

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Our strategy for resourcing your mission 2020-25

LEADING TEAM PROGRESS UPDATE

9 MARCH 2023



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 or action by District Leading Team. 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

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Pooling of WLP tutoring across the district to benefit students and tutors.	Claire Rawlinson			Aim to have pool of tutors in place for those starting training Sept 2023, subject to agreement from stakeholders. Alongside this to publicise stories about new local preachers across the district	Switching between tutors on training software currently outside our control and can be slow This won't solve the parallel challenge of shortages of mentors
Offer recorded online district prayers at moments of significance across the life of the district	Sam Roberts	Daily social posts throughout lent (less effort for circuits than advent videos, although these did have a large reach)		Improved database will allow direct advance liaison with church/ circuit social media editors as to what syndicated content they need.	
Create a hybrid worship community of practice	Neil Harland/ Claire Rawlinson				Whilst there are various hybrid/ digital expressions of worship around the district, most of those involved seem to have multiple commitments, so investing time in next stage of development is hard We (and other parts of Methodism) do not engage with social media platforms now used by young people.

SHARING STORIES

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Focus on making testimony normal within congregational life	Neil Harland		Next District Gathering to include more testimony relevant to theme	To review impact/ current practice in preparation for future proposed focus on reaching out in Sept 2023 synod	
Media training to improve confidence in sharing stories in local newspapers, radio and TV, then facilitating increased presence to support this	Sam Roberts			Hopefully we can be involved in a Connexional pilot for a small number of people. Sam to provide training for pioneers and others who wish to take up.	
Website baseline support all circuits in having fit for purpose website	Sam Roberts			Development of new websites for Peak and Rotherham & Dearne Valley ongoing. Trinity planned but not yet scheduled	
First Story of the Year print publication distributed around district, to increase non-digital access to district-wide stories	Sam Roberts		Next version to be published to focus on social justice stories from across the district, linking to April 2023 District Gathering		

Sam intends to cancel the District twitter account in the coming months due to it receiving a lower level of engagement than other channels, and proposed increase in cost of scheduling tweets.

GROWING DISCIPLES

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Focus on nurturing leaders in September 2022 synod	Gill Newton				
Growing young disciples - restarting district-wide high impact events	Vic Loveday		District youth day to be repeated in spring, with anticipated higher attendance.	Family events to continue to be trialled Increase total 3Generate attendance beyond 75	
Growing young disciples - growing community of practice for CFY leaders	Vic Loveday			Continue & embed monthly community of practice	
Growing young disciples - launching <i>One Programme: District</i> (3 hour internships for 16-23 year olds)	Vic Loveday	Regional training weekend for potential interns had to be cancelled due to rail strike.		First interns to start Sept 2023. Targeted invitations are being made	
Launch Justice Seekers community of practice	Neil Harland/ Jenny Carpenter/ Erica Dunmow	Publicity for “justice quilt” collaborative art project to be released	To be launched at April 2023 District Gathering		

TRANSFORMING MISSION

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Support and encourage locally identified opportunities for new Christian communities , learning from District NPNP Pilot and other opportunities	Neil Harland	20 people from across 11 existing or potential communities attended first gathering.	Professional videos from three new Christian communities to be widely shared.	Annual conversations with district safeguarding officer, HR officer, specialist MPP coach in place for all pioneers who wish Six monthly gatherings for pioneer teams Grant applications for more new communities anticipated	Funding and leadership capacity remain key challenges for most circuits.
Provide £500 seed grants to encourage provision of Warm Spaces this winter in response to cost of living crisis (£20k allocated)	Neil Harland	At time of writing 39 grants have been awarded. Informal feedback gathered from a sample of warm spaces.	Grant evaluations from all applicants. “what next” workshop dropped from District Gathering to permit other options. Alternative Zoom discussions to be offered.		

PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Property Advisory Panel to support MPE on £100k+/ complex property projects	Tom Rattigan		Panel members to be safely recruited		
Provide 50% grants (max £1,000 each) for carbon footprint reduction reviews of chapels (£50k allocated)	Tom Rattigan	Continued gradual sign ups from churches		Anticipate at least 50 chapels will be reviewed	Whilst tailored surveys will highlight quick wins, significant carbon savings will require capital investment
Support circuits in exploring Eco Church/ Eco Circuit	Tom Rattigan			Conversation to be had with each circuit about what would be helpful for them	
Launch community of practice for people with property management responsibilities	Tom Rattigan			Continue to grow engagement, including through carbon footprint reviews	
Produce simplified guidance for consents website expectations and other common property matters	Tom Rattigan			Guidance/ checklist for post cease-to-meet options to be discussed with superintendents	
Be alert to mechanisms to lift property management burdens from churches/ circuits, particularly for complex properties or where local people are significantly overstretched.	Tom Rattigan			Discussions ongoing about potential solutions for small number of locations.	

SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Upgrade District database to allow targeted information/ requests to most relevant people	Katrin Hackett	Key point of contact for each key role for each church		Continue to refine contacts through ongoing engagement and annual check	
Seek feedback on simplification needs across the district to develop prioritised action plan	Neil Harland	Katrin has been granted improved access to safeguarding course on TheologyX, giving clarity as to who has successfully completed online training WLP course on TheologyX now recording multiple tutors properly		Focussed conversations to be held to identify common needs	