**THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**YORKSHIRE NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT**

**REPRESENTATIVE SYNOD – 7th MAY 2022**

**REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT PROPERTY SECRETARY**

**Property Projects**

The last Connexional year (2020/21) saw a similar number of schemes in the District that were entered onto the Property Website (effectively the start of the authorisation process) as in the previous year, probably indicating that the Covid 19 pandemic was continuing to have an effect. A total of 23 schemes were entered in 202/21 (compared to 26 in 2019/20 and 37 in 2018/19).

During the last Connexional year (2020/21) authorisation was given to a total of 24 schemes (compared to 26 in 2019/20). What was most notable was that there was a reduction in schemes for the repair or alteration of chapels and an increase in authorisation of sales and leases. There were only four authorisations for relatively small-scale alteration or repairs (compared to 10 the previous year) and another four authorisations for major schemes (compared with none in 2019/20) but two of these related to the re-phasing of proposals that had already received authorisation. Authorisation was granted for the sale of 8 properties (6 being of redundant chapels, compared to the sale of 3 chapels the year before), and the leasing of 6 properties (compared to 5 the year before). There were also authorisations for the purchase of a new manse and for entering into the lease of a shop.

**Annual Property Returns**

The Annual Property Return (completed on-line) is an important process, as it contains all the information required to ensure that the churches and circuits in the District are complying with Charity Law, Health & Safety and safeguarding.

***The returns should be submitted by 31st May 2022.***

**District Property**

The District Trustees are responsible for four properties, the District Manse, Hull International House and York International House (which occupies two separate buildings - 17 Constantine Avenue and St. George’s Apartments).

Last year I reported that it was hoped that the St. George’s Apartments would be sold to York Community Church as part of its acquisition of the Cornerstone building. Problems with an overage clause have delayed (and continues delay) this sale.

Two Improvement Notices have been served on Hull International House by Hull City Council and I am currently in discussion with the Council to agree the ways in which the required works can be implemented given the building’s Grade II listed status.

No urgent outstanding issues have been identified for the District’s other properties.

Andrew Brown

District Property Secretary

31st March 2022