbour?" as a project which grew out of District support. Other suggestions: meeting with Arman and the Persian Ministry work; Nick Waterfield and the PXI project; new work coming out of 35 Chapel Walk. GN will take these suggestions further.

#### **10. Permission to close**

Valley Darfield (Barnsley) – the paper has been circulated. The congregation have already ceased to meet. Sadly, they have made their own arrangements to meet in another building, but not to join with another congregation. DLT approved the request to close and sell the building.

#### **Other matters**

#### **11. Methodist Council**

The report had been circulated. DB drew attention to the Task Group that has been directed to begin work on reducing the number of Districts. This is being challenged by some of the Chairs. The Pension Deficit is still an issue, and churches/circuits are encouraged to continue to contribute.

#### **12. AOB**

NH & GN have had conversations about his Job Title. The suggestion is that it changes to "District Mission Enabler". This will also be consistent with other Districts. There were no objections.

#### **13. Closing worship**

The meeting closed at 21:15 with the grace

#### **Dates for DLT meetings 2021/22**

~~Thursday 9 September~~

~~Thursday 23 September – NPNP~~

~~Tuesday 9 November~~

~~Wednesday 5 January~~

~~Saturday 23 January – Forum at Rawmarsh Methodist Church~~

~~Thursday 10 March~~

Tuesday 3 May

Tuesday 5 July