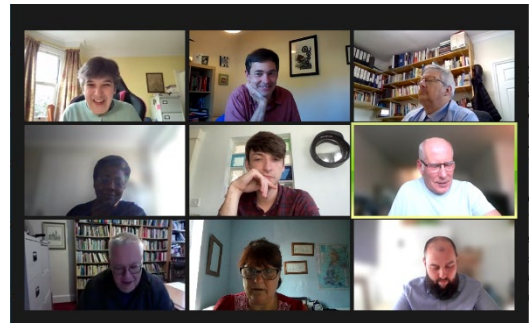


Sheffield Methodist District Leading Team Meeting on 5 July 2022 at 7.00 pm via ZOOM

Present

Gill Newton; Neil Harland; Mick Neal; Margaret Mwailu;
McCauley Key; Dave Burton; Sean Adair;
Jon Bellfield (19:20)
(non-voting) Katrin Hackett; Tom Rattigan



Opening Business

1. Opening worship

Gill used Acts 4 to remind us Peter & John spoke the word of God boldly and the same Holy Spirit who enabled them to do so is still available to us.

2. Apologies for absence

Griff Wynne

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:

- New DLT members – no expressions of interest have been received. Please continue to think who might be approached, especially bearing in mind the need for diversity of the group.

Items For Discussion And Decision

5. Mission Strategy Update (NH)

The update has been circulated. NH has started to use the language of New Christian Communities rather than New Places for New People (NPNP), as it is often more meaningful in the local context. We should try and be consistent on this, if possible, while still acknowledging that it is NPNP. The format of the regular report is appreciated and makes it easy to see where changes have taken place.

Questions were raised about the simplifying procedures strand of the strategy – it isn't always seen or experienced as "simplifying" at church level. Examples: Grants come to DLT twice; GDPR; Safeguarding audit; Forms for events to go in newsletter etc. Churches may be feeling overwhelmed.

District staff are trying to space out when information is being requested.

GN & NH will look again at the grants process.

The form for use by those wanting things included in the Newsletter is to encourage those wanting the publicity to put more detail in the request as Katrin does not always have the time to write material for others.

GDPR & Safeguarding are linked to connexional requests, but feedback will be taken on board.. This will all be discussed at the District Staff Away Day. We do need to be mindful of what technology is available to those being asked to complete forms etc.

6. Properties fit for Mission (Tom Rattigan)

The paper has been circulated and TR was welcomed to the meeting.

Property portal - the Consents System has not been consistently used in local contexts, especially in relation to giving appropriate detail. Concerns were raised about the fact that only one person gives consent, and that consent needs to be given much earlier, at the start of the process. Can be hard to update a project once consent has been given, eg uploading new documents. An appropriate strategy/understanding needs to be developed to help churches/circuits engage in the process and involve TR in the conversations at an early stage

Advisory Panel – to bring support to the DPS role. A good idea and TR will work on safely recruiting members. This will alleviate the concerns expressed earlier regarding consent relying on one person.

Eco matters – there isn't a District policy/target on this as yet. The cost of an energy survey is between £1500 & £2000, although this might be reduced if churches can be grouped and done together. While every building will benefit from this, it might be better to start with the smaller group. Yorkshire North &

East managed to obtain a time-limited Government grant to survey all their churches. NH is keeping an eye out for similar grants. More people might be encouraged once they see the benefits of doing this. Our systems (TMCP_ may not have the flexibility to move swiftly enough to enable churches to take advantage of grant assistance – such as for solar panel or insulation. GN sits on TMCP board and will raise this question at the next board meeting. Proposal to allocate £50,000 from DAF to these energy surveys, subject to matched funding from churches. This was agreed. The Eco Group should be informed to pass this information on.

Streamlining and Community of Practice – setting out the work that is starting and TR is encouraged to continue in this.

Property & Mission planning – What are the capacity issues and motivating factors in circuits? Finances are a major contributor to the desire to sell, mission might not occur due to lack of finance (eg Talbot Lane, The Priory). The District could provide a safety blanket but might not challenge the thinking about mission beyond the building i.e elsewhere in the Circuit. Existing Connexional Strategy doesn't meet local needs, looking at one building rather than the overall view. Further thinking needed by TR & NH and will be reported on at a future date. A conversation in the Superintendents meeting might be helpful – TR to be invited to a meeting later this month

TR was thanked for his work, and the DLT for their helpful thinking on this. TR left the meeting at this point

7. Treasurers Report (NH)

The report has been circulated. There were no questions on this. NH was thanked for his work

