

Further Steps

**Report for
2005 – 06**

**Urban Mission
Development Advisor**

Further Steps - Report for 2005 - 06

Foreword

We are pleased to be able to publish this Report of the second year of this Project, and of the work undertaken by the Urban Mission Development Advisor, Erica Dunmow.

It incorporates the views of the representatives of the Project's sponsoring and endorsing bodies and other significant Christian organisations. These met together at the *Further Steps* event in June to discuss the first draft of this report in June and consider the Recommendations of the *Faithful Cities Report*.

As is clear from the text, and the *Faithful Cities Report* that the challenges that face those involved in urban mission are substantial. We are encouraged that a growing range of Christian bodies are linking in to the Project, and more importantly, working more closely together. We hope that this Report aids us all in that process.

We are encouraged by the endorsement given by you all to this work. We, and Erica Dunmow, therefore look forward to continuing to work with you on these exciting developments to enable us all to serve God's mission more effectively in urban areas.

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Evangelical Coalition for Urban Mission

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The Methodist Church

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Further Steps Report 2006

of the Urban Mission Development Advisor

A Summary Report of activity for August 05 - May 06

General overview

The Project was set up to achieve five Outcomes:

1. linked **databases** of projects and denominational officers active in urban mission, for most of the major urban/metropolitan areas
2. self-sustaining **networks** of practitioners at the urban/metropolitan level in those areas, supported by a coalition of such networks
3. the identification of the key **issues** for urban mission and theology
4. help for churches in **interpreting relevant government policies**
5. better access to **information on funding** for urban mission

In the Project's first year *Next Steps Report* a comprehensive work programme was set out in response to the feedback on these Outcomes gathered from 128 urban mission practitioners across the UK and the representatives of the Projects sponsors and endorsers.

This *Further Steps Report* is on the work that has been carried out since the publication of *Next Steps* in August 2005 to the end of May 2006 – i.e. a period that ends at roughly the halfway point of the Project. The full account of the years work is in Section B. Comments in italics come from the Further Steps consultation meeting held on 13 June 2006. See Section E, p.11 and Appendix 3 for details.

The major milestones these nine months have been:

- the development of the core of an Urban Mission Network in Yorkshire and the Humber, including black-majority and non-denominational charismatic leaders
- the consolidation of links with churches in Scotland
- a leading role in creating space for national Christian urban mission, community development and social action practitioners to discuss the recommendations *Faithful Cities* of the Commission for Urban Life and Faith Report
- contributing to much closer working between a range of national Christian community development and social action agencies
- involving a UK-wide range of practitioners in the planning of the 2007 UK Urban Mission Congress, Jesus in the City, for Bristol in 2007
- contributing to a book on worship in urban contexts

Section B reports on these matters in more detail under the headings developed in the Workplan in *Next Steps Report 2005*.

B Detailed report of activity for August 05 - May 06

1. networks and database – freeing time and spreading information

1.1 National bodies

1.1.1. – shared information and expertise

Task 1

The principle of a 'lead agency' approach to the supply of information was developed further during the year, whereby bodies with scarce resources but a common need for information share the seeking and distribution of information (something that happens ecumenically for Racial Justice Sunday materials for example). The process is being trialed by a number of national Christian community development/social action agencies whose membership is largely drawn from urban areas. This will be reviewed in July.

1.1.2 – access to information and expertise

After careful exploration with the information staff a range of agencies, the 'ringmain' model of data sharing has proved too complex in terms of confidentiality and technicality and has been rejected. The review of the 'lead agency' approach may reveal a different way forward.

Task 2

The Evangelical Alliance and Faithworks have been kept closely involved in developments in Yorkshire and The Humber (see Task 3a below and *Section B*) and a meeting of those agencies operating out of England in the other parts of the UK was convened to contribute to joint working and communication on those developments.

1.1.3 – distribution of information

Task 3

A review meeting of stakeholders in *Urban Bulletin* was held in April 06, which resulted in a Task Group being set up to examine the options for on-line publication and/or linkage with the CCWA website Content Management System and/or *Wired Up*. This process will take up to nine months. The distribution of *Urban Bulletin* to Methodist ministers in city centre, inner city and outer estate settings has been improved through a data cleaning exercise.

1.2 more local networks

Task 3a

This is reported upon in more detail in *Section B*.

The work to develop more or stronger local networks has concentrated upon Yorkshire & the Humber Region, Scotland and Wales.

A Conference convened by Cardiff University on the Church in the Centre of the City in September 2005 revealed a hunger for more support and interest in that area of ministry.

The only national networks focussing on such issues are the Methodist City Centre Network and the City Mission Association (although the latter are not always city centre based). The former has a biennial conference, and the next is due in 2007 and the UMDA has encouraged this to be opened ecumenically on a day attendance basis.

The UMDA has a place on the Executive of the Jesus in the City UK Urban Mission Congress and is working to ensure that the structure of this creates greater opportunity for meeting in regional groups. The hope is that this will engender a series of embryo regional networks in each region in addition to those where detailed work has been undertaken.

2. theological issues and education and having confidence

2.1 accessible church

Task 4

The chapter contributed to the book on worship in urban settings helps to illustrate how church can be made more accessible to all. The need for urban relevance has been fed into several conferences and meetings on church planting.

2.2 education for urban mission practitioners

2.2.1 – agencies, schemes and colleges

Task 5

The mapping of agencies doing urban mission thinking/training has been undertaken in cooperation with a Baptist researcher, and is nearing completion.

Task 7

The possibility of convening a meeting of these agencies was put on hold due to the impact of the reorganisation of Church of England training provision post Hind Report. The timing and nature of this needs to be reviewed in the light of the *Faithful Cities* Report published in late May.

2.2.2 – lay development

Task 6 & 11

Links have been established with innovative programmes such as Nehemiah Foundation (previously known as Regen School), School of Urban Mission, Crucible Programme

3. government policy interpretation and having confidence

3.1 generic skills shortages

Task 8

The production of a short, signposting ‘route map’ briefing sheet for those newly in urban ministry is being explored with relevant bodies and will be produced if necessary.

