

## ***Enabling effective future ministry across Leeds***

### **Proposals for consideration by URCs and LEPs with URC involvement within the Leeds Mission and Care Group**

#### **The proposals**

- 1. URCs and LEPs with URC involvement within the Leeds Mission and Care Group covenant together to form the **Leeds Partnership**.*
- 2. A ministry team to serve the Leeds Partnership is formed.*

#### **The reasoning**

For a number of years, the churches of the Leeds Mission and Care Group have been seeking ways to co-operate more closely and to make best use of often limited resources in order to further our churches' mission priorities in their diverse communities. This led to the Leeds Mission and Care Group Partnership and, through this, to the induction in 2017, of the Revd Clare Davison to a five year 50% post as Mission and Ministry Enabler. Through Clare's work and discussions with the Ministers of Word and Sacraments and at Mission and Care Group meetings, Clare and the Local Management Group believe that the time is now right to take the next positive step to covenant together to form the Leeds Partnership and to form a ministry team.

The Covenant aims to build on and strengthen relationships in order to enable effective ministry across the Partnership, with the common aim to grow the Kingdom across Leeds. We will continue to encourage each other and share resources, enabled by the ministry team. This is a very positive next step which formalises and progresses team working, as well as giving status to the Partnership.

#### **The details**

The Covenant will be inaugurated in a united worship service and signed by a representative from each church which opts into the Leeds Partnership. Thereafter there would be an annual covenant service of commitment.

The ministry team will include ordained ministers, lay leaders, lay preachers, and may also include worship leaders, youth workers, family workers, administrators, treasurers, trainers, a Church Related Community Worker.

We will apply for another Minister of Word and Sacraments, to be inducted to the Leeds Partnership, potentially to live in South Leeds, and to work flexibly in various congregations as the need arises and as changes occur within our congregations.

There will be a named person from the ministry team for each member church as their first point of contact.

The ministry team will be accountable to the Leeds Partnership.

Funding will be addressed by representatives from the churches of the Partnership meeting together to discuss each church's ability to contribute.

Similarly, representatives from the Partnership churches will discuss and agree on the detailed arrangements concerning how the Partnership will function.

## **The assumptions**

Yorkshire Synod will endorse the commitment to partnership working of the Leeds Partnership by:

- ✓ supporting the Partnership in its application for an additional Minister of Word and Sacraments;
- ✓ making funds available (for example through the Synod Mission Fund) to support other ministries in the ministry team;
- ✓ simplifying Maintenance of the Ministry payments for churches of the Partnership;
- ✓ working with partner denominations to determine how the ministry team will function in LEPs.

## **The guarantees**

Any church which, for whatever reason, does not feel able to covenant at this stage will be able to do so at a later date.

The profile for the additional Minister of Word and Sacraments will be drawn up with reference to the needs for ordained Ministry identified by the churches through the Vision and Opportunity process. The skills sought will complement those of current Ministers of Word and Sacraments serving in the Leeds Mission and Care Group.

## **The request**

We ask you to consider these proposals at a Church Meeting (or, for LEPs, at a meeting of your congregation's decision-making body) and to forward your decision on whether you agree to the proposals to Clare Davison by Friday 31 January 2020. We can then take appropriate action to further the proposals or look at alternative ways forward.

## **The invitation**

We invite you to prayerfully consider how God is working through you and through the other churches of the Leeds Mission and Care Group and how the formation of a Leeds Partnership as proposed above could increase the effectiveness of our ministry in God's name.

We invite you to support the proposals and commit to our next steps together.

*From Revd Clare Davison, Leeds Mission and Ministry Enabler  
and the Local Management Group*

*November 2019*