

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Our strategy for resourcing your mission 2020-25

LEADING TEAM PROGRESS UPDATE

6 JULY 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>

Significant changes since last meeting are in red.

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). Claire Rawlinson has been accepted as a WLP tutor and has started to make links with circuits and with Bob. These relationships will need to be built before introducing further changes to tutoring.
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:

<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Mission news blogs published in spring in lead up to synod.</p> <p>District weekly news now starting with a good news story from around the district each week.</p> <p>Claire will hopefully be attending local preacher meetings across the district in the autumn.</p>
<p>Communications audit to review (and model reviewing) impact of increased district communications</p>	<p>Communications audit conducted, with changes made to weekly mailing (more focus on specific topics) and social media (timing of posts and more use of graphics). Print friendly version of weekly mailing now available.</p> <p>Barnsley Circuit have also conducted a communications audit.</p>
<p>Website baseline support all circuits in having fit for purpose website</p>	<p>Supported DNE with new website, currently supporting Peak Circuit in creating a new website. Responding also to some requests from churches.</p>

GROWING DISCIPLES

Priorities between now and January 2023:

<p>Focus on nurturing leaders in September 2022 synod</p>	<p>Noted importance of celebrating and supporting diversity in leadership</p>
<p>Growing young disciples by restarting district-wide high impact events, growing community of practice for CFY leaders, launching internship programme</p>	<p>Prepare to launch One Programme: District 3 hour internships for 16-23 year olds (first internships to start September 2023)</p> <p>Share best practice resources via district website and new community of practice.</p> <p>Restart Dyference youth event, trial families events</p> <p>Trial a district volunteer + employed CFY leaders retreat</p>
<p>Foster small group discipleship encouraging and gathering learning from range of initiatives across our circuits</p>	<p>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.</p>

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 – favourable reaction to suggestion of a gathering in the autumn, so this will be pursued Investigating production of high quality videos.

SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES

Improvements to district database to improve efficiency of communication are ongoing. Updating and adding key officers deferred to avoid clash with safeguarding and GDPR reporting, but expected to be broadly up to date by the end of this Connexional year.

Katrin has worked with TMCP to simplify GDPR self-audit reporting. Speed and volume of returns is improved on last year, suggesting this is proving easier second time around.

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 with DLT in the autumn about priorities.

PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION

See separate agenda item