3.2 policy interpretation

Task 9

Several denominations in England are due to pilot joint action on advocacy to Parliament and better communication for the wider church.

This is also being developed by an agency called Gweini in Wales.

Neither initiative was directly instigated by the Project, although encouraged by it, and neither is associated with the relevant ecumenical Churches Together structures. This complexity is examined further in Section B of the full Report.

3.3 access to relevant secular training

Task 10

This has been encouraged on a small-scale basis and may be incorporated in the simple guide to social action being developed by a range of Christian social action and community development agencies.

3.4 links to statutory structures

Task 10a

Little has been done to develop this as it is politically complex to relate to this process and at this juncture little added value can be given.

4. funding and making time

4.1 guidance

Task 12a

Better access to guidance on good practice is being trailed through the CCWA Content Management System that is fed and used by a series of national Christian community development and social action agencies.

Ecumenical and/or interagency collaboration on a possible forthcoming Methodist document on income generation and fundraising for churches will be explored.

4.2 access

Task 12

Work on campaigning for greater clarity from statutory sources about what they will fund and more consistency of practice has been put on hold but needs to be re-examined in the light of the *Faithful Cities* Report Recommendations.

Task 13

Meetings have been held with CUF staff to monitor the development and future direction of the Fund and how that will impact on urban mission.

4.3 releasing existing people for mission

Task 13a

The Project continues to raise the need to prioritise funding and personnel to urban mission in discussions with relevant bodies.

5. A stronger urban voice

Task 14

The UMDA attends meetings of the Anglican Urban Strategy Consultation Group, Caritas Urban Round Table Network, CULF dissemination process, Ecumenical Urban Officers lunch, Jesus in the City Congress '07 being planned for Bristol, National Estate Churches Network, Network of Urban Evangelicals, *Urban Bulletin* editorial meeting, etc. in order to increase the information flow between and awareness of initiatives being planned by these different bodies in the hope that this will contribute to a greater sense of coherence in terms of urban mission.

Jesus in the City, the 2007 UK Urban Congress is seen as a key focal point for building a concerted 'voice' on this across the various types of urban mission – inner city, city/town centre and outer estates. Helping to organise this has therefore been a priority.

The *Faithful Cities* Report of the Commission for Urban Life and Faith is also useful a useful document through which to gather people. The Project has therefore organised the first public meeting in the UK on this, to be held on Weds 28 June in Edinburgh.

6. Internal matters

Those matters purely internal to the management of the Project are reported to the Management Group.

6.6 - publicity and promotion

Task 20

A website has been developed for the Project, designed and managed as a gift in kind by the Methodist Church webmanager. The address is www.urbanmission.org.uk

Two Press Releases have been produced – one about the developments in Yorkshire and the Humber and the website launch and another about the Public meeting being held in Edinburgh to discuss *Faithful Cities*. Press office time has also been donated by the Methodist Church.

C Analysis of network development

1. Activity in Yorkshire & the Humber

1.1 Development Process

This began in detail in September 2005.

Most people identified as contacts were selected by virtue of their role as a key figure in an urban mission related network or post. Even though the work was being carried out from within the Region it was not possible to secure meetings with all the possible people so in general the process used was to meet at least one example of each type of contact: e.g. a Church of England Diocesan Office with an urban mission-type brief, town or city centre CofE vicar, a Regional Baptist Association officer, a Black majority church pastor, a Black majority church Bishop, Catholic Diocesan Bishop, a Catholic Faith & Justice Commission rep, a charismatic ‘house’ church network leader, a Methodist District Evangelism Enabler, a URC District Officer, a Chairperson of a town Churches Together, a County Ecumenical Officer. Appendix 1 contains the full list of contacts made. A total of 38 ‘gatekeepers’ of networks and 4 representatives of national bodies were consulted during the process.

The principle is that once the Network is being launched those exemplar contacts will be asked to encourage their opposite numbers in other areas to link in.

In general this was achieved with the exception of a URC contact which was due to a combination of ill-health and diary difficulties due to the people concerned mostly being in other paid work during the day. Proactive effort was made to contact more people in those sorts of churches and networks that were less closely linked to the standard ecumenical contacts.

1.2 Key agencies involved in the process

Locally the Yorkshire and Humber Region Churches Regional Commission was a key contact. It is better funded than most and has built up a good reputation for effective linkage with the Regional Development Agency, and as a source of information on social action issues. Regular contact with the CEO kept them abreast of developments.

The national Christian agencies with an interest in local church network development – the Evangelical Alliance, Faithworks and the Shaftesbury Society were kept in touch with progress throughout, and were invited to and generally attended the key meetings.

A meeting was held with the Northern Region officer of Churches Together in England again to inform and to make sure that this was not clashing with a Churches Together brief. It was agreed that as the network was not aimed at denominational church leaders it was not an overlapping function, but that county ecumenical officers would be encouraged to link in.

1.3 Key Gathering Meetings

At the end of the one-to-one meetings interviewees were asked if they wished to attend a meeting to discuss whether a regional network for those involved in urban mission was needed. Generally there was a positive response.

- 1.3.1 An initial meeting was held on 31 October in Leeds with key stakeholders. Further one-to-one meetings then took place
- 1.3.2 As wide a group of representatives of the key networks were then brought together on 2 February in Doncaster. This venue was chosen as South Yorkshire Churches are less well linked in to regional structures and to encourage more attendance from that area. Of those who attended several people agreed to discuss in more detail the format and purpose of a network. The UMDA made it clear that there could be no ongoing role for the Project once the network was set up. Those present nominated the Churches Regional Commission as admin support organisation to sustain the on-going network, and a number of people volunteered to take this further forward.
In order to facilitate the reporting of this meeting to the Black majority churches this meeting was recorded and tapes/CDs made available to those not able to attend.
- 1.3.3 The third meeting was held on 8 March. This confirmed the CRC role and the purpose of the network:
- a key element will be getting action and prayer to work together more powerfully
 - it will be a voluntary network of networks whose focus is making our urban places better but which will be largely multi-purpose
 - information flows will be two-way (more needed to decide who sends what)
 - it will be a listening place for Faithworks
 - there will need to be a variety of communication methods
- Those present chose the name Yorkshire & Humber Urban Mission Network.

