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Minutes of the East of Eden Mission Community Steering Group Meeting 29.4.19

1. Present: Katharine Butterfield, Jim Butterworth, Bryan Gray (Chair), Les Wallace, Stephen Pye, Ray Wager, Helen Armstrong, John Slee, Lydia Catt, Phil Catt, Judith James

2. Apologies: Kathleen Doidge-Harrison

Les opened the meeting in prayer

A welcome was given to Phil and Lydia Catt who were observing the meeting along with Judith James.

3. Minutes of the last meeting. Actions carried out with the exception of the back office item which has been deferred.

4. Discussion paper.

These comments were about the discussion paper written by Bryan Gray since the last steering group meeting, summing up progress and looking ahead to next steps. This was circulated to members of the steering group before the meeting.

The overall aim is to establish processes and administration in order to get on with mission. There was reference to the importance of listening to congregations.

4 (i) Reference to the **God for All Strategy** which states 'by 2020'.....

4 (ii) **The Mission Action Plan** is to be reviewed. One further meeting would sign it off

4 (iii) **Ministerial Team** is strong and well resourced. There is a need to look to the future recognising the transition phase.

4 (iv) **Structure for re elections** in place every 3 years. Discussion about name of 'Steering Group changing to 'Leadership Team', the idea being to widen the group, spread the work and use the talents - hence observers at the meeting. JB suggested ' Leadership Support Group'. JS recognised lay and ministerial roles should be together.

4.(v) **Finance.** BG outlined the way Anglican clergy would be paid under the new arrangements and that the EEMC is seen as being a pioneer in this. In effect there is devolution to the MC which covenant ministerial costs. This could provide a model for future Mission Communities. Bishop James and Richard Teal are keen to see this model working. Proposed start date for EEMC is January 2020. Year ends to be synchronised and not seen as a problem.

There is no date for a treasurers meeting, rather a pause to consider all aspects of MC life along with finance.

4 (vi) **Buildings.** Tie into whole picture. Data to be collected to inform the way forward. JS will present to first EEMC Council meeting in July before sending out questionnaire.

4 (vii) **Governance.** No legal changes yet. 3-4 new people are considering posts. Circuit treasurer is also EEMC treasurer and succession plan is in place. Plan is to have monthly meetings of the augmented steering group, one of which would be the AGM (to approve accounts and carry out elections). A representative from each congregation would supplement the steering group on two occasions per annum. One of these meetings would

have a finance focus and another would be dedicated to mission. These would be named 'EEMC Council meetings' Agreed with SP that the 4 fellside Anglican congregations would have one rep. After these two meetings, discrete Methodist and Anglican business could take place. This would act as the Methodist Circuit meeting. Individual Anglican PCC and Methodist Church Council meetings would continue to take place. Discussion took place about merging the two Benefices so that the area was more co terminus with the Methodist Circuit. This would require the Queen's signature at the end of a consultation period and due process. It could take 18 months.

Action. SP to write a discussion paper on the merging of the Benefices

It was stressed that PCCs could affiliate with one another if desired. JS recommended that where there are two places of worship in one village that there is increased communication and sharing of plans etc.

4 (viii) Administration

Communications – Lydia Catt (observing the meeting) asked to consider the role

Phil Catt – to consider the role of joining the finance team

Database - Peter Pickthall asked to consider the role

Buildings - John Slee

Safeguarding – Helen Armstrong

Worship Leaders meeting – Peter Bowes

Updating website – Mark Houston

Worship plan – Avril is leaving her post

Action by all: think and pray about anyone willing to take on the role of admin - minute taker and assistance with the worship plan.

If unsuccessful, place advert with an Honorarium if £500 in two weeks BG

4 (viii) Next Steps

It was therefore agreed to hold a Council meeting for understanding, not ratification on **18th July 2019 at Langwathby Chapel at 7pm.**

4 (x) Office Holders

As above. Chair - Bryan Gray. Ray Wager to continue to be treasurer until Autumn 2020 when Judith James will take over the post. Finance team to be augmented.

All posts are up for election at the AGM, September 2019. Members are appointed for three years. Jim wishes to stand down before the AGM to allow time for a handover.

5. Finance

RW presented the accounts. General fund improved by collections and subscriptions from churches. Some churches have not yet sent their £50 contribution. There are healthy amounts under mission headings.

6. Correspondence

John Williams sent an e mail to clergy outlining the need for balancing freedom and independence within the MC. LW replied.

JS recognised the need for a 'go to' person for each congregation and stressed the need for local responsibility.

LW added the need to create memorable EEMC events

5th Sunday in the month is a good time to get together KB.

Action: KB to speak to JW

AOB

Discussion re stewardship.. Plan meeting for Sep/Oct with Sophie Hodge, Stewardship

Enabler for the Diocese with a view to having a stewardship focus during Lent 2020

Lydia Catt emphasised the need to have Mission at the centre of everything we do.

BG added that the overall aim is to establish processes and administration in order to focus on mission.

Date of next meetings

6th June 2019 4pm - Steering Group at Langwathby Chapel

18th July 2019 at Langwathby Chapel, 7pm. EEMC Council