8. Grants

- **Manor Community Project** – the application has been circulated. DLT have questions about sustainability, also about the number of partners. The grant applicants (Debora & Derek) joined the meeting. They recognise that the Manor is a deprived area and likely to continue to be so and they expect that they will have to continue to apply for grants in the future. They are identifying potential grant-making bodies to help with this. They hope that it will be an attractive hub for bookings, but these are unknown. There is some surplus income from the project which is encouraging. The URC Synod Mission fund has been approached and have made encouraging noises as they would like to see the work carrying on, but no decision made yet. The CoE also consider the application to be a strong one, the Church Burgesses have oversight of the Manor Parish. They should know in the next few weeks what the outcome of this application is. The CofE have not come back with any additional questions, so this is seen as a positive sign. D&D were thanked for their work on this. They left the meeting.
DLT proposed and agreed to a grant of up to £23,023.
- **Sheffield Mental Health worker** – DB expressed a conflict of interest in this. Jonathan Buckley joined the meeting. A question was asked about the testing of the vision. The Sheffield Circuit is keen to have conversations with other circuits or to make it a wider role across the District. Ministers are recognising the need for the Mental Health First Aid training. Looking at the finance, the salary offered is on the upper end of scale and will be the main cost, other costs are the accreditation requirements. Year one would be encouraging the MHFA training, years 2 & 3 would be working on projects related to Mental Health. JB was thanked for his work and asked to explore further work on evidencing the need and interest from other parts of the District. JB left the meeting.
NH will consolidate the feedback

9. District Office Holders

- Probationary periods of Children's and Youth Co-ordinator and Missional Property Enabler - NH (line manager) reported that both have passed their probationary reviews. There are things to work on, but no major concerns about either postholder. The recommendation is that they both continue in post.
DLT confirm this. NH will write the letter confirming this to both.
- Safeguarding and MDR Administrator – Val Higgins (who has served the District for many years) has decided to retire on 31 July. A small gathering is being arranged to mark this. Val currently

works 4 hours/week, and this administrative support is very important and valued by the DSO. KH left the meeting at this point while DLT discussed options. Conversations are ongoing within the Yorkshire Plus Region regarding the creation of an Assistant DSO post. In the meantime it was agreed that Katrin Hackett's hours should be increased to enable her to pick up the work previously done by Val and that this should be the situation for a maximum of 6 months. GN will have a conversation with KH separately.

10. Permission to Cease to meet

- New Hope (Barnsley) (MN) – the paper has been circulated. The request is to cease worship and close and sell the building. This was agreed. MN will take the decision back.
- Sprotbrough Road (Doncaster) (MN) – the paper has been circulated. The membership of one member has been transferred to another church in the circuit. The remaining members are now meeting as an independent church. Although saddened by their move, we rejoice that they are continuing in worship. The request to cease to meet was agreed. MN will take this decision back.
- The King's Cross Church (Doncaster) (MN) – the paper has been circulated. They intend to have completed the process of leaving the Methodist connexion by the end of August next year. There will be negotiations around using the building as a church. The Farsi congregation is supported by the Persian Ministry worker, this also needs to be discussed. We are saddened by this decision by the Church Council. The request is that The King's Cross Church will cease to worship. This was agreed. MN will feed this back
- Wheatley Methodist Church (Trinity) (JC) – the paper has been circulated. The circuit meeting voting unanimously to support the proposal. The request to cease worship was agreed. DB will relay the decision back
- Tinsley (Sheffield) – the paper has been circulated. The request is to cease worship and also to close and sell the building. This was agreed. DB will relay this back.

11. Conference Report

If you have not already done so – look at the Conference reports and the recordings.

Highlights:

Oversight and Trusteeship report on reshaping connexional committees was voted through, the section on reshaping Districts was not received. There will be further conversations with the Chairs and connexional team to consider the way forward and feedback will be sought from Conference members. Where plans are already in place in some regions, they will be encouraged to take them forward. The Candidating review was agreed, the new process will be running alongside the existing process during the next Connexional year. There will be no District Candidates Committee in future. The new Covenant relationship between ministers and church was approved and CPD guidance will be updated.

The new office of Local Lay Pastor was confirmed and is distinct from those already employed as local pastors. These roles will be a 5 year appointment with competencies attached to the role. Training at Cliff College will be provided.

GN was elected President Designate for 2024 !!

Other Matters

12. GDPR Annual Checklist (District) (KH)

The District has gone through the check list and will be submitting this as complete. KH reminded DLT that if any training is required to get in touch.

13. AOB

Dates of future meetings (dates below). Is meeting on Zoom the most effective, or should some be "in person", bearing in mind travel time, especially if meetings over-run. Suggestion that we continue to meet on Zoom until new people join, which can then be an "in person". Possible venue for this – The Furnival

14. Closing worship

Dates for DLT meetings 2022/23

Thursday 8 September – Zoom

Tuesday 8 November – Zoom

Wednesday 4 January

Thursday 9 March

Tuesday 2 May

Tuesday 4 July