**YORKSHIRE NORTH & EAST METHODIST DISTRICT**

**REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER TO SPRING SYNOD 2020**

The independently examined District annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2019 have been approved by the District Policy Consultation who are the trustees. A copy of the annual accounts can be found on the District website.

The District has an unrestricted fund which is primarily funded by assessment income from the Circuits. This fund is used to pay the various staff salaries and other expenses involved in running the day to day affairs of the District. Total income in the year amounted to £217,770 (2018 £185,605) and expenditure amounted to £223,567 (2018 £151,844). Unrestricted funds held in reserve at 31 August 2019 amounted to £82,561 (2018 £83,434).

In addition, the District has seven restricted funds totalling £1,260,464 (2018 £1,222,688). These funds are held for a variety of different purposes and comprise the Chair’s Benevolent Fund, Pioneer Nursery Fund, District Advance Fund, York and Hull International House Funds and York and Hull City Centre Proceeds Funds. Restricted funds can only be used for the specific purposes for which they were created.

The District is currently receiving annual connexional grants of £25,000 to fund the Pioneer Nursery work and £21,600 to assist the funding of youth work in the District. In addition, the District receives annual income from the Connexion and Circuits into its Advance Fund and in the past year this income amounted in total to £220,276.

The District Advance Fund is used to make grants to fund work in the District and a total of £197,646 was paid out during the year. The balance held at 31 August 2019 was £523,394 of which £455,264 is already committed to future projects. There is guidance about making grant applications on the District website including seed funding grants up to a maximum of £1,000 for trying “new things to reach new people”.

Overall, the District is in a stable position financially, and the continued support of the circuits and churches is acknowledged with thanks. The temporary closure of church premises as a result of the coronavirus crisis does pose a real threat to the financial stability of many of our churches in terms of reduced income from offertories and other sources, such as room lettings. Churches and circuits blessed with decent reserves can hopefully use these to overcome any short-term financial difficulties and maybe there will even be opportunities for them to help other churches which are finding it a struggle.

Malcolm Lucas

District Treasurer