

Report

Forward Planning Co-ordinating Group

Planning for the future



Not telling you anything you don't
know

and is not being talked about

We can't carry on as we are!

We will have far fewer ministers in 15
years time

We have some congregations that are
becoming unsustainable

-Finance

-Personnel



Our Vision:

To have missional churches throughout
Midlothian & East Lothian

Missional Churches:

Engaged in community & wider

Making Disciples

Sustaining meaningful & engaging
Christian life and worship for all ages

*To see missional churches throughout
Midlothian & East Lothian*

1. We encourage & resource those churches who are already missional.

2. We help & resource churches who are geographically significant but not yet missional to transition

Provided the commitment & capacity exists

3. We plant some new churches

1. We encourage & resource those churches who are already missional.
2. We help & resource churches who are geographically significant but not yet missional to transition
3. We plant some new churches

We might not even have enough resources to do this – and that creates very difficult decisions

What about churches who fit none of these categories?

Continue with an OLM

Develop a local team, which is not dependent upon a minister

Taken “under the wing” of another church

Dissolved

No links or unions?

*These would be considered where there is
local agreement*

But it is not our primary strategy

Shape Ministry round Local Resources

With few exceptions, a charge with a stipendiary minister should pay the costs of this

Where a charge has no stipendiary minister they should have reduced M&M and have resources available to pay staff locally

(might include OLM)

Shape Ministry round Local Resources

With few exceptions, a charge with a stipendiary minister should pay the costs of this

**This was the situation in the Church of
Scotland from 1560 until 2002**

1. We encourage & resource those churches who are already missional.

2. We help & resource churches who are geographically significant but not yet missional to transition

3. We plant some new churches

What would make you say “yes” or “no” to pursuing this strategy?

If ministry numbers mean that we can't manage 1 & 2, which should take priority and why?

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2. We help & resource churches who are geographically significant but not yet missional to transition

3. We plant some new churches

Would you say:

a. Yes this is this way forward

b. Possibly, if we change some things

c. Maybe, but only with significant changes

d. No, this doesn't feel like a good way forward

Shape Ministry round Local Resources

Where a charge has a stipendiary minister they should pay the costs of this

Where a charge has no stipendiary minister they should have reduced M&M and have resources available to pay staff locally

What strengths or weaknesses do you see in pursuing this strategy?

What about churches who fit none of the categories for “investment”?

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Dissolved

Pioneer Ministry

Focussed on building Missional Churches
from scratch

In new housing areas & our most deprived
parishes

Utilising the gifts of those who are not yet
ministers and are interested in Pioneer
Ministry

Continue with an OLM

*Develop a local team, which is not dependent
upon a minister*

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**Which of these is achievable and what kind of
support would be needed from Presbytery?**

**How might the details of these be spelt out
further?**

Pioneer Ministry

Building Missional Churches from scratch

In new housing & most deprived areas

Utilising the gifts of those who are not yet ministers and are interested in Pioneer Ministry

In what ways does this appeal to you or make you grimace?

If this were to be pursued should we focus on the two areas outlined?

Are there questions or comments that you
have come with that haven't been covered
this evening?

Taking this forward

Discussion at Presbytery in February

Regional conferences mid March to allow wider engagement from Kirk Sessions

Meetings with Kirk Sessions May/June

Discussions at local levels - Autumn

Is there enough information “on the table”
to allow these discussions to take place –
or what more is needed?

How ready will your Kirk Session be to
engage in these discussions?