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Minutes of the East of Eden Mission Community Steering Group Meeting 11/09/2018

1. Present: Katharine Butterfield, Jim Butterworth, Kathleen Doidge-Harrison, Bryan Gray (Chair), Mark Houston, Les Wallace, Stephen Pye, Ray Wager, Helen Armstrong

There were no apologies

1. Katharine was warmly welcomed to the meeting. Mark was able to attend.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting** were agreed. Not possible to have the African Children's Choir.

3. **Arrangements for the AGM** on 17th September at Great Salkeld Village Hall at 7pm (Hall ready at 6pm, refreshments Kathleen and Jim)

- Welcome/introduction/worship – Mark and Keith
- Annual report based on newsletter – Stephen and Les (Stephen to amend retirement information)
- Wider Penrith Mission Area update – Bryan including re elections to steering group and John Slee's role re buildings.
- Budget and Annual accounts – Ray and Jim
- Communication – Kathleen
- Priorities for the year ahead – Les and Stephen
- Q and A
- Close no later than 8:30pm

Newsletters to be available on the night. Copies have been circulated to all chapels and churches. Also on website.

4. Finance /budget

In the future, MCs will be responsible for their own income and expenditure.

In terms of Anglican arrangements, a bid for transition funding has been given by the Church Commissioners in the short term. Changes to the Parish Offer are now in a pilot scheme as an outcome of a meeting on 3rd July.

Jim is collecting financial information from each church in order to aggregate the data.

Action: Stephen to pass on information on Edenhall, Melmerby and Kirkland to Jim

2019 cost of full time stipend and House for Duty is £78,700 whereas the offer is £79,300. Important to recognise that we would be purchasing a service from the Diocese. There are no direct expenses associated with the curacy, just expenses. Good progress is being made in understanding and acting on what is required to form a balanced stand alone budget. On the Methodist side, the Circuit is forecast to have a £21K deficit which is being addressed by the use of reserves. This is for one full time presbyter and a lay pastor (30 hours). It is important that we work towards an inclusive MC budget seen within the context of the whole Penrith Area MC. Eventually; the EEMC steering group will operate in a similar way to Board of Directors.

BG reiterated that there is no deadline for staffing changes.

Basic principles to aim for are:

- Financial independence in the long term
- a fully ecumenical approach to finance – Methodist and Anglican

- seeking to construct a budget.

Action: create Powerpoint slides for the AGM to outline finance. JB

It is important that churches don't decrease their parish share which needs to be linked to local mission activities so that people can see that funds are being well used.

MC steering group has agreed that Methodist Circuit seeks a Superintendent Presbyterian. This is in process and outcome should be known on 8th November. This is sending a powerful message regarding the EEMC in the Cumbria context

Action: arrange finance meeting BG

5. Major themes

Worship – staff have started to discuss joint planning for worship from January 2019

Mission – where is God guiding? Bishop Bell has guidance for the content of the quiet day

**Action: Clergy to meet and agree mission ideas to bring forward for discussion
KB and LW**

Major focus on mission at the next Steering group meeting with an outcome of a three Year mission plan with a detailed first year using the original mission statement as guidance.

Buildings. John Slee's role welcomed. Stephen concerned about the number of church Buildings in the Crossfell Benefice as this impacts on the number of services and therefore ministerial time.

6. Communication

Profiles of new staff have been sent to Avril for the website.

Action: research local magazines and contacts across the MC. KDH

7. Administration.

Discussion about back office help. Originally, Penrith Mission Area was to provide Back office help based in Penrith, but no action to date. Avril currently helps with website and some Methodist admin. Discussion about having locally based admin.

Action: collect a list of admin requirements. All

8. Future events

19th October 'Refreshment and Reflection day at Melmerby Village Hall

Action: create and distribute flyers LW

Various idea for future services discussed, also possibilities for music across the MC. Clashes of dates noted and will be avoided in future as planning becomes more established.

Action: send 'brief' of types of services for next meeting for incorporation in the joint service plan. All

AOB

Ministerial expenses – bring forward to next meeting

Service for supporting dementia in the community. Joan Wager calling a meeting of interested people in October. Note: Yvonne Povey now working on behalf of Churches Together

Date of next meeting: 16th October 4-6pm at Langwathby Chapel