The UMDA Agreed to supply the Churches Regional Commission with the contact details of all those people who agreed to be part of the on-going network and to convene one more meeting in September at which the network will be formally launched and a Convenor (or similar elected) and a programme of activity established.

- 1.3.4 The expectation is that the network will hold one-day event, and that fit will feed in to the tri-ennial *Jesus in the City* UK Urban Mission Congresses.

1.4 Issues

The network is at a place of potential rather than proven activity. Faithworks commented at *Further Steps* that they are 'excited by the work in Yorkshire & Humber and needs the network as a place to listen' but it needs to prove itself to potential local members. As another attender at the *Further Steps* event from the region said: 'Y&H network has got lots of promise but fruits not yet seen – so need to extend money'

The process of securing initial visits in many cases took a degree of persistence because of the busyness of those concerned but there was general interest in the idea.

Some people expressed a willingness to take part but this was token, and effort was expended on follow-up that was actually not welcomed.

Some key players who could have contributed to the process chose not to take part because of local priorities, which is regrettable. They might be persuaded to take part at a late stage.

Somewhat variable admin back-up (due to pressure of other work and sickness) made the setting up of the communication system very late. This may lead to a loss of momentum. It is hoped to rebuild contacts more actively in early summer and early autumn to build enthusiasm for the process.

The success of the Network in the longer term will depend upon the energy of a few key people.

1.5 Unplanned benefits

Even where people chose not to take part following one-to-one meetings publicity was given to *Urban Bulletin* and *Jesus in the City* and some people were linked in to local support structures they had not known about.

The proactive work to engage those less engaged was important in making those churches feel connected to the wider church beyond urban mission issues.

2. Activity in Scotland

2.1 Development process

Initial meetings in Scotland in June 05 had indicated that the Scottish Churches Social Inclusion Network (SCSIN) an associated body of ACTS, the Scottish ecumenical body. (See Appendix 2 for membership)

It was therefore agreed that this body would be the main point of contact and that the role beyond that would be to link any networks not present into the structure.

SCSIN meetings are held bi-monthly, and an attempt has been made to attend two in three. It was hoped to timetable in visits to less well networked churches around that but this has not proved possible – largely because of lack of time to arrange the appointments.

2.2 Issues

SCSIN is very largely about social action and the evangelism agenda is very little addressed, although Evangelical Alliance is present.

Another way needs to be found to link in with people with that emphasis

The meeting is convened by the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office and the contact details of the invitees are not shared so it does not fully operate as a mutual network.

2.3 Unplanned benefits

The contact on a regular basis has meant that Scottish information can be fed into ECUM meetings, the Anglican and Catholic Urban Meetings and vice versa.

Several SCSIN attenders put forward the idea of an urban mission event in Scotland in the autumn to build to Jesus in the City and the UMDA will work in support of that.

3. Activity in Wales

3.1 Development process

Wales was the next area identified for detailed work after Yorkshire and the Humber.

Initial visits had been made in June and September 2005 and contacts with Faithworks and the Evangelical Alliance identified Gweini as a possible link network already under development.

Gweini aims to be an information and policy focus for the churches in Wales in terms of relating to statutory bodies. Local Gweinis are being set up to parallel each local authority area under the auspices of a national body. It is an offshoot of the EA but aims to be as broad based as possible. Initial contact with Gweini's CEO and attendance at a Gweini meeting in Rhyl in March indicates that the organisation's staff is taking this seriously.

An alternative possible link network is the CYTUN Social Justice Network. However this potentially creates the same problem as has arisen in Scotland in that it focuses mainly upon the social action side of mission. Its development has been slowed due to the promotion of its servicing officer within CYTUN and lack of clarity about where the development staffing capacity will come from.

It was agreed by the Management Meeting in early March 06 that a greater variety of local meetings with urban mission practitioners needed to be held to check out the credibility of and interest in Gweini. If the results are favourable, then Gweini will be seen as the key point of contact with Wales. A total of 16 people in Haverford West, Ebbw Vale, Cardiff and Swansea have been met so far in May and June, and telephone contact established with more. Clarity on the ground about Gweini's differentiation from EA is patchy, but it makes more sense to encourage a wider variety of traditions to link into its structures than dismiss its aim to develop into a broad-based organisation. (See Appendix 3)

3.2 Issues

Realistic development of networks at a distance was always going to be hard to secure. The initial hope was that the UMDA would stay in Wales for a whole week and build a series of visits around that, but that has not been possible due to conflicting diary commitments and also other people's availability. Making appointments at a distance leaves little flexibility.

3.3 Unplanned benefits

Regular visits to Wales have facilitated contact with St Michael's College Llandaff in terms of involvement with Jesus in the City and the emerging City Centre Churches network that has come out of the conference hosted on the issue by Cardiff University Theological Dept in Sept 2005. It is hoped that both will strengthen the Jesus in the City event.

4. Developments towards a national coalition

4.1 working with Christian social action agencies

The UMDA has taken a consistent and active role in the Eccleston process meetings of national Christian social action agencies on the basis that they deliver many useful services to local churches and projects. Although they do not have an urban focus, the great majority of their members come from urban settings and the issues that they address are of relevance. Through them Outcomes 4 and 5 concerning information on government policy and funding can potentially be fulfilled without setting up a separate information gathering and advice process. It is possible that they could be seen as potential members of a wider national coalition on urban issues.

