

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Our strategy for resourcing your mission 2020-25

LEADING TEAM PROGRESS UPDATE

4 July 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>

Most of these priorities have now been running for some time. The district staff team will draw up a draft strategy action plan for 2023/24 over the summer. This will be shared with DLT for discussion in September and, if necessary, also in November. A fresh format of report will be drawn up in to more clearly show progress against agreed actions, and give more opportunity for DLT to see progress and propose corrections to our course.

The key action for DLT to note and approve is that Richard Dearden (Operations Manager, Trinity Circuit) and Rev Phill Borkett (supernumerary, until recently Chair of Trustees of The Foundry Sheffield, the body that manages the Victoria Hall building) have agreed to become part of the Property Advisory Panel. Tom is seeking a couple more members to add to this team, with particular focus on adding to the diversity of the group.

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.		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 and Bible month (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				<p>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</p> <p>We (and other parts of Methodism) do not engage with social media platforms now used by young people.</p>
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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			To review impact/ current practice in preparation for future proposed focus on “reaching out” in Sept 2023 District Gathering	
Media training to improve confidence in sharing stories in local newspapers, radio and TV, then facilitating increased presence to support this	Sam Roberts			<p>Hopefully we can be involved in a Connexional pilot for a small number of people.</p> <p>Sam to provide training for pioneers and others who wish to take up.</p>	
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	
Print publication distributed around district, to increase non-digital access to district-wide stories	Sam Roberts		Third publication to be finalised and distributed		

GROWING DISCIPLES

Action	Led by	Since last meeting	Before next meeting	Longer term plans	Challenges not yet resolved
Growing young disciples - restarting district-wide high impact events	Vic Loveday	Successful District youth day		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	Periodic face to face gatherings proving valuable		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	Ongoing conversations in specific contexts. Formal paperwork finalised.	First interns to start Sept 2023.		
Launch Justice Seekers community of practice	Neil Harland/ Jenny Carpenter/ Erica Dunmow		Second gathering (Zoom) to be held in July		

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	Further sharing and publicising of videos produced.		Annual conversations with district safeguarding officer, HR officer, specialist MPP coach in place for all pioneers who wish 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		Final evaluations to be gathered		

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		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	Conversations started with sample of superintendents and operations staff			

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	Two members of panel recruited	Complete recruitment		
Provide 50% grants (max £1,000 each) for carbon footprint reduction reviews of chapels (£50k allocated)	Tom Rattigan	Continued gradual sign ups from churches			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.	