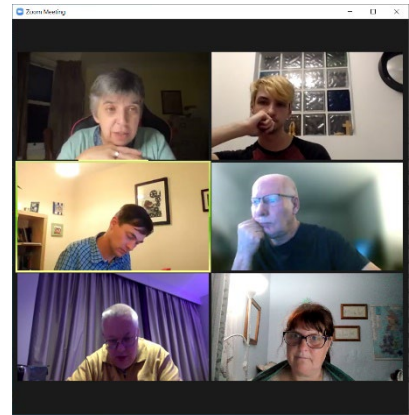


Sheffield Methodist District Leading Team Meeting on 8 September 2022 at 7.00 pm via ZOOM

Present

Gill Newton; Neil Harland; McCauley Key; Dave Burton; Sean Adair (19:24)
(non-voting) Katrin Hackett;



Opening Business

1. Opening worship

In the light of the news of the death of the Queen, we held silence, then prayed for the family who have lost a loved one, giving thanks for her faith and faithfulness.

2. Apologies for absence

Mick Neal; Margaret Mwilu; since the last meeting Griff Wynne has stepped down. GN will write a letter of thanks to Griff for his service on this team

3. Minutes of the DLT on 5 July 2022

These have been circulated and accepted as an accurate record with one amendment:
Item 11 – GN is president designate for 2023, not 2024.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

5. There were no matters arising

Items For Discussion And Decision

6. Treasurer's Report

The report has been circulated. In addition to the report, NH noted that there is a need to add a new signature/authorisation to the bank account as Sean Adair has stepped down from DLT and Deputy Chair. The suggestion is that the incoming Deputy Chair to be added. There may be value in having another person from DLT given that Margaret Mwilu is coming to the end of her time as Synod Secretary. McCauley Key offered to be the last signature. NH to action.
There were no questions. NH was thanked for his work on this.

7. Missional Grants

Mental Health Co-ordinator (Sheffield Circuit) – the revised application has been circulated with more detail on the scope of the work. DB declared an interest. There were no further questions on the application. It was not felt necessary to hear from Jonathan Buckley

Sheffield Circuit are requesting £20000 over 3 years - DLT are unanimously supportive of this application. NH will feed this back to Jonathan.

Wesley Way Application (Peak Circuit) – NH clarified that the setup costs, while mostly property based, also include other costs such as website development. Questions were asked about how this generates income for the churches/circuits and how popular this is likely to be.

Julie Letts joined the meeting (19:37) to answer these questions and to share their vision. There is a real sense across the circuit that this is an exciting project which has grasped the imagination of the churches. She is keen to emphasise that this isn't about keeping the buildings for building's sake. The scheme will need to be profit making. The research is ongoing to see what is on offer elsewhere with regards to accommodation in the Peak. This is designed to be affordable but will need to be run as a sustainable business. Pilgrimage is growing as a concept, the scheme is designed for all faiths and none, engaging in creation. There was a lot of interest in the pilot scheme, which was oversubscribed. The plan is also to engage with the local community, eg providing food.

Conversations are planned with local B&Bs etc, but they don't see themselves in competition given the number of visitors to the Peak. It would also appeal to a different type of person. Julie was thanked for her time and left the meeting.

The Peak Circuit are seeking £14,000 for this project. DLT are unanimously supportive of this application. NH will feed this back to Julie.

8. Process Simplification

Transforming Mission grant guidance – this has been circulated, emphasising that only one consultation is required

Properties Fit for Mission grant guidance – this has been circulated; the suggestion is that the advisory group asked the questions, including the missional aspect, which is then fed on to DLT.

DLT agreed to follow these revised processes and to review them in six months.

NH advised that the Stocksbridge Churches may be asking for a grant towards the costs of converting the Christian Centre into a food pantry/community café. Paperwork is hoped to come in November.

9. Mission Strategy Update (NH)

The paper has been circulated. NH and Sam Roberts are looking to produce some professional videos of the NPNP projects which is affordable; Tom Rattigan is working with some contractors on the eco-building surveys, which may become more affordable (£500 as opposed to £1000)

The Warm Spaces initiative seems to be generating a lot of interest and a conversation followed about what else the District could do to support this? There is concern about the level of support offered to churches to help with, for example, rough sleeping. Make sure information is available for referring on, the connexional webinar was excellent and there is information on the WarmWelcome website. The biggest concern is the fuel bills; could the District Advance Fund be approached for help on this, similar to the "Go Fishing" fund.

Churches should also be liaising with local councils which may be able to provide some support/also asking user groups to contribute. However, it was agreed that £20000 should be ring fenced from the District Advance Fund should be provided to those churches starting a new Warm Spaces initiative. Suggested grant amount - £500 for churches with evidence that they are doing something new or additional to their existing activities.

NH will look at this further, and draft a simple application process which will be circulated to DLT members for approval. NH will then make this known at Synod.

10. Regional Safeguarding Provision

Currently each District has its own DSO, and in our District there is also administrative support.

Yorkshire NE are shortlisting for a DSO, Yorkshire West have appointed a paid DSO, their volunteer DSOs are stepping back. There is a proposal to appoint an assistant DSO to provide administrative support and training across the region. The other districts think that there is about 10hrs required in each of their Districts, our DSO considers that there is about 8 hours in this District. The hourly rate would be more than the cost of our current administrative role. This is similar to a role currently in place in the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury and Birmingham Districts, where the hourly rate is about £16/hour, due to the particular skills required for the role

A discussion took place exploring the various aspects around this and it was agreed that at this point we would require further information before sharing in this way forward. The other two Districts will press on regardless of whether we join in. Further information will be provided at the next meeting in November,.

11. Presidential Support/Planning Group

There is money available for a "President's Assistant". GN suggests that a small support group be convened to look at what help is needed. Sabbatical Group was Deputy Chair, Administrator, Lay Stationing Rep and Superintendent to chair the group. SA asked to chair the group (as former Deputy Chair), GN will approach the others.

12. Rotherham and Dearne Valley Circuit

Jo A-S has been granted a recuperative year and has moved out of the Circuit. Revd Jenny Park is working 5 sessions a week, GN is the named Acting Superintendent. The churches have been informed of pastoral changes.

13. District Officers

Deputy Chair – Thanks were given to Sean Adair for his work over the last 6 years. Julie Coates has expressed interest in the role, and her name is proposed as the new Deputy Chair. The recommendation to Synod is that Julie is accepted.

Manses Secretary – This position is now vacant as Lionel has moved out of the District.

DLT Members – If new members are not forthcoming, there may be need to bring back specific office holders as before. NH still to approach some people

The Nomination for Deputy Chair needs to be shared with Synod members. KH to email members and email details to Sam for PowerPoint at Synod

Meeting closed with Grace at 21:03

Dates for DLT meetings 2022/23

Tuesday 8 November – Zoom

Wednesday 4 January

Thursday 9 March

Thursday 11 May – note the change of date

Tuesday 4 July