

Methodist City Centre Network Update

Dear Colleague

I am, as the newly appointed co-ordinator of the Methodist City Centre Network, writing to bring you up to date with some of the actions and events that are taking place over the next twelve months. It would be good to share with you at some of the future meetings planned in the year and the conference in 2008. Please make a note in your diaries for the future meetings and conference.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information about the Network, it exists so that we can really support one another in the work we are called to do at the centre of our towns and cities.

God Bless you in all that you do in this ministry.

Phil Mason.

MCCN Website:

Please visit the updated website and share any news and stories. The more this resource is used the better it will become. Ken Tait who looks after the website is very keen to develop the content. www.methodistcitycentrenetwork.org.uk

MCCN Database:

We are currently trying to get our database more accurate and up to date. Please inform us of any changes to your project or Church staff, especially any Ministerial changes that are planned over the summer. We do intend to ask each Chair of District to inform us of changes in the District, but we would rather hear twice than not at all. Rebecca Kearns, one of our administrators here at Victoria Hall is looking after the database.

Email: Victoria.hall1@virgin.net

Ecumenical Links:

Many of you will remember attending or hearing about "The Church at the Centre of the City" Conference that took place at Cardiff University a couple of years ago. At a recent meeting of the MCCN Exec and a further meeting organising group for that Conference, it was agreed that MCCN would widen its appeal to Ecumenical members who are working in the town and city centres. Each person who went to that Conference will have received a letter asking if they would be willing to allow their details to be added onto our current database. It would be good to broaden our thinking and working together in this way.

New Membership Pack:

In the near future you will be receiving a new membership pack for the MCCN. It will include a leaflet outlining our purpose and work as well as leaflet about the 5 year reviews (see below). We are asking that each Church pay an annual membership subscription of £50(Min). This was to assist the Network in becoming more self sufficient at a time of budget cuts within the wider church and to pay for administration, production of materials and to support the bi-annual MCCN Conference. Within the pack there will be details of how to make a payment and we want to encourage as many as possible to pay by standing order. Thanks to those who have already paid for this year and those who have given more generously than £50.

Official Methodist City Centre List:

Each Church or project that is part of the "official" City Centre list and has sought such a status is subject to the Standing Orders as set out at SO440
Each Synod is responsible to monitor these projects and Churches and ought to inform the MCCN of any changes.

5 year reviews:

Every five years the Synod is responsible to appoint an appropriate body to carry out a review of mission and ministry of each Church or project that has been designated with City Centre status. The new Membership pack will contain a small about reviews and about assistance available to help with such reviews.

Dates of future Meetings & 2008 MCCN Conference:

Please note the dates of the next Network meetings and Conference.

Wednesday 14th November 2007 10.30am-3.30pm at St John's Methodist Church Gloucester.

We shall be considering Circuit reviews and the impact upon our work in the City Centre, considering the research currently being carried out on the history of the Methodist Forward movement and Central Hall's as well as hearing the Gloucester story and meeting to discuss MCCN issues.

Tuesday 4th March 2008 (10.30am-3.30pm) at the Crossing Church & Centre, Worksop.

MCCN Network Conference 26th-28th November 2008 at Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, "Spirituality of the centre". (More details to follow).