

# ***FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS***

Our strategy for resourcing your mission 2020-25

## **LEADING TEAM PROGRESS UPDATE**

**9 JULY 2024**



This paper sets out key actions and updates since our last meeting.

A copy of the full paper from September and the overall progress against this reported to our March meeting can be made available for new DLT members.

Our original strategy including the overall “theory of change” (what is our context, what do we hope will be different in the future, and what needs to be done in the meantime to enable this) is available for reference at: <https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/about-us/for-such-a-time-as-this.html>

## **GROWING DISCIPLES**

### **ONE Programme District interns**

An updated implication pack is now available for the next intake, who will start their internships in September this year. Vic Loveday is in active conversations with circuits and churches, but please do speak with her if you know a young person who may be suitable. We hope to have more than the three interns we have had this year, but are unlikely to reach capacity within the scheme next year.

### **Supporting lay employees**

We had six lay employees from our district attend the recent Lay Employees Retreat, up from three the previous year. Feedback from those who attend continues to be positive, and we hope to spread news of the event to employees and line managers.

Westfield Health will be presenting to DLT on their Employee Assistance Programme, which comes recommended by the Lay Employment Panel. The proposal is that this scheme first be trialled for district staff to see how it works in practice before recommending to circuits and churches.

Roll out of reflective supervision for lay employees will be discussed at the next superintendents’ gathering.

### **Celebrating and affirming people in leadership roles**

Since our last meeting we have held a first gathering for chaplains (organised by McCauley Allcock) and a celebration service for children and youth leaders and volunteers organised by Vic Loveday. Both attended by Julie as Acting Chair, and appreciated by those who came. We are supporting Deacon Emily Hoe-Crook in planning an LGBT+ Inclusion Day

## **PASSIONATE CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP**

### **Metal Methodist - Digital expression of church**

We have been successful in our application for £10k Digital NPNP funding for Metal Methodist which will be used for a fixed term social media manager (District employee or self-employed). A steering group is in place to oversee this work.

## **Growing District Youth Day and 3Generate**

Bookings are currently open for 3Generate. We are once again anticipating an increase in the numbers attending from across our District.

## **SHARING STORIES**

### **Media training**

Media training from the Connexional Media Team has been provided to a range of people from across the district. Sam will be looking for opportunities to put this training to use and reflecting on how we best continue to spread training across the district.

### **New Beginnings seed funding**

At the time of writing we have received four applications, with our first grant being awarded to Bolsover for a new Messy Church.

## **TRANSFORMING MISSION**

### **New Christian Communities**

I am continuing to work with groups within circuits exploring opportunities for new Christian communities which will require employment of pioneers. This is inherently slow work, understanding contextual opportunities, developing critical missional thinking and consulting with stakeholders.

During these conversations, it is clear that in some contexts there are genuine constraints on both circuit budgets and reserves. This will create barriers to long term investment in potentially fruitful new work. With the District Advance Fund holding more uncommitted money than we expected, I recommend that in the autumn we explore increasing the value of district funding for each pioneer (currently a maximum of £60k including Connexional match funding). We have discussed this as DLT within the last 12 months, but it feels to me that circumstances on the ground have changed.

## **PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION**

### **Environmental policy**

The Hope for Action report approved by Methodist Council includes allocation of funds to districts to finance moves towards net zero. Tom Rattigan has been involved in developing these proposals, and the Eco surveys he developed for use within our district are now being recommended to other districts. Our allocation is expected to be in the region of £185k. Accessing this funding requires having a district environmental policy.

Despite reaching the second round we were unsuccessful in our bid for Centrica's Energy for Tomorrow Midlands Campaign, which could have supported a part time fixed term District Eco Officer and support for property projects based within Derbyshire.

In the autumn we will create a working party, to draft an environmental policy, including how we would use £185k of Connexional funding available as part of the Action for Hope programme.