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Minutes of the East of Eden Mission Community Steering Group Meeting 13/11/2017

Present : Revd Stephen Pye, Revd Les Wallace, Bryan Gray (Chair), Jim Butterworth, Kathleen Doidge-Harrison, Ray Wager

Apologies: Helen Armstrong

1. Staffing

EEMC Vacancy

The appointment will be advertised as an ecumenical one and the process will comply with both the Anglican and Methodist models. Parish profiles will be drawn up by PCCs; the archdeacon will meet one or two PCC representatives and will then meet Stephen Pye, Les Wallace and Bryan Gray as representatives of the EEMC. Advertisements will be placed in the New Year and an appointment may possibly be made before Easter.

The interviewers will be Stephen Pye, Les Wallace, a Methodist representative, a PCC representative and a Patron's (diocesan) representative. The person appointed will work across the Mission Community and joint Methodist/Anglican leadership will continue.

Penrith and The West

The Deanery Plan was accepted at Deanery Synod by a majority of 27 to 13. Appointments to Penrith and the west of the Mission Area can now be made, the principle being that a group representative of Methodist, Anglican and URC denominations will work on the appointments.

Curacy

Stephen will have a curate from mid-2018. The curate will serve his title in the EEMC with Stephen as his training incumbent.

2. Worship

It is hoped to establish a pattern of services across the EEMC from Easter, with a three-month visibility of service times and locations.

3. Lay Leadership

A meeting of the EEMC Skills Working Group was held on 21 September, to which churchwarden and circuit stewards were invited. Les Wallace circulated the minutes of the meeting together with copies of the audit carried out by the working group and a summary of the meeting that the group held this morning. Bryan Gray suggested that another column be added to the audit document showing what authority worship leaders have.

In future, the person leading a service must be named when services are advertised. Readers and churchwardens have authorisation from the diocese for specific duties and the Methodist Church has a process of authorisation for those who preach. With the help of The Revd Nicki Pennington of Cumbria Christian Learning, the EEMC will establish ways of authorising lay leaders, giving them appropriate training and support. The system needs to be clear and rigorous. **Action: Stephen/Les/Bryan to consider how best to do this.**

4. Website

At present, Methodist and Anglican services cannot be integrated on the A Church Near You website.

5. Finance

Ray Wager presented a financial report for the period 1 April to 11 November. It was agreed that some funds be transferred from the Godly Play account to the Christmas/Easter Journey account. **Action: Ray**

Les has purchased copies of "Discipling Presence" which he will circulate.

6. Buildings

Still on hold, though many ideas were exchanged.

7. Moving Mountains 8-11th March 2018

It was confirmed that Archbishop John Sentamu will attend on Sunday 11 March. It was suggested that a joint service be held in the Kirkoswald benefice that weekend, possibly a communion service with a Methodist preacher. Methodist deacons may be available to preach.

Action: Les to investigate

There will be a Messy Church event at Rheged on Sunday 11 March.

Action: Bryan to notify Les, Stephen and Kathleen of any arrangements that have been made so far so that they can advertise the event.

8. Commissioning

The EEMC has been *launched* but not *commissioned*.

Action: Bryan to complete the necessary paperwork

9. On-going from previous minutes

Discussion about logo, headed notepaper, notice board information for MC

Action: HA and BG to work on downloadable resources for the website

LW to circulate letterhead

Date of next meeting: Monday 8 January 4-6pm at Langwathby Methodist Church.