

Council Objectives

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Action Required	For information.

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	To provide the Council with an update of work undertaken towards the immediate priorities listed in MC/18/72.
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Council Objectives

1. In MC/18/72 the Council adopted the tasks, aims and priorities set out as the Objectives for the period ahead.
2. The paper contained a number of 'immediate priorities' which have been the backbone of the Connexional Team plan of work for this year.
3. To aid the Council's ongoing reflection on its objectives the following updates are offered.

Immediate Priorities	Update
1. Proclaiming the Gospel through worship	
To continue to refine the <i>Worship: Leading and Preaching</i> course – including addressing issues around online mode of delivery and appropriateness for Worship Leaders.	<p>The Team continues to support the delivery of <i>Worship: Leading and Preaching</i> (W:LP), through the training of tutors and mentors and the moderation of the portfolios. With changes in staffing there has been a need to share the portfolios out around the regions to provide suitable cover for those regions where there is not currently a lead officer in place. It is hoped with the current recruitment of Learning Development Officers in South West, North East, East of England and Southern & Islands regions that there will be a full complement of officers to undertake the moderation for the September 2019 submissions.</p> <p>Major work is on-going around redesign of the Moodle platform which will enable much more efficient local printing options.</p> <p>Guidelines have been issued around worship leader training which places the responsibility with the circuit and local preachers meeting whilst offering W:LP as the gold standard</p>
To reflect on the nature and frequency of accreditation of those in authorised ministries and modelling ongoing feedback and review of those leading worship.	Guidelines have been drafted and approved on peer to peer mentoring. The Liturgical subcommittee of the Faith and Order Committee is in the final stages of work on an annual service of reaffirmation for Local Preachers.
To determine what support and ongoing training may be needed for the large number of supernumeraries leading worship.	Supernumeraries and their ongoing support is on the Ministries: Vocations & Worship (MVW) team agenda for March
To have agreed a mandatory Continuing Development package for Local Preachers.	Continuing Local Preacher Development (CLPD) is mandatory. Team members are working with StF+ to offer creative possibilities of how this might be developed.
To support development in ministerial training pilots.	After detailed research the Ministries Committee has concluded that the time is not right to proceed with this and will report their conclusions to the Council separately.
2. The ministry of the whole people of God in the life of the world	
To implement a strategy for an increased response to vocational discernment, including the diversity of those engaging in our processes.	The ONE Programme continues to equip, empowers, and encourages young people in their discipleship, vocation

	<p>and leadership in three streams to the ONE Programme – One Participant, One Encounter and One Opportunity.</p> <p>Exploring Ordained Ministry Days have been launched, 31 people attended the first at Cliff College. 40 are booked for London in May. Plans for an 18-30's day in the autumn are in development. Consultation is ongoing with representatives of the BAME community as to what ways might be appropriate to encourage engagement – we think we will be offering a specific day.</p> <p>A Vocations Development Working group has been formed and work is planned on vocational discernment for young people.</p>
<p>To grow the number of opportunities for vocational exploration.</p>	<p>Young Adults (18-30 year olds) vocations – this year there will be Rise and Shine Leadership and Vocational event in July and the launch of a Young Preachers event facilitated by the Children, Youth and Families Team, a group of Local Preachers and Cliff College.</p> <p>Staff continue to support those seeking to candidate for ordained ministry as well as encouraging vocational exploration more generally. A number of regions are engaged in supporting/delivering Vocations Days for general vocational discernment alongside the Connexional days that are planned.</p> <p>Staff continue to resource the Methodist Pioneering Pathways programme with further work underway to fully establish the programme in some regions.</p> <p>Long term proposals were adopted by the Strategy and Resources Committee for the development and funding of the Intern Programme.</p>
<p>To re-invigorate the understanding of the possibilities of offering for presbyteral ministry in a local appointment</p>	<p>An early stage consultation is underway with those people who originally served as what were termed Ministers in Local Appointment (MLA) to gather what we can learn from them</p>
<p>To complete a review of the selection of ministers, and to establish a working group to look at non-stipendiary ministry that need not be itinerant but is nevertheless connexional.</p>	<p>The revised criteria for selection have now been integrated throughout the candidating process and the Ministerial Coordinator for Oversight of Ordained Ministries will complete her first year in post before reviewing with the chairs of the Ministerial Candidates' Selection Committee the selection processes. Developing non-stipendiary and local ministry opportunities is on the agenda of the Ministries Committee</p>
<p>To undertake work on the principles of how appointments are agreed and funded and to implement robust systems to scrutinize and approve appointment profiles.</p>	<p>This is on the agenda of the Stationing Committee</p>

