

Ministerial Learning and Development - Notes

Monday October 5th

Members of the group

District Chair – Loraine Mellor

CDIM – Robert Foster

Early Years – Barbara Greenwood

Sabbaticals Secretary – Tim Morris

Probationers Secretary – Sue Rolls

MDR representative – Vacant

Someone to speak for Supers – already represented

Supernumeraries – Richard Harrison

Regional LDO - Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network; East Central Region, Ministry - Tim Woolley

Candidates' Secretary – Andrew Chislett-McDonald

Group Secretary/Lay Chair - Rosemary Harrison

1. **Opening Prayers were led by Loraine**

2. **Welcomes and introduction**

3. **Apologies: Tim Woolley; Andrew Chislett-McDonald**

Jane Bingham kindly came on behalf of Tim; Loraine represented Andrew who was completing an application which they had both been working on.

4. **Notes of last meeting:**

Loraine, with reference to item 5, spoke of a meeting with Richard Andrew where he had presented a paper about the support and development of ministers for initial stationing through to supernumeracy. It did not adequately address the issue of funding and is to go back to the Ministries Committee.

5. **Concerns / information from -**

Robert Foster

Robert feels that CDIM is a misnomer for his role as his responsibility seems to be that of the bi-annual retreat. The next Retreat is planned for February 1-3rd 2016 with Steve Wild as the key speaker. All active ministers are invited including supernumeraries currently in active work.

There is now an electronic system for getting in touch with Swanwick.

Loraine spoke of a day planned at Willersley on November 17th. The day is a reflection on "What does it mean to be ordained?" and is intended for those who are neither Probationers nor Superintendents. There may be follow up meetings to meet the needs of this group.

Barbara Greenwood

The Under 5s is mainly a group for mutual support.

Discussion took place as to how to support and encourage emerging leaders, those under 45, either ordained or lay. The input might be both social and

theological. Although there might be occasional links with the Under 5s it was not felt that this was the link that would be most comfortable. A possible link might be with the Pioneer Ministry group. Perhaps something similar to the Vocations Day with targeted invitations might be of help. It was decided that further reflection on the topic might be helpful both at Forum and the Superintendents' Meeting.

Thought was given as to a possible replacement for Barbara. Names of people, for Barbara to approach, were suggested.

Tim Morris

Tim distributed a list of Sabbaticals for the Connexional year 2015-16 and 2016-17. Two people have deferred from this year. Expenses can now be claimed for up to £1,000. Those who have completed Sabbaticals are asked to write about what they have done on the District web site.

Sue Rolls

We have three probationers this year – two in year 2; one in year 1. The November Retreat is planned with one day with the group on their own: day two they are to be joined by superintendents.

The four-day retreat in February is at Launde Abbey. The four Districts are our own, Lincolnshire, Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire and East Anglia. The group meets once a month in between retreats.

The Probationers' Committee is to have an extra day's meeting in November in order to meet informally with Probationers. This may lessen tension at the March meeting.

Queen's is likely to take a more dominant role in Probationer studies. There are some anxieties about this. However, it may lessen confusion about funding.

The Presbyteral Oversight Committee – PCPOC - and the Diaconal Oversight Committee – PCPOC - have now joined to become the Ministerial Oversight Committee – MCPOC - Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee. A requirement for being on the committee is to be a member of either District Probationer or Candidates Committee.

There are a number of issues and uncertainties. It was suggested that Tim (Woolley) might pick these up.

Loraine Mellor on behalf of Andrew Chislett-McDonald

This year we have two candidates for the ministry with one for next year. There are four new people to Candidates Committee. Gordon Gresswell is helping with the January meeting. There is to be a paper on Candidate Support trying to develop equal practice across all districts.

Jane Bingham on behalf of Tim Woolley.

We now tend to speak of Ministerial Learning and Development rather than Continuing Development in Ministry as connotations with the latter are not helpful. Digging Deeper continues 'though recent events have not been as well supported as previously. The Mental Health Issues one was excellent. Those who attended the day on Islam at St Phillip's say it was also appreciated. The

next Digging Deeper is on the lectionary gospel led by Reverend Dr. Catrin Harland. Dates are October 21st at Stamford and November 20th at Littleover. Jane assured us that funding is in place for similar events over the next two years. Suggestions for further days would be welcome.

There are two dates for the Safeguarding Leadership modules for those who have not already done them.

A day for those involved in Pioneer Ministry is being organised at Peterborough. The superintendent there is acting as the initial hub. More local events may follow.

Events are being organised for ministers with like types of ministry. One for those with larger churches has already been held.

Loraine Mellor

The District has established a bursary fund using interest from a property fund. Initially this was available to those wanting to travel abroad to further their development. This is now being extended to those wishing to go on courses where other funding is not available. e.g. MSM, Bridge Builders. It is hoped Circuits would match District funding 50/50.

The District Discipleship Day may be cancelled because of low numbers.

Following on from the Past Cases Review two districts – the South East and Liverpool - are piloting supervision schemes. This will continue with training of Chairs followed by superintendents.

There are fewer ministers than requests from Circuits. We will be especially affected next year. There will be a meeting in January for those Circuits where appointments have not been filled. Currently there are 24 circuits in the Connexion seeking diaconal appointments with only 12 deacons available.

6. **AOB**

A question was raised about cover for Safeguarding when Susan McIvor is on Sabbatical. Plans for cover are being made. The District Safeguarding group is looking for a chaplain.

7. **Date of next meetings:** March 14th and October 3rd 2016 at 10.00a.m. at 15, Normanby Road, Wollaton, NG8 2TA