

	Thames North Synod Discipleship Steering Group Report	Paper F 16 March 2024
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Discipleship Steering Group

The Group have met twice since the last meeting of Synod. The dates for future meetings in 2024 are 25 April, 20 June, 12 September and 14 November.

Grants

DSG awarded Walking the Way grants for the North Lea Valley Group of Churches for a Day Conference on discipleship, mission and youth work and we also supported A Mission Grant for Hertford for Short Mat Bowls and a Human Resources Grant for a Pastoral Administrator for the North Lea Valley Group of Churches.

DSG welcomes grant applications and ask that relevant Synod staff are consulted. Forms and guidance are available on the website [Applications for Funding](#). Full details should be included and submitted in a timely manner otherwise applications may not be considered if incomplete or submitted at short notice. Applications and supporting documents should be submitted at least a week before the meeting for distribution with the agenda, although an earlier submission would enable the application to be reviewed in advance of the meeting for omissions and matters needing clarification.

Seedbeds Centre

The first public act of witness with community carols was held in the space next door to the building on the evening of Tuesday 19 December, with a choir from Bonny Downs Church. The Newbigin Pioneering Hub held a one-day meeting at the Centre and the launch of Ash Barker's book 'No Wastelands' also took place there. The first Passion and Purpose training day was held on Saturday 6 January.

Training

Anti-racism training has commenced and the TDO and the Moderator have undertaken it. The plan is to cascade this down through the URC.

Aspiring to More has got off to a good start with very healthy numbers.

Revd Dr Julian Templeton is currently on sabbatical; any ministerial grant applications should be sent to Nneoma Chima.

Discipleship Enabler

Revd Eddie Boon continues to engage with local churches about discipleship. He has established the Art in Plain Sight initiative and is looking to roll this out to other churches. He is seeking to build on the LICC Learning Hub and these events have been publicised through the Synod News. The Labyrinth is now available for local Churches to use; please speak to Eddie to find out more. His role is currently being reviewed with a view to applying for a second term as a Special Category Minister.

Partners in Mission

Revd Terry Hinks recently paid a visit to Melanie Smith and Mark Meatcher in Fiji. The documents relating to the setting up of the Thames North Synod Charities have been located and we will be seeking advice

as to how our funds can be used externally to see if we are legitimately able to make grants to the likes of the College in Fiji.

We have had a request to provide a chair for Revd Yufen Chen's Management Group. Yufen oversees the Taiwanese Mission based at Lumen. If anyone is interested in being part of the Group, please speak to the Moderator.

Interfaith

Regular Zoom meetings are now being held with guest speakers. Please look out for these in the Synod News.

Green Apostles

The 2024 Green Day *Diversity in Creation and Society* will be held at The Vine, Ilford on 8 June.

Elders in Pastoral Charge (Local Church Leaders)

Bromley by Bow URC is looking to appoint an EPC. The role description was agreed. We are waiting for a grant application. The process of transitioning the Mission Leader at Totteridge to the role of EPC has begun.

Grant Reports

As a condition of receiving a grant churches and organisations are required to produce an annual report. A template for churches has been agreed to assist them and will be put on the Synod Website.

George Watt
Convenor
11 March 2024