



## MILTON KEYNES MISSION PARTNERSHIP

**Minutes of the Mission Partnership Assembly AGM** which took place on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019** at Whaddon Way Church, Bletchley

1. **Opening Worship** was led by Tim Norwood

### 2. **Business**

- a) Minutes of last AGM held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and last Assembly meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 – These were agreed and signed.
- b) Matters Arising  
None.
- c) Mission Partnership Annual Report – This is available on the Mission Partnership website. It includes reports on MK Mission Partnership, the Chaplaincies in MK and MK Christian Foundation. It includes a full set of accounts.
  - Questions on Report – None.
  - Acceptance of Report – The report was accepted by the meeting.
- d) Elections
  - Election of Trustees – MKMP is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and we have a trustee body made up of 5 ex-officio members (the Presidents – currently Bishop Alan Wilson, Bishop Peter Doyle, Rev Geoff Colmer, Rev Peter Meek and Rev Helen Cameron), who are the denominational area leaders, plus elected Trustees. These elected trustees serve up to a 3 year term. Under the rules of the CIO, the trustee body needs to rotate so a third of that body have to stand down each year. Robin Kyd has completed a 3 year term and is standing down. Rev Dawn Saunders has completed a 2 year term and is re-standing. We have received two applications for the vacant trustee posts from Rev Sharon Grenham-Thompson and Rev George Mwaura. As we have received less applications than posts available, there is no need for an election and therefore Dawn, Sharon and George are duly elected. Our other trustees are Stephen Roberts, Mike Davidge, Pauline Gray, Steve Chilcraft (co-opted member) and Alison Drury.

In addition to standing down as a trustee, Robin Kyd is also standing down as Minute Secretary to the trustees. Robin has been writing minutes for the Executive of the Milton Keynes Christian Council and then the Trustees of the Mission Partnership since being asked by the then Ecumenical Moderator Gethin Abraham-Williams. This is around 40 years ago! Robin was presented with a gift to recognise this amazing service to MKCC and MKMP.

e) Appointments

- Treasurer – Adrian Prisk is willing to stand again as our Treasurer. Proposed by Jeff Newall. Seconded by Lynn Castle. He was duly appointed. Adrian was thanked for all his hard work.
- Auditors – We are very happy with the work done by our auditors Mercer & Hole and would like to continue using them. Proposed by Sophia Pond. Seconded by Wendy Carey. Mercer & Hole were duly appointed.

f) Commissioning

- Mission Partnership Representatives – Each church is entitled to two Reps. This is a very important role and we look forward to continue working with your Reps to provide two way communication with the churches. John prayed for the MKMP Reps.

g) Ecumenical Oversight News – Tim Norwood, the current Chair of the Ecumenical Oversight Group, gave an update on Ecumenical matters. The EOG is responsible for the oversight of the LEPs. The EOG are currently focused on developing a CIO for the LEPs. This will probably go out to the LEPs in January. The EOG are working on how we will adopt constitutions.

h) Date of next Assembly: The date of the next Assembly and AGM are to be advised.

Do keep an eye on our website as it will be undergoing a revamp. Feedback is welcomed on what you would like to see on there.

3. **Towards 2050: Growing in Wisdom** – John Robertson

The purpose of the evening was to introduce the Learning Hub, stimulate ownership and allow shaping of the idea.

A Learning Hub can help us to grow in Wisdom.

**Wisdom**

- **Wisdom is a basic feature of Creation.** Prov. 8 vv22-31. It expresses even embodies the creativity of God. So if we reflect the image of God as we do, then we are invited to echo that creativity. Becoming wise, growing in wisdom, involve releasing that God-given creativity in all of us. It encourages us to try things out, to take risks even, to delight, as the text says, in the creation and in the creative process and the world which is thereby brought into being. It is experimental, exciting, developing, changing. It tries to work with the grain of what God is already bringing into being and say a resounding, practical “yes” to it. It involves the whole of who we are and we change and grow in the process, becoming more reflective of the image of God, becoming more human.
- **Wisdom is concerned with character.** This flows in many ways from the creative aspect of Wisdom. Creativity which reflects God is shaped to the purposes and character of God. And clearly, creativity without such shaping may not be good: there is a world of difference between the creation of a vacuum cleaner and the creation of a nuclear warhead. This idea runs across Scripture, but is perhaps most clear in James 3vv13-18. Becoming wise is about



growing that kind of character which expresses the nature of God. The more we immerse ourselves in the practice and understanding of faith, the more we begin to develop such character, both as individuals and as the church.

- Most importantly of all, ***Wisdom is embodied most fully in Christ***. The text from Colossians has its roots (by a slightly circuitous path) in that passage from Proverbs. Col 1 vv15-20. So becoming wise is essentially becoming more Christ-like: it makes disciples of us as individuals, it forms us as the living body of Christ as the church and so it creates a tangible expression of Christ in the world, which is the platform and the engine by which God carries forward his **MISSION**.

All of that means that Wisdom is not about knowing stuff or being clever, but about being Christian. That's not to say, of course, that understanding and knowledge are not helpful and important. They are. But Wisdom is about something much bigger than that.

***With that framework in mind, we looked at how a Learning Hub might fit into that.***

In July 2013 we asked you what would most help build capacity for mission. You said this was Leadership & Vision, Community Engagement, Prayer, Adult Learning.

We responded to that with coMPass, Leading for a Change, Leadership Development Programme for Clergy, Prayer, stimulating Community Engagement.

***How do we take that to the next level? Resource it better?***

We developed our **vision MK: a city alive to God** and then asked what things made MK NOT a city alive to God? You said this was external factors + limited sharing of faith, struggling with leadership, needed to grow the depth of our spiritual development.

***How do we address those issues?***

## **LEARNING HUB**

We have done a lot of preliminary work

1. **Expand the means of delivery:** we are used to classic course model – move to facilitated action learning sets, mentoring, E learning, as well as courses – blending them.
2. **Identify areas for learning:** Faith learning, the Common Good, Leadership, Pioneering and Planting.
3. **Purpose:** growing wise disciples/wise church which builds capacity for MISSION.

### **Opportunity to shape**

Where are the priorities?

Are we missing something vital?

We are looking for what you think are the priorities to build capacity for mission, to grow wise disciples.

There were three sheets on the wall entitled **Delivery, Faith and Practice**.

For **Delivery**, individuals at the meeting were asked to indicate how much time they had available for training, their preferred times and their preferred mode (eg tutored course, individual mentor, e-learning, facilitated group or blended).

For **Faith** (eg prayer, Bible, current issues, theology..) and **Practice** (eg leading worship, children, leadership, mission..), individuals at the meeting were asked to think about their church as they answered these. They were asked to add their ideas using post-its under the areas Advanced, Exploring, Starting Out and No Knowledge.

Once all the ideas were up on the sheets, each person was given 6 dots to perform dotmocracy, to indicate their 6 favourites.

Everyone was then asked to write down: *What three things will grow Wisdom most?*

#### **4. Closing Prayer**

The meeting closed in Prayer.