**Britain and Ireland Group of Zonal Trustees and Provincial Presidents Meeting, 20-21/2/24**

**Key Messages for Sharing**

* The new MU Safeguarding Policy for Britain & Ireland has been adopted by British Provinces. Ireland will align with the MU Worldwide Safeguarding Policy. Training is being rolled out to Safeguarding Champions, DPs and interested safeguarding leads from April. Specific training e.g. AFIA, work in prisons, will be delivered from June.
* The Prisons COI has produced a summary of work, this needs to be tweaked to reflect the work in Ireland and Wales and then will be available to circulate. It shows the depth and impact of work MU is delivering in prisons.
* A small community projects fund will be available in Britain & Ireland later this year. Applications will be sought from dioceses for projects that align with our national programme work on Domestic Abuse, AFIA, Prisons, Community work focused on helping the vulnerable, Mini MU and Engaging New Members.
* New CRM planning is underway with a view that the new MU database will be implemented between November 2024 and January 2025. It will make it easier for database administrators to upload data and report back to the dioceses. It will also bring efficiencies in the timely collection of member subscriptions.
* The new Membership team has a vacancy for a Membership Engagement Manager. Once in place the team will include a Director, Faith & Church Relations Manager, National Programmes Manager, and a Membership Engagement Manager. The team focuses on complementing existing diocesan membership models and initiatives with new opportunities for membership growth. The Membership COI has met twice to discuss and consider membership growth, including completing Membership Growth Plans for 2024 in their dioceses. The second meeting this month focused on ideas for revitalising branches and how to deal with branch closures effectively to ensure that members are aware of options including fellowship groups, branch merger and moving to diocesan membership.
* DP Zoom Update meetings will be increased to 4 times a year following feedback from members that they want news from MSH consolidated and the opportunity to discuss key issues and initiatives more widely and in depth.
* Other membership initiatives include RISE UP. Delighted to confirm that RISE UP is now active in almost 40 dioceses; gaining momentum and support; reaching churches where MU has previously had no engagement. Our Faith outreach work includes the MU fringe event at the General Synod on 26th February, focusing on RISE UP and the impact and relevance of MU in churches and in communities across Britain & Ireland.
* An updated list of diocesan representatives on our revitalised Communities of Interest (COIs) will be circulated shortly, with a list of meeting dates for 2024. Representatives are reminded to feedback to their dioceses.
* MU Live is being simplified with how to accurately record activity improved. Members are encouraged to keep uploading information into MU Live.
* The Christmas Appeal 2023 raised £110,000 (match-funded by the Big Give) and will support new Savings Groups in Tanzania. Members are thanked for their support, which has a transformational impact of women and their families in Tanzania
* 150th Year (2026) celebrations project group has been set up and the details of the programme of celebrations is being scoped. The project team is led by your Zonal Trustee for Ireland, Iris Suitor, and an MSH staff team led by Bev Jullien, CEO, Steph Nunn, Director of Membership and Adam Sach, Director of Fundraising, Retail & Communications. More details to follow.
* Fundraising will be the main topic for discussion at the next B&I meeting. Investment in a new team and moving MU to a culture of philanthropy where we reinforce that MU is both a member-led movement and a charity that requires funds to deliver our work in communities and sustain our future.

Requested clarifications from the last meeting.

* MU has a presence in just 25% of Anglican churches in Britain & Ireland (with regional variations) and a declining membership from 100,000 in 2007 to 38,000 in 2022. These are the drivers, defined through the reimagining process, for new MSH led membership initiatives that diversify our membership and expand our engagement. These include the new supporter option, the family and friend’s vehicle, Gifts of MU, and the piloting of a church-based membership (focused on churches with no MU engagement and where branches have closed) where a package of MU resources support clergy to deliver their mission and engages parishioners with MU.
* Following feedback from the Summer of Hope Appeal, MSH fundraising appeals will focus on overseas projects.
* The Craft COI has confirmed that the relevant procedures have been put in place following concerns over safeguarding and knitted goods.