To develop methods of identification and selection relating to the superintendents of the future.	Discussion is underway on a new programme of leadership training to assist discernment and to increase confidence in the selection of Superintendents in relation to part C of 'Ministry in the Methodist Church'
To establish the mandatory training of superintendents to ensure they are equipped for leadership at circuit level.	There are ongoing questions (above) as to where this work might happen. Based in the Team or at a centre. Whilst discussions continue we propose to repeat the pattern of New Supers training with the addition of a provision for training as a Supervisor for 2019-2020
To continue to resource the accountable supervision of those in ministry appropriately.	Staff continue to be involved in the delivery of the Supervision Training programme and have engaged in a number of supervision familiarisation sessions in Districts where requested to do so. The development of the Time to Reflect retreat/conference (for ordained ministers coming to the end of their first appointment) continues to be facilitated alongside developing plans for a 'mid-years' in ministry retreat/conference.
To continue to resource a high quality, locally-based, authorised lay led ministry.	The Well is the learning and development strand for those involved in Children, Youth, Family and Intergenerational Ministry. The Well Learning Hub was launched in early 2019. This YouTube channel contains videos about a range of topics that may be useful for those involved in children, youth and family ministry.
To address the need to be able to identify diverse future senior leaders (for the Church's future) and then journey with them to enable them to flourish.	This is part of the work of the EDI committee and the EDI Advisor is being consulted on the work with the Faith and Order Committee on leadership.
To engage with the Faith and Order Committee's work with the Church of England relating to interchangeability and the place of the diaconate.	This is covered by the Further Reflection Group and considerable time has been given to this by the Connexional Ecumenical Officer.
3. Resources for the Church: the use of God's good gifts	
To decide how to make finance available in Districts for the support of Mission and <i>Our Calling</i> .	Increased support by those responsible for Global Relationships for district twinning relationships with world church partners. The newly configured Regional Learning and Development Forums are working well across the Connexion with some further work being undertaken in some regions to help embed the new approach.
To implement the property strategy and the finance strategy approved by the Council.	Detailed work underway on both with a major event being planned for 2 May for District Property Secretaries at which the Property Strategy will be explored. Appointments are being made to the new property team.
To have agreed the terms of reference for a review of the Connexional Priority Fund levy that will explore the possibilities of granting an exemption in order to support missional work	Initial conversations have taken place at the Connexional Leaders' Forum and the Council and the work is ongoing.

where there is no requirement/need for a new building.	
To ensure delivery from the reshaped Connexional Team for the best support Our Calling.	This work is ongoing with development being undertaken as appropriate. The SRC is being fully consulted on further changes.
To oversee the Methodist Church House re-development project ensuring the process is shaped for the new building to be utilised to support the aims of the Methodist Church.	<p>Work is underway to progress redevelopment of Methodist Church House (MCH). Key work streams to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A new Buildings Project Sub-Committee, chaired by Peter Howdle, chair of the SRC, to bring dedicated oversight to the project ▪ Legal advice on a range of issues ▪ Careful re-assessment of the business case to ensure we can fulfil the decision to maximise the amount of commercially let-able floor space. <p>Key programme dates for the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning approval - Dec 2020 ▪ Temporary relocation of the Team – Aug/Sept 2021 ▪ Start of works – Dec 2021 ▪ Completion of redevelopment - Dec 2023 <p>This programme may be subject to change.</p> <p>With approval of the project sub-committee, the above programme means that the Connexional Team will remain in MCH for a further two and a half years, with reviews at fixed intervals. The maintenance plan for MCH is therefore being re-assessed and minor essential maintenance is anticipated in the coming months to ensure the building remains fully operational until the Connexional Team moves out.</p>
4. Oversight and Leadership	
To ensure the ways of working of the Council, the Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC), the Chairs' Meeting and the Connexional Leaders' Forum (CLF) are fit to deliver the aim: <i>To have refined patterns of oversight/leadership and governance so as to provide high-quality, priority-driven policy-making to deliver Our Calling as the discerned manifestation of the Church's mission.</i>	The SRC and CLF have both engaged in a discussion session around this broad area. Further work is to come.
5. A Church for all people	
To develop a strategy for evangelism and discipleship for those less well served by reason of race or class – including taking forward the work of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee in relation to 'The Unfinished Agenda'.	<p>Work is underway on developing an Evangelism and Growth Strategy.</p> <p>A report from the EDI symposium is contained elsewhere in the Council Agenda.</p>

