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Minutes of the East of Eden Mission Community Steering Group Meeting 19.3.19

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

Apologies: John Slee

Katharine opened in prayer

A welcome was given to Judith James who was observing the meeting

2. Minutes of the last meeting. Agreed

3. Review of the Reflection and Refreshment day led by Bishop James Bell held at Melmerby Village Hall on 15.3.19

KB referred to the God for All statement to preface the review along with points made in her services on Sunday.

- Upholding the vision and looking out by word and deed
- Attitude more important than structure
- Intentional mission essential within EEMC
- Already a good list of 'reaching out' activities
- Growth in discipleship and personal responsibility important

Reflection Day well received with lots of positive comments. Bishop James style and understanding commended.

Worthy of repeat but in the meantime make it our mission to help others catch the vision. If repeated, more information to be given out beforehand.

Important for congregations to understand that there is no Plan B and the formation of the EEMC is the reason for staff to be appointed by both Anglican and Methodists.

**Actions: LW to send Powerpoint to KB
Further comments to KB**

4 (a) Financial information

The second meeting of treasurers was postponed because there wasn't a full complement of attendees and it was felt further information was needed from the Diocese. A draft Covenant agreement has now been received and RW, JB and BG are to work on it. The Diocese is keen to move on.

Arrange meeting BG

BG explained that the EEMC does not have any legal powers, these remain with each denomination. The mechanism for both denominations to contribute funds for staffing would be in the same way as it is now. The Diocese will subsidise the shortfall. Discussion on church reserve funds to be re visited.

There is no cost to the Benefices for the Curate, Mark Houston. The Methodist Circuit has agreed to fund a further three years for Keith Speck as pastor and presbyter Colin Marchmont for five years, both from 1st September 2019.

RW reported that there had been an increase in the EEMC fund –
Gift from Ainstable Methodist Church £500
Carol Service collection at Kirkoswald £299
Café Church collections £257
Plus Contributions from churches as discussed

RW to send a £50 book token to Bishop James Bell

(b) Leadership Structure

BG recommended that the Steering Group changed its name to Leadership Group. Using the document 'Terms of Reference', the group could have up to 12 people. Ray is retiring from the treasurer of the EEMC and Methodist Circuit on 31st August, Jim and Kathleen are also stepping down so there will be vacancies. Leadership Group meetings would be monthly, following the current timings. The plan is also to have a representative from each congregation to form a Council which will meet twice a year with the Leadership Group as well as at an AGM. Representations could be requested from T Break and Messy Church to widen involvement. The Reflection Day would also be part of this annual format. Discrete Anglican and Methodist business could be done after the MC meetings in order to satisfy denominational requirements. Other roles would include administration (Electoral Roll, database management, communications) and safeguarding. Because 2020 is the target for the God for All Mission statement there was a mood in the meeting to begin the new arrangements in January 2020. SP commented that the two Benefices should become one in order to be co terminus with the Methodist Circuit and to aid future recruitment.

BG to circulate the 'terms of reference' document

5. Buildings Review - deferred

6. Back Office – Avril is leaving her post of administrator from June 30th.
To help form a job description:

List Avril's tasks RW

**Find out from Penrith offices what data systems are used BG
KB to approach volunteer**

MH will take charge of overseeing the website

SP put forward the idea of a membership card for the Mission Community believing it could help to blur denominational boundaries and be more attractive to those at Messy Church and other groups for example.

7. Future Events

Invite Sophie Hodge (Stewardship Enabler) to a Treasurers meeting

Ecumenical Walk on Friday 22nd March. Details on website

Lent Lunches have had an encouraging start

'Blessings' course led by Roger Cambell, Lazonby. Weekly from 24th April

Methodist Spring Event – 26th April Langwathby Village Hall 7pm – all welcome

Monthly Reading Group through the The Church Times. Contact Lydia Gray

Date of next meeting Monday 29th April at 4:30pm, Langwathby Chapel

HA. 21.3.19