



East of England Regional Information Update ...

There have been some changes within the regional team since our first newsletter was published at the end of December last year.

As mentioned in the first newsletter Revd. Sarah Lowe will be joining the team full time from 1st May 2014 as a Regional Learning & Development Officer. By the time you read this edition of the newsletter it is likely she

will have taken up her new post. We would like to thank the St Albans & Welwyn Circuit for all their support in the transition as Sarah moves from her Circuit ministry there to be part of our regional team. Hopefully many of you will get the chance to meet Sarah over the coming weeks and months as she begins work within the region.

As many of you may already be

aware Revd. Dr Jonathan Hustler will be working as a member of the team through until the end of this Connexional year alongside his Wesley House commitments. At the beginning of the next Connexional year he takes up his new role of Ministerial Co-ordinator for Oversight of Ordained Ministries within the Governance and Support cluster of the

Connexional Team. We are therefore currently in the process of recruiting a replacement for Jonathan within the regional team. I am sure you would like to join with me in taking this opportunity in wishing Jonathan well as he transitions from his role at Wesley House and within the regional team to take up the new role in September.

Developing the work ...

As you will be aware we are a new team, within a new Connexional structure, and have been identifying and developing a shared understanding of our values, vision and roles, in the context of Connexional, regional and local priorities. We have met together a number of times as a regional team and as part of three larger gatherings of the wider network team. We have also spent time with superintendents, circuit stewards and other key staff and volunteers, to identify some of the needs and ensure that the vision and work are developed collaboratively, reflecting what we hear locally – we still have a long way to go, but we feel we have made a good start.

The Regional Forum

As part of this work we have established a Regional Forum to provide a focus for developing

the work within the region. The Forum will help in identifying regional priorities for learning and development within the region. The purpose of the Forum is to

- develop a strategy for learning and development
- discuss and agree the learning and development needs within the region
- identify and review regional priorities
- have oversight of the budget for delivering the priorities
- own a regional work-plan / training diary
 - This will take into account Connexional priorities / dates
 - It will include annual events, new initiatives and issues raised by Circuits

The Forum will meet at least four times a year to discuss,

plan and reflect on the learning and development needs of the region.

Initially, for the East of England, we have agreed the following membership:

- BEH Chair of District
- EA Chair of District
- 2 x Lay representative (one from BEH and one from EA)
- 2 x Ministerial representative (one Superintendent from each District, initially)
- DMLN Learning & Development Officer x 3
- DMLN Regional Coordinator (Forum Chair)

Connexional Focus

Connexionally, the DMLN this year has a focus on the development of pathways for initial ministerial learning, local

preacher and worship leader training, and candidate support (<http://www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders>), as well as the development of vocations days, regrouping for mission, larger than circuit consultation, the one programme, participation and 3generate.

Moving Forward

By the summer we hope to have developed a regional learning and development plan that provides a range of opportunities for exploring the specific areas of work highlighted above.

If you would like to contact the team please email Richard at: armigerr@methodistchurch.org.uk

Areas covered by the team ...

The team cover all aspects of learning and development within the life of the church. The work is covered by the following three main areas:

- Discipleship Development
- Ministry Development
- Church & Community Development

The lead officers for these areas are as follows:

Discipleship Development

- Ann Howlett-Foster
- Sarah Lowe

Ministry Development

- Jonathan Hustler (until August 2014)

Church & Community Development

- Richard Armiger

The work that falls within these three main areas is as follows ...

