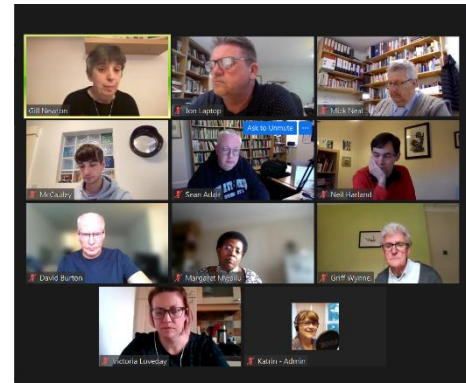


Sheffield Methodist District Leading Team Meeting on 3 May 2022 at 7.00 pm via ZOOM

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



Opening Business

1. Opening worship

Yesterday was the Saints' Day of Philip & James. GN read John 14: 1-14 and asked "How am I revealing Jesus to those amongst whom I serve?"

2. Apologies for absence

No apologies; a welcome to Victoria Loveday who is joining for Item 5

3. Minutes of the DLT on 10 March 2022

These have been circulated and accepted as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

- Stationing: Sheffield Circuit will be glad to have the Revd Romeo Pedro as the Superintendent from September 2022. He will be leaving his current appointment in Northampton a year early. The Firth Park/Pitsmoor appointment has been withdrawn from Stationing and the Sheffield CLT are working on how this vacancy will be managed.

Items for discussion and decision

5. Mission Strategy Update

The Update has been circulated. A newsletter went out last week, to prompt thinking around what the next steps are with Digital engagement. There is some excellent work going on, with different bits of Good Practice, but a bit patchy. NH would be glad to know of anyone who is exploring this type of ministry.

Property for Mission – working with Tom Rattigan on making the process more consistent and clearer, looking at what questions need to be asked, without requiring duplication of work. Current process is not smooth or clear. There is some confusion where DLT has given consent to close, but more questions are now being asked. Knowing when and why these questions are being asked needs to be clear, along with an awareness of what is happening at the ground. The Connexional Strategy does not always match up to church experience.

- Mission Strategy Focus – Children & Youth (Victoria Loveday)

The overview of the Children and Youth work has been circulated. There were no questions on this.

A paper on Sheffield District ONE programme has been circulated. This is based around a programme started by Yorkshire North & East District. VL has worked with Yorkshire West and Northampton District which have been very successful. The project can work regionally with support and training. There are currently two vacancies within the District for the Connexional One Programme Leadership programme. (15 hours/week).

A question was raised about the value of 3hours/week – how inclusive would this be? It could debar those where finance is an issue. Does this simply engage those who are already involved in the church? Is there a way to make this more available to those on the fringes? The challenge would be how those people are identified. Mentoring is also key, to work alongside the participants.

Would it be possible to start with a smaller number of interns, to assess the value and also be able to audit the social-economic side? Would need to have a robust reporting system. Is this part of the purpose of the District Advance Fund? The Treasurer feels that finance is not an issue at the moment.

DLT voted on the Proposal in the paper and notwithstanding some of the concerns expressed above it was approved.

There is already some interest in circuits. VL will explore these further to start the mentoring process, with the project being launched in 2023.

VL left the meeting.

6. Treasurers Report

- Grant Applications

Three applications have been received and circulated.

1. Community Cohesion and Outreach Worker, Manor Project

The paper has been circulated. Debora and Derek from the Manor Project joined the meeting.

This new post is replacing the previous Community Outreach Worker (who has left before the end of the appointment for a variety of reasons). The role is now seen as working out into the community, helping them to become leaders, identifying the community needs. The project is an ecumenical (Anglican, Methodist and URC) charity with equal number of managing trustees.

There is very much a feeling of Christians working together, rather than denominations.

Financially there is very positive encouragement from the URC. There is a recognition that there might be more challenges for the Anglican contribution, although there has been a hopeful conversation with the Church Burgesses it will depend on what other calls they have on their funds. They expressed their thanks for the District support.

DLT thanked them for their time and await their application in due course.

2. Victoria Hall Application

The paper has been circulated. DB declared his interest. Rose joined the meeting to answer any questions.

Having more unencumbered space gives much more flexibility for the worshipping community. It will also enable new outreach events to take place. This is something that needs to be done and any help the DLT can give should be encouraged.

DLT thanked Rose for the application. DLT unanimously agreed with the Grant application (with one abstention). NH will convey the result back to The Foundry.

3. Wesley Way

The paper was circulated, NH will be meeting with the Peak CLT on Wednesday so would like any comments by Monday, rather than discussing now in the absence of any representative from the Peak Circuit

- Treasurers report

The report has been circulated. There were no questions.

7. Connexional Oversight and Trusteeship Review – Potential Restructuring of Districts

There is a good deal of working taking place around Governance within the Methodist Church. There is a move to reduce the size of the Conference, which has an impact on the size of Districts. The Yorkshire Plus Region have already done work on their Districts when there was realignment about 5 years ago. There seems to be a push to reduce the number of Districts to 12 by 2027. There is a push-back that perhaps this isn't the best time to be considering this, especially in the light of the God in Love Unites Us work going on and the rollout of the God For All strategy. The financial costs would be shifted from the connexion to Districts.

Districts are asked to consider this paper.

The reduction in the size of the Conference is related to the number of members in the Methodist Church. The geographical area of Districts is the currently the same, although membership is much smaller. Depths of relationships are harder in larger geographical areas. More radical thinking might be needed. The bigger question is around how we are being church – do we actually need Districts? This might mean changes of the Methodist Church Act.

Any re-ordering will need consent from the circuits. What we have works well in the Yorkshire Plus region. GN will feed back our thoughts to the Secretary of the Conference.

8. Permission to close

- Cudworth (Barnsley)

The paper has been circulated. MN has worked with the council and community to see if new opportunities can be found, but nothing has born fruit. The site is well placed for future development should it be sold.

DLT voted in favour of this request.

MN will report this decision to Claire Rawlinson. The report has been shared with Tom Rattigan, and NH will share this part of the minutes with him.

DLT send their prayers and good wishes to the congregation at Cudworth

9. District Appointments

There are 2 vacancies on DLT – McCauley was thanked for his testimony at Synod. DLT are asked to consider who they could encourage to express interest.

There will be an advert for the District Manse Secretary as Lionel Derry is stepping down.

Gareth Jones is moving on, which will leave a vacancy for the Inter-Faith advisor.

There is still a need for a Treasurer.

Sean Adair has served 2 terms as Deputy Chair, so the process to replace will be started soon.

All vacancies will follow Safer Recruitment. GN would welcome suggestions of names!

Other matters

10. Methodist Council Report

The report has been circulated and DB was thanked for his work on this.

11. President's Visit to District – May 14th – 16th 2022

The outline of the visit has been circulated.

12. AOB

Congratulations were given to McCauley on his recent marriage to Jack.

13. Closing worship

The meeting closed at 21:13 with prayer.

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~~