<p>To continue with the growth of 3Generate as a significant engagement in the discipleship journey of children and young people, paying particular attention to those places where young people are most excluded. This will include encouragement of the Year of Testimony initiative.</p>	<p>Significant work around the Year of Testimony has led to the early-but-in-process development of a video-based testimony and storytelling initiative from the Evangelism and Growth team, that will be launched in August 2019. This work is a next step from the FaithStories prototype that was tested in 2017/18.</p> <p>Members of Faith and Order, Evangelism and Growth, The Queen’s Foundation and Cliff College faculty gathered on 4 March to produce a theological underpinning document to enable all Year of Testimony work to be grounded in Methodist theological thinking. This will allow a clear reference point for everyone working on this.</p> <p>The Manifestos for 3Generate 2018 have been shared with every Minister with a letter from the Youth President. And supporting resources for Churches to engage in the Manifestos are online on the Methodist Website. We will be developing a 3Generate Manifesto animation resource video for the Conference.</p> <p>Staff are working closely with the children, youth and families team in developing the plans for 3Generate 2019 as well as engaging children and young people in a number of 3Generate Local events during this year.</p>
<p>6. Social Holiness</p>	
<p>To continue to develop partnerships which look to a wide range of individuals and groups (including ecumenical partners) whom we can be in mission with together (including Mission and Ministry in Covenant).</p>	<p>Increased Global Relationships support for district twinning relationships with world church partners.</p>
<p>To commit to a key number of issues where we want to act as a prophetic voice.</p>	<p>Working ecumenically through the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT), the following areas have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A society that welcomes the stranger • A society where those who are the poorest are at the centre • A society which values each generation • A world which shares a single planet fairly • A world which works for global peace • A society where there is greater democratic participation <p>Key campaigns for this year include: Living Lent, the hostile/welcoming environment, terrorism, Universal Credit and inter-generational justice.</p>
<p>To resource the work of the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust (MAST) in ensuring our maintained schools continue to offer high quality Methodist focused education to children and young people in the communities they live.</p>	<p>The Methodist Academies and Schools Trust (MAST) has appointed a Head of Service to oversee the effectiveness of the work of the Trust with Methodist schools in the maintained sector. A new church schools inspection schedule (SIAMS) has been operating since the new year and is reflecting back the importance of the distinctive</p>

	<p>Christian ethos in our schools. Our schools continue to offer high quality learning, often in increasingly challenging circumstances. A fuller description of Methodist Schools work is available in a separate paper to the Methodist Council.</p>
<p>For the Committees of the Council and the Connexional Team to strengthen their engagement with MHA, Action for Children and All We Can; remembering their heritage but also our shared hope in a brave new world.</p>	<p>Global Relationships (GR) and All We Can (AWC) are engaged in joint projects, a senior AWC colleague has been seconded to the GR team to deliver these projects, joint deputation is in embryonic stages.</p> <p>Safeguarding Director is in communication with the Action for Children safeguarding lead who now sits on the connexional safeguarding committee</p> <p>JPIT has met with MHA and Action for Children staff to discuss potential co-operation over domestic policy issues, though nothing concrete has yet taken shape. JPIT also contributed to the All We Can Lent resource and has a shared action on the hostile environment.</p> <p>The Secretary of the Conference convened a meeting of the Connexional Secretary, and the CEOs of the Central Finance Board, Action for Children, MHA and All We Can to discuss common themes and work plans.</p>
<p>7. Evangelism</p>	
<p>To have provided the resources and momentum for Districts to establish credible strategies for growth and increased evangelism</p>	<p>CIEMAL mission partners evangelists scheme established, awaiting circuits to commit to receiving these mission partners.</p> <p>Inductions for two of the three new officers on the Evangelism and Growth team have started as of 1 March, with the third officer beginning in early April. A full team of 10 people across the Connexion will now be working hard, in concert with Connexional Team, Regional, and District leaders, to progress the emerging Evangelism and Growth strategy.</p> <p>The Director of Evangelism and Growth is on target to complete 50 on-the-road consultations by the end of April, and is now moving the strategic intent document into a draft paper of core strategic streams. The draft content of this will be shared in workshops at the Conference, and in October with a Connexional Consultation and Celebration of Evangelism and Growth in London. The intention is to bring a strategy and strategic plan to the Council and the Conference in 2020. A taster video about the (re)start of this focus was launched in early March, in time for Presbyteral and Representative Spring Synods.</p> <p>There is a burgeoning sense of hope and joy about the Reaffirmation of <i>Our Calling</i>, and how evangelism and</p>

	growth (spiritual and numerical) is a crucial dimension of that.
Each church, Circuit and District to have in place a 'Mission Plan' to underpin the future direction of work, including deployment of personnel and use of reserves.	Regional teams continue to engage with Districts, Circuits and Churches and their leadership teams in facilitating vision and strategy days as they seek to develop their church and circuit vision plans.
8. One Mission	
To ensure the One Mission Forum as a place of sharing and encouragement for all the Districts.	Covered in MC/19/37
To continue to realise and grow the Strategy for Global Relationships.	<p>Greater focus on twinning and P2P programmes. Financially supporting young Methodists on world church exposure visits including connexionally organised group to India in 2019, two Partnership Coordinators living in the regions they serve.</p> <p>Safeguarding links made with the Methodist Church in South Africa and interest in links from Methodist Church in Colombia has been received.</p> <p>Work underway to produce policy and resources to support Mission Partners in their safeguarding practice when out of the country.</p>
To identify the links which will be nurtured and led by each District around the world with particular focus on Europe.	Increased Global Relationships support for district twinning relationships with world church partners. Appointment of Europe Partnership Coordinator based in Germany, Global Mission Fellows projects established.

*****RESOLUTION**

43/1. The Council notes the update on progress made towards the immediate priorities.