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Minutes of the East of Eden Mission Community Steering Group Meeting 17/04/2018

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

Apologies: Helen Armstrong

EEMC Leader Appointment

One candidate was interviewed on 12 April and the panel's decision to offer the post was unanimous. The candidate has accepted but confirmation and announcement of the appointment is subject to a satisfactory interview with Bishop James. It was noted that there had been no applicants for the Penrith West MC leader position.

Circuit Update

The KO & Alston Moor circuit have started a conversation with the Penrith circuit about joining together. There will be a forum at Langwathby on 26 April to discuss the implications of such an amalgamation. The changes would be likely to take full effect from September 2019, with a transition period starting in September 2018. **SP** stressed the importance of maintaining joint Anglican/Methodist leadership in the Mission Community and was assured that this would be so and that there will be an ecumenical input into the appointment process of Les's successor in Langwathby.

Budget Consultation

The EEMC is taking part in a pilot scheme being carried out by the Carlisle Diocese to look at finance. **KDH** is gathering data from the Cross Fell parishes and will pass this to **JB** who has drawn up a pro forma for an overall Mission Community budget. The aim is that, eventually, each MC will control its own finances.

Action: BG, RW and JB will attend a meeting in Kendal on 9 May, along with others who have agreed to take part in the pilot.

Finance

RW distributed copies of the EEMC financial statement to 31 March 2018, and pointed out that funds were diminishing. **SP** suggested that all the churches and chapels should pay a levy of, say, £50 to boost the funds. This proposal will be put to the annual meeting of the EEMC in September when the newly-appointed MC leader and the new curate will be in post. Methodist annual meetings are held in September and Anglican APCMs in March/April. It was thought that the APCMs could use the September annual report with an interim verbal one covering the October-March period.

EEMC Annual Meeting

To be held at Melmerby VH on Monday, 17 September, at 7pm.

Action: BG to draft the annual report and **KDH** to book the hall.

Support for Training

Cumbria Christian Learning are providing four training sessions in April and May at Great Salkeld VH. The EEMC will pay for the hall hire. In the long term, this is the sort of expenditure that the levy would cover.

'Critical' Friend

It is a condition of commissioning that the EEMC has a Friend. **BG** has spoken to the person suggested by the Archdeacon and it was agreed that his expertise as a business consultant was not the best fit for the EEMC.

It was noted that with the new MC leader and Curate coming, we would have two pairs of fresh eyes to give constructive comment on the workings of the Steering Group.

Action: BG to speak to the Archdeacon about the specifics of the role of a Mission Community Friend.

Buildings

Langwathby VH committee have agreed to meet a couple of representatives from the steering group to explore possible use of the village hall by the Mission Community. As the VH Committee meets quarterly, this exploratory meeting will probably take place in September.

Gamblesby Chapel

A fund-raiser has been appointed and the circuit has promised some funding. An architect is drawing up plans to use as a basis for grant applications. There was some discussion about the need to develop a co-ordinated strategy for the use of all the places of worship in the Mission Community.

Lent Lunches

Lydia, who organises the hosting of the lunches, has collected comments from the hosts. **BG** has circulated the comments but, as not everyone had read them, discussion was postponed until the next steering group meeting.

Agenda items for the next meeting

Lent lunches

Issue a press release and circulate a newsletter when the new Mission Community leader appointment is announced.

Notify the date of the Annual Meeting

Publicize the 19 October Quiet Day at Rydal Hall

Action: SP and LW to liaise with Bishop James Bell about the format of the Quiet Day.

RW to talk to Helen about the cost per person for the day.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 29 May, 4pm, at Langwathby Methodist Church.