Discipleship Development

Equipping ministries which help people to grow and learn as Christians and which encourage patterns of witness and evangelism:

- What does it really mean to be a "discipleship movement shaped for mission"? We will support you as you explore this in your context.
- Exploring deepening discipleship for the whole people of God
- Enabling evangelism
- Mission development

Ministry Development

Equipping ministries which enable God-centred worship and prayer:

- Local Preacher and Worship Leader resources
- Training and support for candidates, students and probationers
- Encouragement of new and diverse lay ministries
- Providing access to study materials
- Supporting vocational discernment
- Continuing ministerial learning and development
- Diverse and cultural congregations development
- Chaplaincy development
- Children and youth development
- Other specialists areas of engagement e.g. third age, missing generation

Other important areas of our work include:

- Safeguarding
- Research and development
- Planning a programme of work to support regional needs

Church and Community Development

Equipping ministries which engage with everyday acts of love, kindness and the service of the people of God in the world

- Enabling review and reorganisation for mission
- Enabling and equipping:

Initial requests for the team should be made either through the regional website or direct to Richard Armiger as the Regional Coordinator:
armigerr@methodistchurch.org.uk

Looking forward ...

Some specific areas of work that we are hoping to develop over the coming year are:

- explore ways to encourage discipleship, mission and evangelism within the life of the church
- grant-funding / monitoring & evaluation for mission projects
- encouraging the growth/development of small groups
- equipping small group leaders
- support for and development of children and youth engagement
- conflict transformation and mediation training
- providing learning and development opportunities for circuit stewards and CLTs
- developing a pattern of workshops for Synods
- undertaking and supporting circuit reviews

- support for Worship Leaders and Local Preachers both in initial training and continued development – including the new LP/WL pathway
- support for LP/WL tutors and mentors
- developing support for candidates for ordained ministry
- the development of vocations days – to include all aspects of Christian ministry
- developing support for Probationers
- CDiM

As a team we are seeking to implement a network for learning and development across the Beds., Essex & Herts. and East Anglia Districts. We very much look forward to working with you all as we continue to develop the network within our region.

Upcoming events ...

Regional 'Journey' Day—a day of vocational exploration for those considering the Diaconal or Presbyteral Ministries or various forms of lay ministry. Hosted by the London, Southern & Islands and East of England DMLN Regional Teams. There is a £5 cost for this day. See the regional website for information and booking forms.

- Saturday 17th May 10.00am-4.00pm at Chiselhurst Methodist Church, Kent, BR7 5LX

Circuit Stewards Training—This half day is suitable for all those who are already serving as Circuit Stewards, who have not received any formal training for the role and also all those who are new to the role.

- Saturday 17th May 10.30pm-13.30pm at Thetford Methodist Church

Creating Safer Space Leadership Module—The session will enable Safeguarding officers, Ministers and other leaders in churches to develop a deeper understanding of their role and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and to develop confidence in carrying out this role.

- Thursday 12th June, 10.00-4.00pm at Wesley House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge

Local Preachers—Faith & Worship Residential—A practical weekend for all those 'on-trial' working through: Section A or Section B or Section C or Section D of Faith & Worship.

- 6.30pm Friday 6th June 2014 through to 4.00pm Sunday 8th June 2014 at Domus Mariae Conference Centre, IG8 8AU

Portfolio Day—A practical day to find out and explore what is required in completing a portfolio for the candidating process.

- Saturday 12th July 2014, 10.00 - 16.00 at Wesley House, Cambridge

For more information on any of these events and to obtain booking forms please see www.eastofengland-dmln.org.uk

Ongoing areas of work ...

Alongside the events mentioned above and the planning that we are undertaking for a programme of events and opportunities for the future we continue to deliver specific work for and with the two Districts, Circuits and groups of Circuits. Some of our current work is as follows: working with a number of Circuits to help them develop Circuit strategies and plans, Circuit reviews, developing leadership teams using tools such as MBTI (Myers Briggs) assessment. We are also continuing to deliver specific training such as Step Forward facilitator training, CSS Leadership module, MDR familiarization, conflict transformation and others.

Ideas, suggestions and requests ...

We would love to hear from you if you have ideas, suggestions or requests for areas of learning and development that you would like to see within the region. If you have suggestions please let us know by getting in touch through the website or via email: armigerr@methodistchurch.org.uk.

www.eastofengland-dmln.org.uk