

East of Eden Mission Community  
Steering Group meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 4pm

Present: Jim Butterworth, David Fowler, Bryan Gray (Chairman), Helen Armstrong, Stephen Pye, Ray Wager, Les Wallace.

1. The minutes of the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October were approved.
2. Apology received from Kathleen Doidge Harrison.
3. Website. This has now been launched ([www.eastofedenmc.org.uk](http://www.eastofedenmc.org.uk)). The webmaster (Avril) is being trained next week. It is important that we use the website for all news, service times, and gradually add more content. We should promote the website in all communications. Les agreed to look at the 'I am not a robot' function, which is not user friendly, even for non-robots.
4. Feedback from the 'conversations'. It was agreed that the format worked well, over 90 people attended the three sessions. Helen has produced an excellent record of the meetings. It was agreed to post this on the website together with the minutes of Steering Group meetings. *Action: provide any corrections to Helen by 9<sup>th</sup> Nov (all). Post on website together with SG minutes (Bryan).*
5. Response to 'conversations'. There were a number of broad themes: worship, lay leadership and skills, our use of building for mission, communications/governance, and many excellent initiatives and suggestions. Based on these themes actions to be taken are outlined in Items 6 and 7 below.
6. Steering Group Terms of reference. It was agreed to produce draft Terms for consultation. These are attached and include proposals on how to communicate with, and receive ideas and feedback from, all the congregations in the Mission Community.
7. 'Task and Finish Groups'. It was agreed to form three working groups to consider three of the themes identified in the conversations. The Group leaders will identify people to join the groups; the objective is to produce a report for discussion based on a thorough understanding of the issues and opportunities. The Groups will report by end March. *Action: suggest people who may be interested in joining these Groups (All).* The three Groups are:
  - Worship. To consider our approach to worship in the MC recognizing that there will be fewer Ministers, and recognizing our mission focus. David will lead.
  - Buildings for mission. To consider how best we can use our buildings, and any changes needed to achieve our mission focus. Stephen will lead.
  - Lay Leadership. To consider how to discern the talents and skills of our lay people, how best they can be used, and to identify training and support needs. Les will lead.
8. Staffing levels. There was clearly a misunderstanding amongst some at some of the comments made at the conversations about future staffing levels. The position is as follows:
  - The budget prepared some time ago assumes that by 2020 we will have two full time Ministers and one House for Duty or equivalent. (At present we have two Anglican Ministers and two Methodist Ministers – but half of Chris's ministry, as Agricultural Chaplain, is funded outside the Circuit.)
  - It has been suggested that when David retires in Sept 2017 it may be sensible to appoint a full time Minister (based at Kirkoswald) and that in due course

Stephen's role would become a House for Duty role. Thus by 2020 we would have one Minister based at Kirkoswald, one Minister at Langwathby and the flexibility to appoint a House for Duty minister at the best location to support mission. This proposal would require transition funding and requires consideration of the needs of the new Mission Community, as well as the legal issues. For example, it may be desirable to appoint a lay person to lead work with young people instead of a House for Duty role. Discussions are taking place with the Strategy Steering Group (the ecumenical leadership group for Cumbria) in order to identify options.

9. Finances. Ray is in the process of opening a bank account for the Mission Community. Bank balance is £1173.
10. Next meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 4pm at Langwathby Methodist Church.

BMG 14/11/2016

#### Steering Group: Terms of Reference.

1. The Steering Group will support the Mission Community Leader(s) in establishing and operating the Mission Community within the context of the 'God for All' strategy determined by church leaders in Cumbria.
2. The Steering Group will consist of:
  - The Mission Community Leader(s).
  - Two Anglican lay members. One nominated by each of the two existing Benefices.
  - Two Methodist lay members nominated by the Circuit.
  - A Chairman who may be one of the above, or an additional appointment, decided by the Steering Group.
  - The Steering Group may co-opt others providing that the total does not exceed twelve people.
  - One person will act as Treasurer, and one as Secretary.
  - Appointments (except for Mission Community Leader(s)) will be for three years (re-appointment will be possible).
3. Consultation and feedback. A member of the Steering Group will attend Circuit and Benefice meetings to facilitate communication, consultation, discussion and feedback. This should happen twice per annum (subject to invitation and agreement by the Circuit/Benefice). The exact form of the Benefice meetings is to be decided. For example, the Cross Fell Benefice may meet as two groups (Fellside and Langwathby/Addingham/Culgaith/Edenhall).
4. There will be an Annual Meeting of the Steering Group with all congregations