

... District executive cont.

Mapping a way forward

Paul Taylor, director of training and development, produced an updated paper that the executive were happy to recommend to synod as the district's response to the Conference 2007 report, "Mapping a Way Forward – regrouping for Mission". Circuits will be asked to comment on the contents by 15 January 2010, so that synod can adopt a final version in April 2010.

Property changes

In the light of the 2009 Methodist Conference decision to introduce a new online property consents process, the executive decided that the process would go live in the Northampton District at the latest possible date, viz. 1 January 2010. This will enable the training of users to take place beforehand.

Synod has already appointed the executive as the consent giving body for the district. Therefore, members will potentially have more involvement in property matters than before, for example in approving grants for schemes.

The executive agreed to leave most property decision-making as it is at the moment, viz. between the district property secretary and the chair, with them seeking advice as necessary from the district property panel. However, district executive members will be able to view schemes online and offer comments.

Interfaith grant

The executive agreed to recommend a renewed grant to the St Philip's Centre in Leicester to enable it to continue the centre's significant interfaith work with churches and the wider community.

Farewells and vacancy

The executive said farewell to two synod-elected representatives, the Revd Martin Smithson and Mr David Duxbury, and expressed warm thanks to them for their contributions to the work of the executive. The 2009 autumn synod only managed to elect one representative to replace them. It is hoped that the 2010 spring synod will elect a second representative.

District News

The **Methodist Church**
Northampton District
October 2009

BIG CHANGES IN PROPERTY PROCEDURES

By Roy Littlecott, district property secretary

This summer, the Methodist Conference approved new property procedures that will affect all churches and circuits.

As from 1 January 2010, virtually all property schemes requiring consent will be determined at district level. Applications will need to be submitted in electronic form, and the criteria for consideration of the proposals must begin with the mission policy statement of each church or circuit.

Those involved in the new decision-making process are undergoing training, and all those at local level who need to submit applications will be given guidance. This will begin with the Annual Day for Circuit Property Secretaries and Circuit Treasurers (and anyone else who wishes to come).

For the Northampton District, the annual day this year will take place at Roade Methodist Church on Saturday, 28 November 2009. Participants will also consider other property and financial matters. It is hoped that all circuits will be adequately represented on the day.

FX@SYNOD

At next April's district synod, members of the Fresh Expressions national team will bring the district up to date with how this initiative is developing.

Those involved in this exciting work in the Northampton District are also invited to tell their story so far, as part of the synod day. If you have good news or lessons to share about new ways of being church in your circuit, please contact the Revd Tim Woolley, district director of mission:
Tel: 01604 784424; Email: t.r.woolley.00@cantab.net.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

A number of churches and circuits in the district took part in this year's Back To Church Sunday on 27 September. In all, around half-a-million people across the UK invited someone to come back to church with them.

Next year, Back to Church Sunday will be on 26 September. To help prepare for the 2010 event, the district is offering training evenings to circuits and churches to encourage them to be involved in this outreach initiative. The training will cover areas such as the importance of finding a 'champion', how to make the best use of invitations, and how to maintain momentum for the event.

To book a training event for your circuit, contact the Revd Tim Woolley, district director of mission:

Tel: 01604 784424; email: t.r.woolley.00@cantab.net.

MISSION 21

Mission 21 is a major conference to encourage and equip church planting and fresh expressions of church. It will bring together leaders to consider what God is now doing.

Mission 21 will take place from Tuesday to Thursday, 17 to 19 November at The Forum, which is the home of Bath City Church. The Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, general secretary of the Methodist Church, will be a keynote speaker.

To encourage participation, the Northampton District will fund the cost of the conference (£90 not including accommodation) from its training budget for the first five people, lay or ordained, who wish to go! Contact Peter Candlin, district treasurer, asap. Email: peter.candlin@ntlworld.com. More details of the conference at www.mission21.info.

WHAT MAKES A HEALTHY CIRCUIT?

Mapping a Way Forward is a Methodist Church project that invites districts to explore the role of individual circuits in their particular parts of the country, and then consider how the circuit could best be structured.

In the Northampton District, the recent autumn synod agreed to begin this process by exploring what a healthy circuit might look like.

Feedback from across the district is now needed. Details are at www.methodistdistrict23.org.uk, or contact Paul Taylor, director of training and development: Tel. 07779 241087; northamptondo@btinternet.com.

NEW CHAIR AT DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

The new chair of the Northampton District, the Revd Peter Hancock, presided at his first district executive meeting on Wednesday, 2 September.

Peter welcomed the new Methodist Council representative, the Revd Dave Warnock, to the meeting.

Survey

The executive heard that a project first envisaged two years ago was about to begin. In the Oxford Circuit, an MBA post-graduate student from Coventry University will carry out a pilot survey entitled, "Do local churches reflect the diversity of the area in which they are set?" The survey will be carried out from September to December 2009, and the university will supervise and assess the work. A presentation will be made at the end of the project.

***Check out 2009 Methodist Conference conversations and decisions
www.methodistconference.org.uk***

... cont. over