

Dated

26th January 2017

Worship and Leadership Academy

**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR PERIOD
SEPTEMBER 28th 2015 to April 5th 2016**

WLA CIO TRUSTEES

1. INTRODUCTION

The Worship and Leadership Academy used to be part of and run out of Bethel Evangelical Church, Coventry. It was considered to be more suitable to run the training academy as a separate Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), with this decision being made in early 2015. This activity was carried out with the assistance of the Practical Services team of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) and Anthony Collins solicitors, Birmingham. The WLA CIO incorporated on 28th September 2015.

2. Financial Transfer on Incorporation

As the WLA was already running under the guidance of Bethel Church, once it became a CIO, the existing funds that it had accumulated formed the basis of the start-up fund for the new CIO with the bank accounts remaining the same in liaison with Lloyds Bank whom had looked after the account up to that point. On WLA CIO incorporation, the sum of £14,829 provided the balance in the account from previous activity.

3. Trading period and Activity from September 2015 to April 2016

The accounting year for the WLA CIO runs to April 5th of each year and so the first trading year was a short one from incorporation date (28th September 2015) through to April 5th 2016.

The main activity of the WLA is the provision of ministry training for church based organisations, with two main courses on offer:

- BA (Hons) Theology & Mission - in partnership with our course material provider Formission College, Birmingham, whom have their courses accredited by York St John University, York.
- Hands-On – our very own in-house, part time training course which is designed to encourage students into learning and practical ministry but can also act as an access to the BA (Hons) should they so wish

The student take up of the courses was average this year with some 20 students in total accessing them, either as first, second or third year degree students or Hands-On students. The Trustees of the WLA have recognised that the CIO needs to broaden its range of offerings and also look to other forms of income stream which it is planning to do within the next financial year (April 2016 onwards).

With the surplus from the courses that the student fees generates, these funds are utilised to fund a broad range of activities for folk within Bethel Church and the wider region of the West Midlands – this has included:

- Support for an associate minister/graduate from the academy seeking to provide a new church expression within the city of Coventry;
- Seminars for children's and youth workers;
- Assistance with local allotment projects for trainees;

In addition to supporting various training and seminar activities, the WLA CIO also has general costs to pay out -these include:

- Lecturer fees for Hands-On
- Expenses for mileage/meeting attendance
- Books for the in-house library
- Monthly software subscription costs

The WLA runs out of Bethel Church Coventry and currently does not attract any facility hire costs – which is a huge bonus for a relatively new CIO.

4. The Upcoming Year

The Trustees recognise the need to broaden their income streams and to potentially have a year of cost consolidation in order to build up the reserves for the WLA CIO. Such areas for potential income might include:

- Creating a 'friends of WLA' scheme where folk can regular pledge into the charity;
- The start-up of a local community café, this will also form the centre for a potential Urban Research Project;
- Partnerships with a broader range of organisations looking for community and training based partners

5. Accounting Year Summary:

The WLA spent more money than it received, largely due to the reduction in student numbers from the previous year. This was a successful reduction as a number of students graduated from the academy with either a BA (Hons) or a certificate of study in their chosen course. A number of these students have now gone on to work in full time ministry positions across the city and even in other parts of the UK.

This left the net balance as of 5th April 2016 at: £9,849 reflecting an income of £5.5k but with expenditure of some £10k, reducing the starting reserves (£14,829).

The Trustees remain positive for the upcoming year of activity.

K Foster – On behalf of the Trustees of WLA CIO - 26TH January 2017

WLA Account Transactions Summary - Sept 15.

Summary	
Balance in bank transferred from Bethel Church	14,829.13
Formission Activity	3,297.51
Porterbrook Activity	0.00
Pfs Course Activity	0.00
Hands On Activity	846.35
Allesley Project Activity	-26.80
Intentional Volunteer Programme	-663.99
Oasis Cafe	0.00
Traing costs and general expenses	-8,433.01
End of year Balance -5/4/16	9,849.19

-5/4/16

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