Conferences of the National Estate Churches Network have been attended and regular contact with the Chairperson of the committee maintained. Realistic ecumenical ownership of this network has not been as strong as originally envisaged and it is not clear that any non-Anglicans have been involved in the appointment of the new Development Officer.

4.2 working with denominational bodies

Three denominational networks have been linked with on a consistent basis – the Anglican Urban Consultation Group; the Caritas Urban Round Table Network; the Methodist City Centre Churches Network.

It is not clear that any of these bodies wishes to have very strong links outside their denomination, although the last has placed the papers of the Cardiff City Centre Conference on its website, and will have one day of its 2007 conference open to ecumenical guests.

The Social Responsibility Officers Network of the Anglican Churches has recently declared itself ecumenical. Conversations need to take place with them to discover how proactive they are being to

engage fully with the non-Anglican denominations in terms of membership, governance and speakers at their conferences.

D. Linkage with 'Faithful Cities' Report process

The *Faithful Cities* Report of the Commission for Urban Life and Faith published in late May 06, provides a possible rallying point around which to gather those most committed urban mission to take its recommendations forward.

Its main recommendations can be summarised as:

1. Churches should sustain their level of presence in urban areas.
2. All church leaders should understand the theological and practical challenges of urban mission more clearly
3. The gap between those living in poverty and the very wealthy must be reduced to the benefit of all.
4. Faith groups must combat racism, fascism and religious intolerance at all levels of society.
5. The Government must lead rather than follow public opinion on 'welcoming the stranger'
6. There needs to be greater clarity over expectations in partnership relationships between faith communities and public authorities at national, regional and local level.
7. Government and faith communities must give new consideration to the informal education of young people.
8. The role and impact of faith schools on social and community cohesion in urban settings should be reviewed.
9. The Church of England should continue to support the Church Urban Fund as a vital resource for the churches' engagement in urban life.
10. Other denominations that have funds to support community engagement are asked to consider seriously whether they should work in partnership with the Church Urban Fund rather than maintaining separate structures.
11. Church leaders are asked to initiate wide ranging national debates about what makes a good city in light of this report.

Of these recommendations the links to the UMDA Project Outcomes are:

UMDA Outcome		<i>Faithful Cities</i> Recommendation		Comment
1 & 2	Regional and Scotland, Wales & Ireland databases and networks	1 & 9, 10	Maintenance of urban presence CUF to be supported and Denominational funds to be enhanced	Without continued investment in urban ministries and projects the number of practitioners to form networks (already severally under threat) will be reduced and churches will retreat into better-resourced suburban contexts.
2	National urban mission coalition	1, 9, 10 11	As above Debates about 'good cities'	Could provide a 'hook' to bring together potential members of national urban mission coalition

UMDA Outcome	<i>Faithful Cities</i> Recommendation	Comment	UMDA Outcome	<i>Faithful Cities</i> Recommendation
3	Identification of issues and education and training for urban mission practitioners	2	Wider understanding of urban mission issues	Clear synergy in terms of campaigning on contextual theology as a core ministry skill
4	Government policy information	6	Clarity on partnerships	Part of the information process
5	Information on and access to funding	9 & 10	CUF sustenance and development	Clear synergy.

Recommendations 1 and 2 of *Faithful Cities* are those with greatest synergy with the Project Outcomes and where the broad-base of endorsers for the Project could be a very useful factor, in creating a general groundswell of opinion rather than what may be seen as ‘special pleading’ in single denominational settings. The UK base of the Project also helps. The lead that the Scottish Baptist Association and Church of Scotland give in prioritising urban areas is one that could give weight to this. One comment from the *Further Steps* event typifies the concern that the Project ‘*has been set up with certain aims: it should stick with what it’s doing and not be diverted from that*’ which would argue that Recommendations 1, 2 and possibly 10 are the ones to concentrate upon. Also ‘*[the Project] needs to be linking wider variety of people into the Anglican-led response to Faithful Cities*’ and ‘*should be promoting Faithful Cities*’

The *Faithful Cities* text is often stronger than its Recommendations. It gives a clear steer on matters of hospitality and welcome to the stranger and those who are different and this needs to be articulated better within the churches as well as to the country at large. Few churches are really equipped to welcome ex-offenders or ex-drug users for instance. It is difficult to see the Report Recommendations on poverty as having that big an impact upon Government as some of its arguments are not made as strongly or as well based in statistical evidence as would be needed to achieve that. It is not as strong on other justice issues as some might have wished – for instance housing is missing as a thread. Explicit references to our understanding of God’s work in urban settings is threaded through the text in a helpful way reflecting the Recommendation to be able to contextualise our faith. It is less explicit about the Christian, as opposed to spiritual, side of urban engagement and the appropriate ways to share faith with those of another faith or none.

There may well be room to bring together a new national urban mission network in order to articulate these missing aspects more strongly and to work more vigorously to further the vision that keeps many urban mission practitioners engaged and enthused against the pressure and complexity of that work. One *Further Steps* attender said that ‘*now and again you need places where the bigger picture surfaces – e.g. Jesus in the City Urban Congress and Urban Bulletin*’. A broader national coalition would enable more people to access be aware of and access those resources.

E. building a stronger urban coalition

1. Reflections on overall process

There are four questions arising out of the development process so far that the Project endorsers will need to consider:

A network can be a relatively value-neutral body that facilitates communication of information and provides a mechanism for those of a common interest to identify each other and possibly undertake particular pieces of work.

On the other hand it can be a more tightly focussed group that is working together for a particular outcome.

Every attempt has been made to create inclusive networks where people chose to exclude themselves. As has been seen an impressive range of people have been in contact with the Project as a result. (See Appendix 2. However, there is still reluctance by some to work with people outside their comfort zone theologically or in terms of type of ministry. The identification of real urban mission ‘champions’ has been difficult. A more radical approach, aimed at taking the *Faithful Cities* agenda forward and perhaps extending it, might result in a smaller but less diffuse network that in the end might achieve greater focus.

