

# **AGM – Sat 22 April 2023**

## **Review of 2022**

### **Our Aim**

Growing Healthy Churches:

Stimulating and assisting our churches in their God-given task of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ

For us, the churches are on the frontline, and we want to fan what God is doing in them and through them. We aim to support and encourage all churches in every way possible.

Worth noting at the end of 2021 we moved offices and it has taken a year to establish ourselves in this place.

The staff have moved to hybrid working.

Wednesday is staff day when usually the staff are in the office.

### **Companionship**

This is our foundational value. All we do comes out of relationship with ministers, leadership teams and churches.

This is what the churches requested a number of years ago.

### **Two churches closed**

- Kinsham – wasn't currently in membership with HEBA, but a Baptist church we have had long standing relationship
- Croxton – an independent Methodist church that has been with us for around 20 years

### **We had one amalgamation**

Emmaus and George Road BC, Erdington are now 'Connected Life Church'.

24 ministers moved from their churches in 2022; 11 into retirement

- Much of our time was helping churches adapt to world post covid
- Supporting churches in a pastoral vacancy
- Walking alongside to help with a variety of challenges

On a positive note, 8 Ministers commenced new roles.

We invited our retired ministers to 3 gatherings.

**Spiritual encouragement** – preaching; leaders' meetings; church meetings; away days; vision days; church weekends

**Practical advice** – trust matters; governance; safeguarding

**Relational support** – where things go wrong; guidance in dealing with issues

### **Baptist Family connection**

- Variety of groups – i.e. CYF; young adults; mission forum
- CLT (Core Leadership Team (Judith and me)

- BU Council (RMTL + Moderator + ANO)
- Associations Network – ensure we don't reinvent the wheel
- Financially – HM giving

### Generosity

This is as much showing and encouraging generosity of spirit as well as finance. Connecting churches up with each other and sharing ideas with one another.

- Eco-church
- Ministers acting as moderators
- Supporting churches in need

### Diversity

You will hear of the work of the Justice Hub later. They have done a fabulous job in inspiring us all. Focus on gender, race and disability and 2022 we focussed on disability. Do check out our website for resources.

Fanning the Flame – a programme for 3 of our women ministers to receive mentoring and opportunities

Ecumenically the Regional Ministers connect across denominations in their areas. There is a growing togetherness and towards the end of 2022 we held the first 'West Midlands Summit' of regional leaders.

Connection with traditional Denominations, plus Charismatic, Pentecostal, others

### Learning

Focus is on ministers and church leaders

- Safeguarding training
- Symposiums – 2 held in 2022
- Ministers' Conference – 80 attend in 2022
- Spurgeon's offer 'Equipped for Ministry' modules
- Staff and trustees have regular training days

### Innovation

Focus is on encouraging all churches to be innovative – that is to step out and do something you haven't done before.

Examples:

- Renew Well Being
- Community fridge
- Growing eco awareness
- Community engagement

Simon Jay, who runs an Urban Expression community in Oldbury connects with and supports our pioneers. HEBA supports 3 pioneer situations financially.

## HEBA Priorities - 2023

### HEBA Values

HEBA values remain the same

'Growing Healthy Churches' – stimulating and assisting our churches in their God-given task of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

### Companionship

HEBA's foundational value – remains our key focus.

- Spiritual Encouragement
- Practical advice
- Relational support

### Finance

- Reduce the large budget deficit

### Justice Group

Develop 3 Justice Hubs – Gender, Racial Equality, Disability

- 2023 focus on gender
- Focus on involvement of young people
- Develop church representatives

### HEBA Structure

- Review our structure in 2023 to ensure that we are fit for purpose

### Communication Strategy

- Update and renew communication strategy

### Other

**All Things Baptist** – Document sent to all churches

Help to create a greater understanding of what it means to be in a Baptist Church