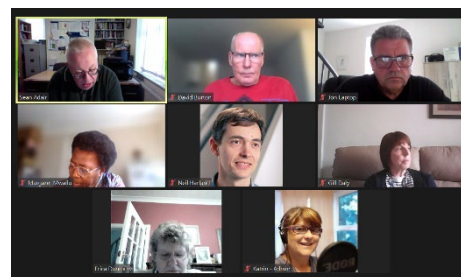


Sheffield Methodist District Leading Team Meeting on Thursday 4 July 2023 at 7.00 pm via ZOOM



Present

Sean Adair (SA) (Acting Chair); Dave Burton (DB); Margaret Mwailu (MM); Neil Harland (NH); Gill Daly (GD); Jon Bellfield (JB) (left meeting at 20:00)

Welcome to new member Erica Dunmow (ED) (EDI Officer)

(non-voting) Katrin Hackett (KH)

Opening Business

1. Opening worship

Sean Adair (Acting Chair) led the opening devotions.

2. Apologies for absence

Gill Newton (Presidential duties); Julie Coates (sabbatical); Mick Neal (Sabbatical); McCauley Key

3. Minutes of the DLT on 11 May 2022

These had been circulated. There was one amendment:

10c- DLT agreed to support the grant of £20,000 *with expectation of offering a future grant of £20,000 subject to funding being available and a satisfactory evaluation as stated in the paper.*

The meeting agreed the adoption of the minutes.

4. Matters arising from the minutes.

Item 9 – NH will be meeting with Methodist Housing and GN is following up with the connexional team.

5. Decisions made between meetings for ratification.

There were no decisions made between the meetings.

Items For Discussion and Decision

6. Mission Strategy Update

NH shared the headlines of the Mission Strategy update. The report had been circulated beforehand.

Property Advisory Panel: DLT is asked to approve the setting up of a Property Advisory Panel to support the Missional Property Enabler. Two names (Richard Dearden & Revd Phill Borkett) have been approached and recruited. Additional names are also welcomed, especially to reflect more diversity within the panel. Janet Hampshire is being approached. **DLT gave their approval.**

The One Programme: A District project is being launched. Information is on the District Website and will be in the Weekly Newsletter.

Simplifying Structures: ED asked about what the plans around what the structure should be in the long-term (10 years ahead) giving the decline in numbers. This will be something that will be included in future agendas.

7. Warm Spaces report

The report was circulated, albeit with very short notice. NH will appreciate feedback over the next week if appropriate. The scheme worked well, especially the ease with which it was rolled out. There is disappointment that some churches have not completed the evaluation, although they are churches which are doing good work on the ground. SA asked if the figures are being fed into the wider connexion. NH will make contact with relevant people, such as God for All, the Evangelism team etc.

ED asked about the evaluation form: Were there any recognisable patterns or surprises? The creativity around how the free hospitality was extended was encouraging, the data is too small to see patterns. NH was thanked for his work and the report was received.

8. Derbyshire North East Circuit Staffing policy

The paper had been circulated. The Circuit is informing DLT of their intention to reduce presbyters from five to three in the summer of 2024. The Circuit had been aware of this possibility when it was formed, which was exasperated by the cost-of-living crisis and Covid. This change coincides with the stationing process for 2024, when three ministers are up for possible re-invitation. Currently none of the minister are planning to seek re-invitation and the plan is to go into stationing 2024 for one presbyter, possibly a new Superintendent. ED asked about support in place for the churches. SA responded that this is part of an on-going conversation. GD added that the Circuit Stewards are likely to have a bigger role on church councils. The report was noted.

8b -The Peak Staffing – An email from Adrian Perry was read. The Circuit is likely to be reducing down to 1 presbyter, but this has not yet been confirmed by Circuit Meeting.

8c – Sheffield Circuit – The Circuit is looking at reducing staffing, more details should be available and provided at the next DLT meeting.

The **District Stationing Forum** on 18 July will also be an opportunity for Circuits to share their position regarding staffing for the future. In the past DLT needed to give approval for staffing reduction. The Stationing Process is being reviewed presently and we are waiting for new and clearer guidance on this in due course.