There are four issues that will need further consideration:

1.1 general or particular

It may be more viable to try to develop and sustain three national networks for the different types of urban ministry – outer estates (already exists, although not fully ecumenical), inner town/city, and city/town centre (embryo network exists coming out of 2005 Church in Centre of the City Conference, and Methodist City Centre Network) rather than regional broad-based ones ?

1.2 keeping an integral understanding of mission

The bodies currently identified as link networks in Scotland and Wales have a slightly different emphasis in term of the balance of evangelism and social action on urban mission ?

1.3 social action vs. urban action

The assumption has been made that the generalist Christian social action/community development agencies have the bulk of their activity in urban areas. This may need to be tested in more detail. It also doesn’t always reflect mission in its fullest sense.

1.4 network or movement

There is a difference between building networks of those working in the vanguard of radical urban mission – i.e. providing a prophetic challenge to the churches which has a goal in view and working to consolidate and strengthen the groundswell of urban mission of all kinds, including radical outriders. The Project has modelled the latter, but this does mean creating a sense of purpose for the networks is more difficult. One *Further Steps* comment sums up this ambiguity ‘*Need to develop different types of networks that are more fluid and that people can dip in and out of*’

Comments from the *Further Steps* event, were clear that it is ‘*useful to have geographical networks which are general*’ and ‘*inclusive*’ places of contact as ‘*getting together [has] a simple validity in itself to build trust*’. Work has to be done ‘*to keep people who are not part of the local indigenous church in the loop - often people who see evangelism and social action as an integral part of their lives are not part of traditional church*’.

The comment that ‘*action research needed more on what the networks need to be/do*’ endorses the sense that the network development is still work in progress.

F Further Steps consultation meeting 13 June 2006

The 25 agencies and denominational bodies that are the Projects sponsors and endorsers, plus ten other UK Christian community development and social action agencies were invited to attend a consultation event in Leicester. See Appendix 3, p.16 for list of invitees and attenders.

The purpose of the event was not only to report on the work of the preceeding year, but also to consider how far the promotion of the recommendations of *Faithful Cities* (the Report of the Commission for Urban Life and Faith) should become part of the UMDA work programme. To that end Baroness Rev'd Kathleen Richardson was invited to address the meeting about the *Faithful Cities* Report.

1. General feedback

General comments made about the overall direction of the Project included:

- *[It] is needed to bring together people who don't know about each other*
- *continue to engage to bring in widest group of Christians*
- *Can this project be part of modelling a different model of power in the churches ?*

The attenders were then asked to discuss the following questions:

1. Do you find the Recommendations of *Faithful Cities* relevant to your understanding of urban mission ?
2. Will your organisation be likely to promote/take action on any of them ?
3. Where is there overlap between the Outcomes of the UMDA Project and the Recommendations of *Faithful Cities* ?
4. Which Recommendations, if any, should be incorporated into a revised UMDA Workplan, and if so, what priority should they take ?

NB Some of the comments made also appear within the text of previous sections.

2. Synergy with *Faithful Cities*

In answer to Question 3 about the overlap with the work that might follow *Faithful Cities* these comments were made:

- *needs to be linking wider variety of people into the Anglican-led response to Faithful Cities*
- *Should be promoting Faithful Cities*
- *need for Project to be extended for up to five years [to develop related work]*
- *Project has been set up with certain aims: it should stick with what it's doing and not be diverted from that*
- *Keep the balance of work open*
- *Jesus in the City [UK Urban Mission Congress to be held in Bristol in 2007] is an important part of linking with those in local congregations.*

3. What type of networks do we need ?

- *Need to be able to keep people who are not part of the local indigenous church in the loop*
- *often people who see evangelism and social action as an integral part of their lives are not part of traditional church*
- *inclusive*
- *Is getting together a simple validity in itself to build trust ?*
- *Bound to have lots of different networks around issues – but useful to have geographical networks which are general*
- *Need to develop different types of networks that are more fluid and that people can dip in and out of*
- *Now and again you need places where the bigger picture surfaces – e.g. Jesus in the City Urban Congress and Urban Bulletin*

The general conclusion, ratified at the following Management Group Meeting was that networks that are broad-based and inclusive with locally set agendas was the most important element of the work. The very fact of bringing a wide range of people into contact and conversation with each other would inevitably result in new and exciting developments.

4. Revision of workplan and Project future

The Management Group Meeting of 18 July considered the feedback from the *Further Steps* event and the regular reports that have been received from the UMDA, on which **Section B** of this Report is based.

In the light of all these factors the Workplan was revised (see Appendix 5, p.21).

Appendix One

Yorkshire and Humber networks contacts

This list is not fully comprehensive, but contains samples of the different sorts of networks there are. For instance, there are Prayer networks in other places besides Sheffield and Leeds, there are two more Methodist Districts and three more Catholic Dioceses, more county ecumenical bodies and 'Churches Together in X', so there is lots of gap filling to be done.

