# District Leadership Team

**Summary of meeting held on 18 November 2021**

**Present:**

Leslie Newton, Chair of District

Beverley Duffy, Lay Stationing Representative

Andrew Brown, District Property Secretary

Alister McClure, Methodist Council Representative (via Zoom)

Malcolm Lucas, District Treasurer

Nic Bentley, Grants Officer

Emma Crippen, Synod Secretary

Siân Henderson, District Administrator

Naomi Prince, Youth Representative

Neville Simpson, Deputy Chair

**Updates from previous meeting**

Updates were received on

* Unconscious Bias Training
* World Church links with Kenya
* District communications
* New Places for New People – connexional initiative
* Sale of St George’s church, York

**Noting of decisions made by email since last meeting**

Three lay appointments were approved:

* Driffield-Hornsea local pastor (rural)
* Ripon and Lower Dales finance officer
* Ripon and Lower Dales local pastor

**Stationing 2022**

Two of three appointments have been filled

**Wellbeing Officer**

An appointment has been made to support the wellbeing of lay staff across the district

**Circuit 17**

A contractor has been appointed to take this work forward

**Flourish 21**

Scarborough Spa has been booked for the weekend 14-16 April 2023

**University of York Chaplaincy**

An agreement has been reached with the York Circuit to reduce the chaplaincy input to 25% of a circuit ministry appointment, due to the loss of district income from York International House student lettings. Stakeholders have been informed.

**Net Zero Carbon project**

A small group from the district is meeting with a member of the connexional team to support the development of a connexional response to the climate emergency.

**Rural work**

Denise Williamson continues to develop a district (and ecumenical) response to rural need.

**Connexional review of districts and regions**

Leslie Newton is representing the Yorkshire Plus region Chairs in discussions on the potential reconfiguration of districts. No conclusions were reached in the first meeting.

**Chair’s re-invitation**

Emma Crippen is coordinating the process to consider Leslie Newton’s re-invitation from September 2023.

**Hull International House**

A meeting has been held between district and HIH representatives which generated a number of proposals to address operational matters and to explore the long-term future of the House. These were all agreed.

**Pension Reserve Contribution**

It was agreed to contribute£15375, representing 15% of the uncommitted DAF, to the connexional appeal.

**District Digital priorities**

The meeting was supportive of Elliot Crippen’s proposal to focus his work in a more pro-actively missional direction.

**Circuit Support Team**

A small team will take forward the appointment of a Circuit Support Team leader, with additional funding agreed from the DAF.

**District Mission Plan / Vision**

A new vision group will be set up by the Chair to review the strategic direction of the district in a post-pandemic world.

**Synod Representation**

The proposal presented to synod in September was approved for adoption. This will have the effect of reducing the total number of synod representatives, in line with falling membership, but also regularise the formula for calculating the number of circuit representatives.

**District Safeguarding Policy**

The policy was adopted for the current year.

**Permission to Cease Worship**

It was agreed to recommend to synod that permission be granted to South Cliff Methodist Church, in the North Yorkshire Coast Circuit, to cease worship. The meeting expressed the hope that closure decisions are taken with a strategic view of the mission within an area, and the best use of available resources to support that mission, rather than an assumption that smaller churches should be the ones to close.

**District Advance Fund**

Net zero grants – it was agreed to consider applications relating to carbon reduction projects, including solar panels. Adele Borrowman will coordinate solar panel purchasing to access economies of scale.