# District Leadership Team

**Summary of meeting held on 13 May 2021**

**Present:**

Neville Simpson, Deputy Chair of District

Beverley Duffy, Lay Stationing Representative

Emma Crippen, Synod Secretary

Andrew Brown, District Property Secretary

Malcolm Lucas, District Treasurer

Siân Henderson, District Administrator

Amy Shephard, Youth Representative

**In attendance:** (part meeting)

Keith Albans, Superintendent York Circuit

Katy Spencer-Madden, District Safeguarding Officer

**Apologies:**

Steve Barlow, Circuit Support Team Leader

Alister McClure, Methodist Council Representative

Leslie Newton, Chair of District

Nic Bentley, District Grants Officer

* **Updates** were received on
* Zoom accounts – the new Connexional scheme has worked well, with a few glitches for a small number of people. The accounts will be free until September 2022.
* ‘Circuit 17’ (Governance) – Simon Pringle and David Perry have been meeting with ministers from three circuits to discuss practical implications of a potential governance circuit.
* Net Zero Carbon project – the guiding group has met for the first time. Progress is being made in two clusters of churches which have been identified as suitable premises for improvement. Grant funding is being sourced to cover costs of studies.
* Unconscious Bias training – plans are in hand to deliver this training to circuit invitation committees ahead of the next stationing round
* Chair’s sabbatical – cover arrangements are working well
* Communications – a small group continues to meet to look at ways of improving the district’s communications, both internal and external. It is hoped that short videos highlighting local activity can be used in the future.
* Data protection annual checklist – the district data mapping chart was provided for information
* Stationing
* **York City Centre Deacon**

The district currently supports this appointment with a grant of 50% of costs, funded from the sale of York city centre property which is then ring-fenced for city centre mission. It was agreed to continue with this level of support should there be an extension of the current appointment.

* **Synod**
* A review of the April synod took place and it was noted that the speakers were well received but could have been allocated more time
* Visitors to synod will be encouraged
* The intention is to hold a physical synod in September, with the option to attend virtually
* **Finance**

The accounts and trustees’ report were reviewed and approved for submission to the charity commission

* **Lay Employment**
* Two York Circuit roles were considered; one was approved and the second is awaiting further information
* It was agreed that the Lay Employment Sub-Committee will be asked to offer a recommendation for approval to the DLT following its deliberations, allowing the DLT to give finalapproval after email consultation, improving the efficiency of the process.
* **Safeguarding**

Katy Spencer-Madden, District Safeguarding Officer, led a discussion on raising the profile of safeguarding as part of all aspects of district life, and of ensuring that district trustees are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities, including oversight of the DSO’s work. Various improvements were agreed, including making safeguarding a standing agenda item at DLT meetings, circulating DSO reports and District Safeguarding Group minutes to trustees, training being offered to trustees, and consideration being given to the appointment of a specialist trustee to oversee district safeguarding.

* The next meeting will be held on 22 July 2021