Adereti, John – Secretary, West Yorkshire African-Caribbean Council of Churches
 Archer, Joanne – Director, Together for Regeneration, S. Yorks.
 Arscott, Dave – Shaftesbury Society, regional development, Y&H
 Bengier, Paul – Groundlevel, charismatic evangelical churches network in N Lincolnshire & Yorkshire
 Bonham, Gemma – Leeds Prayerlink
 Carnelly, Liz – Acting Director, Y&H Churches Regional Commission
 Chesters, Chris – Industrial Mission S. Yorkshire (IMSY)
 Dawson, Louise – County Ecumenical Officer, Churches Together in S. Yorks.
 Dey, Gordon – HELP network in Bradford, and National Estate Churches Network
 Dorton, Andrew – York (Anglican) Diocese Social Responsibility Officer and Hull Outer Estates Group, and SEARCH
 Dunning, Jonathan – Community of Grace Leaders' Network, Sheffield,
 Drummond, Ian – Yorkshire Baptist Association
 Elliott, Mo – Street Pastors, Leeds and Black churches networks, Churches Regional Commission
 Fitzsimons, Kathryn – Ripon (Anglican) Diocese Urban Officer
 Garthwaite, Roderick - Holgate URC, Doncaster
 Gaskell, Ian – Wakefield (Anglican) Diocese, Social Responsibility and CUF Officer
 Gooderham, Alistair – Bessacarr Evangelical Church, Doncaster
 Greenwood, Bernard – Hallam (R Catholic) Diocese J & P Commission
 Gregg, Stuart – New Wine UPA Forum
 Halsey, Margaret – Director, Leeds Church Institute
 Hanley, Gloria, Chairperson, West Yorkshire African-Caribbean Council of Churches
 Jones, Tim – Network Leeds
 Love, Mike – Chair, Leeds Churches Together in Mission
 Maconachie, Paul – St Thomas' Crookes, (LEP - Anglican/Baptist) Sheffield
 Morrison, Rod – Holgate URC, Doncaster
 Marsh, Vernon – Chair of (Methodist) Sheffield District
 Mayer, Ian – Jubilee Trust, Doncaster
 Morrissey, Viv – Methodist Training and Development Officer (jobshare) for much of Yorkshire (Leeds, Sheffield, York & Hull, West Yorks. Districts)
 Reid, Geoff – Touchstone, Bradford Inner Ring Group
 Richards, Bishop Revd Dr C. – Church of Jesus Christ Apostolic, Sheffield and England
 Riley, Caroline – Training & Development Officer, Sheffield Methodist District, Yorkshire
 Price, David – Sheffield Churches' Local Strategic Partnership Rep
 Noel Pyatt, Together in Prayer for Sheffield
 Rose, Pastor Alva – NT Church of God, Sheffield
 Sinclair, Canon Jane, Rotherham Minster (Anglican)
 Smith, Canon Chris – Doncaster Minister (Anglican)
 Wagstaff, Michael – Sheffield (Anglican) Diocese Faith and Justice Officer

National

Kuhr, Jon – Shaftesbury Society, Community Mission Director, London
 Lockett, Virginia – Faithworks, national network development
 Wensley, Julia – Evangelical Alliance, national social responsibility and Christian Action Networks

Appendix Two

Scottish Churches Social Inclusion Network Membership

Aberlour Trust
Action by Churches Together in Scotland
Baptist Union of Scotland
Bethany Christian Trust
Churches Community Work Alliance, UK
Churches Together in Britain & Ireland
Centre for Theology and Public Issues, Edinburgh University
Church Action on Poverty, UK
Church & Society, Church of Scotland
Commission for Social Care
Craighead Institute
CrossReach
Ecumenical Relations, Church of Scotland
Evangelical Alliance Scotland
Glasgow Braendam Link
Iona Community
Jesuit Community
Justice and Peace Commission
Methodist Church, Scotland District
Mission & Discipleship, Church of Scotland
NCH Action for Children
Poverty Alliance
Religious Society of Friends
Roman Catholic Church
Scottish Churches Housing Association
St Matthew's Centre
St Vincent de Paul Society
Salvation Army
Scottish Churches Industrial Mission
Scottish Episcopal Church
Social Witness Section
United Free Church
Unity Enterprise
Urban Mission, Church of Scotland
YMCA Scotland

Appendix Three

Invitation and attendance list for *Further Steps* reporting and consultation event

Invitees (**P** = present)

Sandra Ackroyd	United Reformed Church Urban Churches Group
Suzanne Adofo	United Reformed Church, Church Related Community Workers - P
Paul Ballard	Church in the Centre of the City Network
Fran Beckett	Church Urban Fund
Steve Bell	Urban Vision
Stephen Belling	Nehemiah Foundation
Tim Bissett	Church Urban Fund - P
Darren Blaney	Baptist Union, second for Terry Jones - P
Graham Blount	Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office
Carole Burgess	National Estate Churches Network - P
Liz Carnelly	Y+H Churches Regional Commission
Nicola Chappell	Tearfund
Alan Chick	St Helen's YMCA
Nils Chittenden	Churches Community Work Alliance
Niall Cooper	Church Action on Poverty
Kathryn Copsy	Children in URBan Situations
Andrew Davey	Church of England Community & Public Affairs Officer
Stuart Dew	United Reformed Church, Church & Society Committee
Malcolm Duncan	Faithworks
Erica Dunmow	UMDA - P
Michael Eastman	Evangelical Coalition for Urban Mission, UMDA Management Committee - P
Aled Edwards	CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales)
Tim Evans	Worth Foundation
Anthony Ford	Gweini (Welsh churches council for voluntary service) - P
<i>Mandy Ford</i>	<i>worship facilitator, Leicester</i> - P
Jill Garner	Shaftesbury Society
Alison Gelder	Housing Justice - P
Laurie Green	National Estate Churches Network
Ian Harris	Salvation Army
John Hayward	Scripture Union Justice and Peace Ministries
Phil Hulks	World Vision
Helen Jobling	Methodist Urban Mission Strategy Group, UMDA Management Committee - P
Christine Jones	Urban Theology Unit
Terry Jones	Baptist Union of Great Britain Urban Officer
Stuart Jordan	Methodist Urban Mission Strategy Group
Paul Keeble	Urban Presence
Jonathan Kerry	Methodist Church, UMDA Management Committee - P
Jon Kuhrt	Shaftesbury Society - P
Dawn Lonsdale	Unlock - P
Stephen Lowe	Chair of C of E Urban Bishops' Council - P
Virginia Lockett	Faithworks - P
Jack Maple	National Estates Churches Network, second for Laurie Green- P
Vernon Marsh	Methodist Church, UMDA Management Committee - P
Ann Morisy	previously Commission for Urban Life and Faith
Stuart Murray-Williams	Urban Expression

