

A Sustainable Future

For some time the Executive team of MWiB have been considering how best to make the organisation the best that it can be for the coming years.

There have been many changes since 2011 when it was set up as an independent charity. Those changes have been in our society and in the whole church as well as MWiB itself. The organisation has grown and developed making links with other organisations within and beyond Methodism, which has been exciting. However, as we have grown, most of the additional work involved has fallen to the Executive, particularly the President.

The pandemic increased the need to consider our future as income fell significantly. The costs of travel and accommodation rose following the pandemic, which impacts the activities of Executive members, and also the gathering of the Trustees at Forum. The overall reduction of the Church in Britain, and consideration of potential changes prompted further thought. Added to this it has become increasingly challenging to fill vacancies, both in the Districts and the Executive team.

So, to make MWiB sustainable in the long term and hopefully vibrant and relevant to the Methodists of this country, it was decided to adjust the organisation. It was proposed, and agreed by the Trustees, that there will be about twelve geographical areas. Each of these areas will have a Trustee, and with the Executive team and World Day of Prayer representative, will reduce the overall number of Trustees to twenty one, from forty three. It will make Trustee meetings much more manageable. They will meet more frequently with the Executive making the work of the Trustees much more efficient.

Across each new geographical region we are recruiting Ambassadors. These will be people who have an interest in the work of MWiB and seek to attract more interest. They may already be organising events in their locality. Some of these will be gatherings of larger groups of people to share and worship together, while others may work with a few like minded friends who support one another in their church or locality.

Everywhere that Methodist Women work and share is valued, and the role descriptions for the Trustee and the Ambassador roles have been written so that they tally well with what is already happening. The only difference is that Trustees and Ambassadors are asked to communicate with one another regularly, supporting and encouraging one another as much as possible.

Trustees will regularly report to their meetings about what is happening in their area and we hope to set up a resource bank where ideas and recommendations can be shared across the whole country, helping to reduce the planning for local activities. New ideas will be added as they are developed, and we hope to have contributions from many people.

The Trustees and the Executive will meet at least three times per year. Some of these meetings will be face to face so that members get to know one another well, understanding what needs to be done to be an effective movement.

The Executive team will change a little to enable greater sharing of the work. The President and Vice President roles will become Co chairs who will share the leading of the organisation.

Ruth Parrot and Maggie Woods will be the first to work in this way. The roles of Finance and Communications will continue as will the World Federation and the Helen Kim Scholarship representation. As this leaflet is being written we are seeking someone who will look after the website and media aspects of our work.

The aims which were agreed when Methodist Women in Britain was formed will not change, [summarised in our strapline For women, for justice, for Christ] and key elements of MWiB's work such as the annual 'Swanwick' conference, World Federation Day, and the preparation of the Easter Offering service will continue.

Drawing everyone involved in MWiB closer together, through increased sharing and support will make us all stronger.

If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador for your locality, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Ruth Parrott [thepresident.mwib@gmail.com] by email in the first instance. We will forward the role description, and respond to any queries you may have.

Please see below the list of the new geographical areas.

Please share this information widely. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated as we look to build a positive future.

Cornwall, Plymouth and Exeter

Yorkshire North & East, Yorkshire West and Sheffield

East Anglia and Lincs

Scotland and Shetland

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury, Birmingham and mid Wales

London, Beds Essex and Herts, South East

Darlington, Newcastle and Cumbria

Notts, Derby and Northampton

Bolton, Rochdale, Lancashire

Liverpool, Chester and Stoke, North Wales, Manchester and Stockport

Bristol and South Wales

Southampton and Channel islands.