9. Treasurer's Report

The report had been circulated. DB reported that it is likely that the donation to the Pension Fund will be returned with interest. This was reported at the Methodist Conference and will apply to all who contributed. NH was thanked for his work and the report was received.

10. Grant Overview

The report had been circulated. There are no grant applications to consider. Evaluations were included in the report.

Spotbrough – still waiting for confirmation about the fundraising group. This could be due to a lack of capacity within the church. NH has followed up on this and let them know that this is a condition to release the next tranche. NH has also offered his support with this.

NPNP – Derbyshire North East – Evaluations will be requested every 6 months, there are 2 sets of evaluation, from District and Connexion. NH also sits on the management so is more aware of their progress than might be normal. The Connexional evaluation is being used for all the NPNP projects, District evaluation is more locally focused against their initial application, adding in questions about next steps. ED asked about the need for two evaluations. NH explained this is because the grants have come from two bodies. It would be good to have more alignment so that only one form is needed. NH will follow up on this.

Persian Ministries – The King's Cross Church (TKCC) has left the Methodist Connexion. The Iranian church set up there have now confirmed that they have moved with TKCC. The new church are keen to continue the work, it might be possible to sub-contract the work if they can find the funding. The work is being supported to the end of August by the Circuit. If this is not possible, the District cannot afford to continue the role as a full-time post. NH is working with others to see what is possible as a way forward. NH was thanked for his work. The report was received.

11. DLT Membership

SA had been nominated by the existing Superintendents as their representative on DLT. This might change once the incoming superintendents are in post. Romeo Pedro will be the Methodist Council Representative. Vic Loveday has been asked about the recruitment of the young people and CYF worker. Applications will be going out next week. There are some options in mind. NPNP – NH will see

if McCauley is willing to serve in this capacity. Some work is ongoing for the Synod Representatives. Is there scope for encouraging prospective members to attend meetings as part of the recruitment process? ED offered to write a paper to look at an apprenticeship model to address the accessibility issue, to be looked at by the Synod Planning group. The Synod Representative should be elected in September for 2023. Synod representatives for September 2024 will be elected in the Spring Synod, and this will be the pattern going forward.

Other Matters

12. Application for Authorised Presbyters

- Kim Mason
- Kate Barclay

The applications are brought to DLT for information only. The applications have been approved by the Conference.

13. GDPR Annual Checklist

Most churches have completed the checklist. One Circuit is still outstanding. These are being followed up. The District has also completed the checklist as being fully compliant.

There is a proposal that the checklist be included in the connexional online suite. This is being explored as a way in which circuits (and districts) can see the progress and offer support to churches. Currently only the Data Champion can see this information.

It was noted that Sheffield District was one of only 4 Districts to have a 100% completion rate for the Statistics for Mission.

14. EDI

EDI needs to be embedded in the life of the church. *Can it be a standing item on all agendas, and/or an EDI impact statement at the end of all reports?* The EDI training is ongoing but needs to be completed by the end of the year. There has been a request for some in-person training from one Circuit. Could this be rolled out across the District? ED would be available for this in August.

Is there a way of practically including the impact in existing reports? NH is interested in exploring this further, especially with the grant assessments. ED has experience of this from external groups. There may be information on community grant websites. NH will take this on for his reports in September. SA confirmed the value in ED at this meeting. DLT planning will look at a date for a more extensive annual report.

Regarding the training, Circuits are starting to explore this, it has been discussed at Superintendents meetings and is being rolled out in some Circuits. Superintendents are aware that it is their responsibility to ensure that the training is carried out. There are three circuits who will have new Superintendents from September. ED will be invited to the September Superintendents meeting. SA will follow this up.

15. AOB

Suggested Dates for DLT meetings 2023/24

- Thursday 7 September
- Wednesday 8 November
- Wednesday 3 January 2024
- Thursday 7 March
- Tuesday 14 May
- Tuesday 9 July

KH will check these with Julie Coates before confirming them.

DB was thanked for his work as the Methodist Council Representative for the last four years.

SA led the meeting in prayer.

The meeting closed at 21:05