

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

*Taken “under the wing” of another church*

*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*

*Taken “under the wing” of another church*

*Dissolved*

**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?