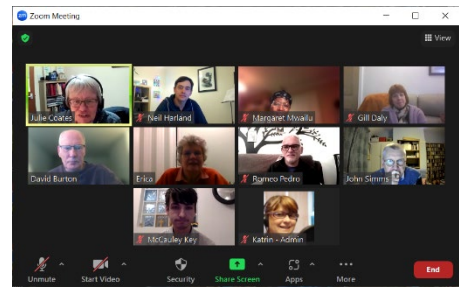


Sheffield Methodist District Leading Team

Meeting on Wednesday 3 January 2024 at 7.00 pm via ZOOM

Present

Julie Coates (JC) (Acting Chair); Neil Harland (NH); Margaret Mwailu (MM); McCauley Key (MK); David Burton (DB); Erica Dunmow (ED); Gill Daly (GD); Romeo Pedro (RP); John Simms (JS); (non-voting) Katrin Hackett (KH);



Opening Business

1. Opening worship

JC opened the meeting, sharing some of the questions from her New Year's Eve service on 2 Kings 6: 1-7.

2. Apologies for absence

Gill Newton (Presidential duties); Sean Adair; Jon Bellfield (Jon would like to continue to be part of the team, but does find evenings difficult); Claire Rawlinson

3. Minutes of the DLT on 8 November

These had been circulated and were accepted as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes.

District Vacancies

Lay Stationing Rep – GD is doing an extra year to cover while GN is President. She would like to have someone in place soon, the process for 2025 starts in May. Claire Rawlinson, who has been substituting for GN, will be in this process, so will not be able to lead on this. Sean Adair will take over for this. There may be changes to the process in 2025/26. GD will be on hand to work alongside a replacement. **JC will take this back to the Superintendents to stress the urgency of finding the replacement.** The system as planned would be following a mentoring process.

Synod Secretary – There has been one completed expression of interest, MM has had an informal conversation with someone else, she will follow up on this.

Lay Representative to Conference – KH's name has been put forward, but will be happy to step down for someone else to attend. It might be something one of our One Opp Interns would like to take part in in future years

CYF Worker Rep to DLT – NH will follow up with Vic Loveday.

Youth rep to DLT - NH will follow up with Vic Loveday

Visit of President & Vice-President in 2024/25 – They will be coming to Peak Circuit on a Saturday in the summer months and be available for preaching on the Sunday. There may be a link with UTU at this time

5. Decisions made between meetings for recording.

There is nothing to record.

Items For Discussion and Decision

6. Safeguarding policy (to be deferred to next meeting)

7. Mission Strategy update

The report has been circulated.

The Employee Assistance programme would only work if all circuits are involved. NH will have a conversation with Circuit Treasurers on this.

The “Life on the Breadline” will be good, but working on a very tight timeline.

New Christian Communities need to have a robust strategy to access funding from the Missions Committee. The paper will be discussed later in the meeting. The existing grant level will continue at £60k, but open for discussion. ED commented that the Pioneer role needs to be explicit in the difference that is being looked for. The role is about building something sustainable, a development and discipling role. NH will look at this further.

There is a possibility of setting up some seed funding scheme, for new ideas and also for existing congregations. This will encourage churches to explore more outreach opportunities. Will learn from the Keep Fishing and Warm Space grants. **DLT agreed for NH to explore this further.**

NH was thanked for his preparation and report.

8. Treasurer’s Report

The budget proposal has been circulated. Broadly speaking there is little change, increases are in line with inflation. NH is aware that circuits are running at a deficit. The majority of the District assessment goes to the Connexional funds. Last year the District absorbed some of the increase to avoid passing this on to Circuits. The assessment to Circuits will be going up by about 6.8%.

It is likely that money will need to be spent on 99 Grange Road (the Chair’s accommodation) to bring it up to standard for a new Chair. The income from current renting out broadly covers the cost of maintaining and renting the flat in Doncaster.

Some possible cost-saving options are possible, reducing staffing, or stopping some of the activities currently supported. The Communications Officer hours have been temporarily increased, the budget assumes this becomes permanent - 24 hours/week. An account of how the time is being used may be requested for a future meeting. **JC will raise this in the line management meeting.**

DLT approved the budget as proposed.

New Christian Communities Grants guidance has been discussed in the Mission Strategy
Neil was thanked for his care and attention to the finances

9. Recruitment of new District Chair

MM thanked Neil for putting the recruitment pack that has been circulated. This needs to be approved by DLT to be sent to the Conference as soon as possible.

Some small typographical errors were corrected in the first paragraph of Page 3. The language needs to be changed to UK English.

The practical information needs to be updated with information on 99 Grange Road. KH & NH will check on this.

Other minor changes were suggested and the final version will be circulated to Margaret, Neil and Julie before sending on to the ASC.

The Connexional Responsibilities will be changing from September 2024, but this will probably be amended by the Associate Secretary of the Conference (ASC).

The advert will go out on 15 January, Closing date 19 February, Shortlisting will be on 1 March (online).

Interviews will be on 15 March. A venue will be needed for this. A DLT meeting will need to be convened as soon as possible (ideally the same day) to receive the recommendation and make that the recommendation to Synod.

MM will get clarity on if this involves meeting the recommended candidate. DLT are asked to keep the Friday and following week free for this.

The Chair’s Nomination Committee is now in place, including the 3 substitutes, who are Edward Archer-Siddall, McCauley Key and Dawn Webster. They will be advised of the above dates.

KH & MM will liaise on a possible venue.

10. Oversight of Circuit-Led New Places for New People projects

The paper has been circulated and already looked at under Item 7. Let NH know if there are any other comments.

Other Matters

11. Chaplaincy support

MK has had some conversation with JC about chaplaincy support. There isn't much training or support available currently. MK would like to suggest a celebration event recognising the work that chaplains do. There isn't a current recognition within the Methodist Church of the role of a chaplain and this is something that could be explored more.

The event would be aimed at those who are very active in their chaplaincy work, particularly those employed, but not necessarily exclusively.

Chaplaincy is one of the next President's interest, so could be included as part of her visit, such as the focus of Sunday worship. Can also be a focus at one of the District Gatherings..

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

ED has now got access to the EDI email account. A meeting with JC will take place shortly.

13. Trinity Circuit – transfer of Trust Fund

The paper on the A H Goacher Bequest has been circulated. JC and DB declared their interest.

The resolution will support additional paperwork.

DLT agreed to this resolution. The two signatures will be MM and NH. KH will arrange for their electronic versions to be attached.

14. AOB

Dates for DLT meetings 2023/24

- Thursday 7 March
- Tuesday 8 May
- Tuesday 9 July

Synod / District Gatherings

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| • Spring Gathering (Synod) | 20 April 2024 | Sheffield – Victoria Hall |
| • Autumn Gathering (Synod) | 14 September 2024 | Trinity – The Crossing |
| • Spring Gathering (Synod) | 5 April 2025 | Sheffield |
| • Autumn Gathering (Synod) | 13 September 2025 | Doncaster |
| • Spring Gathering (Synod) | 18 April 2026 | Sheffield |

The meeting closed with prayer at 20:57