

# North Western Synod - **Synod Structures Consultation**

a brief summary of findings



Thank you to everyone who shared ideas with us about the working of our Synod.

Your ideas have already begun to have an impact - for example,

- ▶ all Synod Committees have been sent information about your ideas to prioritise and begin work
- ▶ your views strongly influenced the direction of the new Missional Partnership Enabling Agreement
- ▶ Our group has now been asked to undertake a new consultation, to find out what you think about the way in which Synod finances can support you

Details of this can be found on the back cover

# So, what did we discover together?

## 1. Missional Partnerships

A great number of you wanted Missional Partnerships and local churches to explore a **vision for their future**. You also wanted us to make the most of the resources that we have. You recognised that we are no longer able to have one Minister to one church, so we **need to build up and support those of you who lead worship and encourage mission**. You also suggested that Missional Partnerships might be able, as groups, to help local churches with the upkeep of their buildings and provide book-keeping, secretarial and other help.

## 2. Ministry and Lay Ministry

It was encouraging to find that you wanted the church to focus on the ministries that lay people can provide rather than focus on whether or not each local church could have a Minister. So you wanted the Synod to support lay people in building up skills and providing learning on the job for people like elders, worship leaders, baptism and funeral leaders. **You clearly said that churches want help in learning more about their faith.**

## 3. Pastoral Care

It was very inspiring to see the many new ways local churches made sure that people in their congregations were supported and visited during the pandemic. Keep that going.

## 4. Mission and Eco

A few of you were **keen that churches be encouraged to a greater commitment to climate change issues** as a discipleship activity. We already know that many local churches have been awarded Eco plaques. Some of you were also sure that local churches needed to be clear about their mission.

## 5. Children and Young People

Children and Young people found the pandemic a difficult time, but we were impressed by all those church who took Children and Youth work activities outside - shared walks, held 'Muddy Church', and different Eco challenges. Might this be a way forward for the future? **Have our young people been asked what they would like?** How do we provide support for the single isolated young person in church? Do we need to access the knowledge and creativity of parents and carers?

## 6. Communication

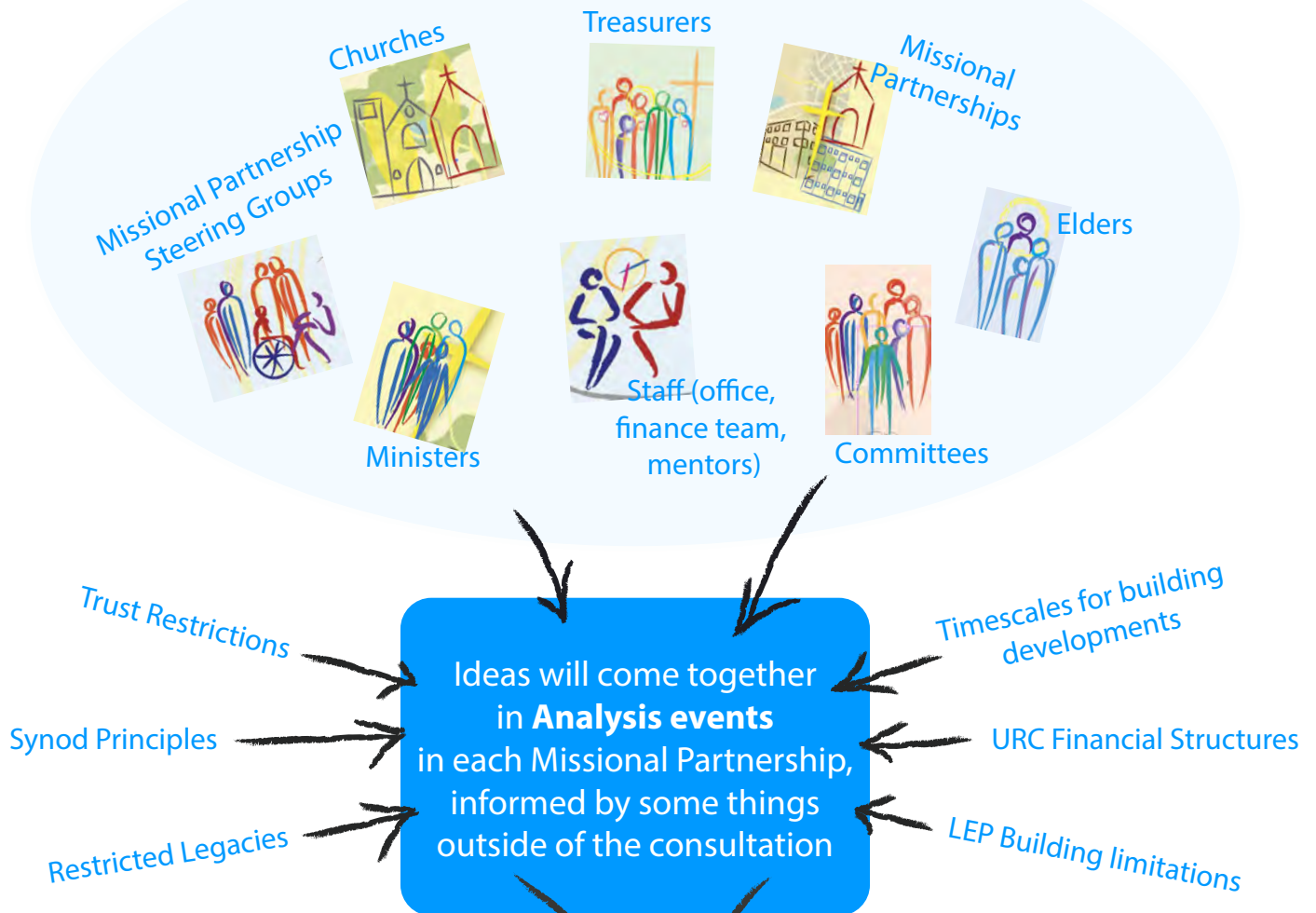
It was agreed that better communication was needed at all levels of the church from local church to Missional Partnerships to Area and Synod and vice versa. You thought that we needed to listen more to one another and to encourage the drip-drip of ideas. **We also need to rediscover our links with community.**

# North Western Synod Facilitation Group

## Finance consultation Summer 2022

*How should and could Synod use the money Synod holds?*

**People and groups who are interested**  
*will be asked for their ideas at many events and in many ways throughout the summer of 2022*



Ideas will come together  
in **Analysis events**  
in each Missional Partnership,  
informed by some things  
outside of the consultation

A final **Analysis Event**  
will make  
recommendations  
which will go to

**Executive Committee**  
*and*

**Synod Meeting**  
**October 2022**