

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Our strategy for resourcing your mission 2020-25

LEADING TEAM PROGRESS UPDATE

3 MAY 2022



Leading Team will this year focus on one strand of our strategy in each meeting. From this we will set related targets and actions for the following 12 months.

This paper sets out progress on key items agreed at previous meetings and other key strategy updates. It only touches on the significant pieces of work with implications across the district or for direction action by Leading Team. Please do say if more (or less) information would be helpful here.

Items for major discussion are set out in separate papers. A full copy of our strategy is available at <https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/about-us/for-such-a-time-as-this.html>

PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP

Priorities between now and September 2022:

Pooling of WLP tutoring across the district to allow for specialisation, reducing time commitment for tutors, and wider pool of peers and teachers for trainees.	Sean started discussion with Graham Jones (Learning Network) and Bob Bartindale (Connexional WLP Officer). Will take some time to build up and undertake necessary consultations. With Claire Rawlinson in place as our new Worship & Preaching Officer, hopefully there will now be capacity to build on this start. Noted training may be beneficial for mentors as a future piece of work.
Offer recorded online district prayers at moments of significance across the life of the district	Prayers being shared around district events and liturgical calendar, getting reasonable level of engagement (e.g. 100+ Facebook views)
Create a hybrid worship community of practice	Two webinars held in March. Relatively small numbers of attendees but productive conversations, with follow up resources to be shared via website and Mission News. Whilst there is some good practice across the district, overall picture is that pressures of providing for existing gathered congregations is squeezing time available for continued innovation in reaching out to new and existing people via digital means.

SHARING STORIES

Priorities between now and November 2022:

Focus on making testimony normal within congregational life , with support for making testimony normal beyond the faith community and then creating a culture of invitation to relationship to follow in later years.	Positive informal feedback from April synod, with formal feedback request to be circulated and will follow up to learn more about contexts where synod learning has changed local practice. Mission news blogs published in spring in lead up to synod. Now starting a major push on sharing stories (weekly if possible) through district social media and weekly news email. Please highlight potential stories to Sam. To consider engagement with worship leader & local preacher meetings about testimony in worship.
Communications audit to review (and model reviewing) impact of increased district communications	Communications audit started – feedback being analysed Some circuits are also now auditing their own communications
Website baseline support all circuits in having fit for purpose website	Conversations ongoing with circuits wanting website upgrades

GROWING DISCIPLES

Priorities between now and January 2023:

Focus on nurturing leaders in September 2022 synod	Noted importance of celebrating and supporting diversity in leadership
Growing young disciples	See separate discussion paper
Foster small group discipleship encouraging and gathering learning from range of initiatives across our circuits	Neil, Victoria and others from our district attended the Reimaging Discipleship event at Cliff College. Re-interpretation of way of life approaches presented feel more likely to be valuable in promoting thinking about discipleship.

TRANSFORMING MISSION

Priorities between now and March 2023, following in particular from Mission Forum with Eunice Attwood:

Identify opportunities and needs for breaking new ground	Started conversations about local possibilities and ideas, aiming to provide DLT with an overview by November meeting
Support some “quick wins” to raise awareness and enable local teams to take a visible step forward.	NPNP Pilot pioneer started in post – to be publicised Quick wins likely to include improved networking/ shared learning for local teams in similar context – thinking to be refined after information gathering.

SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES

Improvements to district database to improve efficiency of communication are ongoing. Updating and adding key officers is nearing completion with Trinity Circuit as a pilot, with communications with other circuits to start soon with aim of being fully up to date by the end of this Connexional year.

Katrin has been working with TMCP to simplify GDPR self-audit reporting.

Work has started to prepare and share template risk assessments and other resources in response to requests.

Over the summer Neil will hold some focussed conversations about simplifying procedures with a range of people from across the district in advance of conversation at our September meeting about priorities.

PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION

Tom Rattigan is working on a number of projects across our circuits. We will discuss key themes and priorities at our July meeting.

We have become aware that the way we have been using the consents system is inconsistent with other districts and Connexional expectations. This evolution is bringing some immediate local benefits but also some challenges.