Appendix Three contd

Kate Pearson	Worth Foundation and Nehemiah Foundation, second for Tim Evans and Stephen Belling - P
Mark Perrott	Catalyst Community Trust
Nigel Pimlott	Frontier Youth Trust, second for Dave Wiles - P
Derek Purnell	Urban Presence
Kathleen Richardson	Chair of Commission for Urban Life and Faith - P
Jim Robertson	Churches Community Work Alliance, second for Nils Chittenden - P
Peter Robinson	Urban Mission Theology Project
Roger Sainsbury	Evangelical Coalition for Urban Mission, UMDA Management Committee - P
Peter Scott	World Vision
Elizabeth Simons	London Churches Regional Commission - P
Tim Stephens	Bishop of Leicester
<i>Miriam Stevenson</i>	<i>worship facilitator, Leicester - P</i>
Bruce Stokes	Evangelical Coalition for Urban Mission, UMDA Management Committee - P
Steve Summers	U R C, Church Related Community Workers
Patton Taylor	UK Urban Congress Trust
David Tudor	National Estate Churches Network
John Vincent	Urban Theology Unit, second for Christine Jones - P
Ann Weatherly-Barton	Urban Bulletin
Julia Wensley	Evangelical Alliance
Dave Wiles	Frontier Youth Trust
Peter Willis	Methodist City Centre Network
Keith Wood	Evangelical Coalition for Urban Mission - P
Richard Zipfel	Caritas Urban Round Table Network

Appendix Four

Analysis of networking September 05 – August 06

	People met	%
1. Yorkshire & the Humber network development	64	100
denominational breakdown		
Anglicans (Church of England, Scottish Episcopalian, Church in Wales)	4	6
Baptists	3	5
Presbyterians (inc Church of Scotland)	1	2
Catholics	10	16
Methodists	8	13
Pentecostal/charismatic free	23	36
Salvation Army	1	2
United Reformeds	0	0
Project staff (denomination unknown)	10	16
Ecumenical post (denomination unknown)	4	6
Other	1	2
There have been telephone conversations and email contact with many more people		
2. Wales Network development	23	100
denominational breakdown		
Anglicans (Church of England, Scottish Episcopalian, Church in Wales)	3	13
Baptists	1	4
Presbyterians (Church of Scotland)	1	4
Catholics	1	4
Methodists	5	22
Pentecostal/charismatic free	0	0
Salvation Army	0	0
United Reformeds	2	9
Project staff (denomination unknown)	7	30
Ecumenical post (denomination unknown)	3	13
There have been telephone conversations and email contact with many more people		
3. Other UK contacts	19	100
denominational breakdown		
Anglicans (Church of England, Scottish Episcopalian, Church in Wales)	1	5
Baptists	2	10
Presbyterians (inc Church of Scotland)	1	5
Catholics	1	5
Methodists	1	5
Pentecostal/charismatic free	1	5
Salvation Army	0	0
United Reformeds	2	10
Project staff (denomination unknown)	11	58
Ecumenical/denomination unknown	0	0
There have been telephone conversations and email contact with many more people		

4. One-off events attended (*workshops run at)

Contextual Theology Conference, St. Katherine's Foundation, London, Sept 05
 Church in the Centre of the City Conf, Cardiff, Sep 05
 National Estates Churches Network Conf, Birmingham, Sep 05
 Manchester University Theology Dept, Lecture: Radical Urban Planning Oct 05
 * Network of Urban Evangelicals Day, Oct 05
 * Baptist Urban Consultations – Bristol 24-5 Oct 05, London 27 Oct 05
 Centre for Economic & Social Resrch, Hallam University, Seminar: Faith engagement in civil structures, Nov 05
 New Wine UPA Leaders' Forum, Leicestershire, 28 Feb-1 Mar 06
 Gweini Northern Conference, Rhyl, Mar 06
 Methodist Mission Education and Resourcing Mission Team, May 06
 Stoneyhurst Lecture, Catholic Social Teaching and Poverty, Clitheroe, May 06
 Launch Reception, *Faithful Cities*, London, May 06
 Church of England, *Faithful Cities*' Recommendations planning meeting, London, June 06
 Methodist Conference Training Debate, Edinburgh, June 06
 Methodist Urban Mission Review Meeting, July 06
 Anglican Synod Debate on *Faithful Cities*, York July 06

5. Recurring meetings

ECUM Committee, 2
 Methodist Expressions of Faith Meeting 2
 Urban Bulletin Editorial Group 1
 Ecumenical Urban Officers Lunch 2
 Scottish Churches Social Inclusion Network 5
 Christian community development agencies' joint working process 7, Info/Communications sub gp 3
 Caritas Urban Round Table Network 3
 Anglican Urban Strategy Consultation Group 2
 Urban Congress Planning Meetings (Jesus in the City) 4
 Faithful Cities liaison meetings 1
 Methodist City Centre Network 2
 Core Cities Theology Network 0 (e-contact only)

6. Events organised by UMDA, plus planning meetings

Yorkshire & Humber Urban Network consultation , Doncaster, Feb 06 (2)
Further Steps UMDA Project reporting event, Leicester, June 06 (2)
Faithful Cities Public meeting/Conference Fringe, Edinburgh, June 06

