

District Leadership Team

Summary of meeting held on 28 January 2021

Present:

Leslie Newton, Chair of District
Neville Simpson, Deputy Chair of District
Beverley Duffy, Lay Stationing Representative
Emma Crippen, Synod Secretary
Andrew Brown, District Property Secretary
Nic Bentley, District Grants Officer
Alister McClure, Methodist Council Representative
Malcolm Lucas, District Treasurer
Siân Henderson, District Administrator

In attendance:

Simon Pringle (governance support) – part meeting
Andrew Crawford (HR Officer) – part meeting

Apologies:

Steve Barlow, Circuit Support Team Leader

- An article on **church closures** has been added to the district website
- A request for **communications support** has resulted in two offers so far.
- A discussion with Simon Pringle took place around the best method of offering **governance support** to churches and circuits. A wider conversation will be planned, and case studies developed to give examples of the differing models that might be offered.
- Updates were received on
 - Stationing
 - Candidates
 - Circuit Support Team
 - Flourish
 - Youth work
 - Net Zero Carbon project
 - Lay employment
 - Synod
 - Chair's sabbatical
- Newly-appointed **HR Officer**, Andrew Crawford, was introduced to the group
- The **budget** was approved for submission to synod; accounts have been delayed due to Covid restrictions

- **District Advance Fund matters:**
 - A request for Connexional clarification on CPD as it relates to DAF grant-giving has received an unofficial response while standing orders are examined more closely. The committee has been authorised to continue awarding grants according to the current criteria.
 - The Digital Communications Officer role will be extended for a further two years
 - DAF will be used to support the Circuit Support Team for the next three years
 - A previously agreed grant to fund ministry to the Persian community in Hull and beyond was extended

- A small group will be set up to look at establishing a mechanism for assessing merit-based **pay increases** for lay staff. A formula already exists for cost of living increases.

- **Wellbeing** – presbyteral synod will be looking at this issue as it relates to ordained staff; an external grant has been received to fund a part-time wellbeing officer focusing on lay employees; the Chairs’ meeting has been considering physical and mental health checks for ministers.

- A proposal to repurpose the **District Policy Consultation** into a representative forum was discussed and will be considered further at the next DPC meeting.

- **City Centre projects:**
 - The annual maintenance grant to Selby St Church was approved from the Hull City Centre fund
 - The review of York Central has been completed and will be submitted to the Connexional Team

- Permission to **cease worship** at Trinity, York will be recommended to synod

- Further conversations around revising the current system of allocating **circuit representatives to synod** took place; a final proposal will be offered for consultation in circuits and brought to synod in September 2021

- Leslie Newton will speak to Richard Teal about developing his **links with Kenya** at a district level

- **Appointments and approvals:**
 - Katy Spencer-Madden, partial furlough
 - June Anderson to probationers’ committee for one year
 - Malcolm Stevenson to candidates’ committee for one year
 - Jo Clare-Young, URC minister, has been granted authorisation to serve in the North Yorkshire Coast Circuit

- The next meeting will be held on 16 March 2021