Appendix Five

UMDA Draft Objectives 2006-7	Target date
<p>1. networks and database – freeing time and spreading information</p>	
<p>Work towards developing these in cooperation with all relevant agencies, especially the Eccleston Gp. members. Particularly:</p>	
<p>1.1 National bodies</p>	
<p>Task 1</p>	
<p>1.1.1. – shared information and expertise</p>	
<p>1.1.2 – access to information and expertise</p>	
<p>Expand use of CMS system to denominational users</p>	Spring 07
<p>Task 2</p>	
<p>Continue to work with those agencies that already have networks of various sorts including the Evangelical Alliance’s Christian Action Networks (CANs), Faithworks’ Local Networks, the Peace and Justice Network and city centre clergy and Churches Together groups.</p>	Review summer 07
<p>Task 3</p>	
<p>1.1.3 – distribution of information</p>	
<p>Work with Task Group to establish future of/successor to <i>Urban Bulletin</i> Better use of Methodist and Anglican Church lists of ‘urban churches’ to contact practitioners who are church based.</p>	Review spring 07
<p>1.2 more local networks</p>	
<p>Task 3a</p>	
<p>Work with embryo Yorkshire & Humber Urban Mission Network, including identification of ‘champion./convenor’</p>	Autumn 06
<p>In Wales determine whether Gweini has credibility across the denominations/theological spectrum</p>	Autumn 06
<p>In North West England undertake initial visits to ascertain extent of existing and need for new urban network</p>	Review spring 07
<p>Lobby for more of an urban perspective in existing and developing networks.</p>	Ongoing
<p>2. theological issues and education and having confidence</p>	
<p>Task 4</p>	
<p>2.1 accessible church</p>	
<p>The Project will link in with developments such as the joint Anglican Methodist <i>Fresh Expressions</i> project and <i>Urban Expression</i> to try to ensure that new forms of church are accessible to all. This includes worship that is as rooted in ordinary urban life as it is connected to the transcendent.</p>	Ongoing
<p>2.2 education for urban mission practitioners</p>	
<p>Task 5</p>	
<p>2.2.1 - Map agencies’ doing urban mission thinking/training in cooperation with Baptist researcher, including agencies delivering lay education.</p>	Largely completed. Gap-filling only
<p>Task 6 & 11</p>	
<p>2.2.2 – lay development – keep links with innovative programmes such as Regen School, School of Urban Mission, Crucible Programme</p>	Ongoing

<p>Task 7 2.2.3 - Contribute to or convene a further meeting of urban mission educators, including denominahtional ministerial formation institutions as follow-up to the Andrew Davey process post-CULF.</p>	<p>Late Autumn 06</p>
<p>3. government policy interpretation and having confidence</p>	
<p>Task 8 3.1 generic skills shortages The production of a short, signposting 'route map' briefing sheet for those newly in urban ministry helping them find their way around local community structures and sources of information will be discussed with relevant bodies and produced if necessary.</p>	<p>Implement by Oct 06</p>
<p>Task 9 3.2 policy interpretation The Project could encourage denominations and ecumenical structures to discuss joint action on more advocacy to Parliament but also better communication for the wider church. The guidance could either be neutral or could be customised from a common core and distributed through the separate denominational channels - lead agency approach.</p>	<p>Meet with new Joint Issues Group in Autumn 06</p>
<p>Task 10 3.3 access to relevant secular training Confirm level of priority and then discuss with relevant secular bodies how to get information on their courses into the Christian community, as necessary.</p>	<p>Summer 06</p>
<p>Task 10a 3.4 links to statutory structures continue discussions between the Churches Regional Commissions, and develop contact with the Inner Cities Religious Council, and the Ecumenical bodies in the four national and other networks as 'honest broker'.</p>	<p>On hold</p>
<p>4. funding and making time</p>	
<p>Task 12a 4.1 guidance Work with denominations and agencies to encourage sharing information on models of good practice on more effective ways to learn how to access funding.</p>	<p>Review autumn 06</p>
<p>Task 12 4.2 access Discuss with the Churches Regional Commissions, ICRC and Faithworks the issues of more clarity from secular funders about what they will fund and more consistency of practice, because of continued confusion and different approaches. Contribute as necessary.</p>	<p>On hold</p>
<p>Task 13 Monitor CUF changes and impact. Lobby as necessary.</p>	<p>Monitor</p>
<p>Task 13a 4.3 releasing existing people for mission The Project should contribute to discussion on this and lobby as appropriate.</p>	<p>Monitor</p>
<p>5. A stronger urban voice</p>	
<p>Task 14 Contribute actively to actively to existing initiatives that advocate for urban mission and where there is already some attempt to approach matters jointly with other denominations and agencies. These include:</p>	

<p>Anglican Urban Strategy Consultation Group, Caritas Urban Round Table Network, CULF dissemination process, Ecumenical Urban Officers lunch, Jesus in the City Congress '07 being planned for Bristol, National Estate Churches Network, Network of Urban Evangelicals, <i>Urban Bulletin</i> editorial meeting, etc.</p>	Ongoing
<p>6. Internal matters</p>	
<p>Task 15</p>	
<p>6.1 – financial management Keep financial records. Submit expenses on monthly basis Monitor budget and liaise with Methodist Church House finance staff as appropriate. Produce written financial reports for Management Group. Manage other Methodist Urban Mission Expenditure.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Task 16</p>	
<p>6.2 general administration Administer reporting to Project endorsers and convene annual consultation event. Liaise with Church Army staff over administrative support, and other services and tenancy matters.</p>	June 07 Ongoing
<p>Task 17</p>	
<p>6.3 management structures Report in writing to Management Group on at least bi-monthly basis. Service Management Committee Attend yearly appraisal meeting with joint line managers and complete paperwork as necessary. Maintain regular contact with line managers as necessary.</p>	Ongoing Aug 07
<p>Make final Report to funders, sponsors and endorsers</p>	Aug 07
<p>Task 18</p>	
<p>6.4 ECUM-only matters Attend ECUM Executive meetings as appropriate and submit short written report, to each meeting. Support ECUM communication issues – e.g. website and encouragement of member engagement Occasional advice to ECUM member organisations. Contribute to other ECUM initiatives as appropriate.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Task 19</p>	
<p>6.5 - Methodist-only matters Attend meetings of: Urban Mission Strategy Group Methodist City Centre Network Expressions of Faith Meetings and Resourcing Mission Meetings as appropriate. Keep in contact with other internal Methodist processes that have a bearing upon the Project and Connexional staff.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Task 20</p>	
<p>6.6 - publicity and promotion Publicise the Project and write and commission publicity and promotional materials as agreed with Management Group.</p>	Review Summer 07