

Dated

31st January 2018

Worship and Leadership Academy

**TRUSTEES REPORT FOR PERIOD
APRIL 6th 2016 to April 5th 2017**

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. 16-17 has been a challenging year with one of the main educating partners (Formission College) having their own financial difficulties, thus impacting student recruitment in this area. This said, the in house courses and seminars are slowly growing with a new start up project (Oasis) projecting to create some reasonable income within the 17-18 financial year. A new 'Friends of WLA' scheme has also commenced which is picking up momentum and has created another source of income.

2. Financial Summary

With the impact of our main educating partner financially struggling, this has had a small impact on the finances for 16-17, seeing a small overall reduction in the reserves/bank balance at the end of the trading period. This said, other streams of revenue have been devised (2016-17 being their start up year) that promise steady income that will help sustain the work of the academy.

3. Trading period and Activity from April 2016 to April 2017

The accounting year for the WLA CIO runs to April 5th of each year and so the first full trading year of the academy as an incorporated CIO was from April 5th 2016 through to April 5th 2017.

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. This has come under threat in 2016-17 and so the Trustees of WLA have sought alternative income streams;
- Hands-On – our very own in-house, part time training course 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 – this has seen an increase in take up with some 12 students taking up this training option;
- A community café (Oasis) was started this financial year and whilst operating at a slight loss for 16-17 (with start up costs) should provide a steady form of income going forward;
- The Trustees have devised a 'Friends of WLA' scheme where folk can donate to the charity on a regular or one off basis – this will hopefully provide another source of regular income for the WLA.

The student take up of the courses was slightly below average this year with some 15 students in total accessing them, either as first, second or third year degree students (3) or Hands-On students (12). 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 2017 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;
- Start up funds for a new community café;
- Seminars for children's and youth workers;
- Safeguarding training for church staff and volunteers;
- Assistance with local allotment projects for trainees;
- Donations to non-WLA projects

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:

- Continuing to develop the 'friends of WLA' scheme where folk can regular pledge into the charity;
- The ongoing development 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 – with the WLA currently in negotiation with two local HE colleges.

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.

The numbers of Formission students is at risk as the educating partner are themselves struggling and seeking new accreditation for their courses. WLA are mitigating this with other income streams.

The net balance as of 5th April 2017 stands at: £7,400 (a drop of £2,449 on the previous year) reflecting an income of £16.4k and an expenditure of £18.8k, reducing the starting reserves.

The Trustees remain positive for the upcoming year of activity.

K Foster – On behalf of the Trustees of WLA CIO - 31st January 2018

WLA FINANCE SUMMARY 5/4/16 to 5/4/17

End of year balance – 5/4/16 - £9,849

16-17 Income:

Formission: £9,950.00

Hands-On: £2,075.00

Oasis: £3,786.00

Misc Events: £360.00

Personal/Gift Aid: £247.00

Total 16/17 Income = £16,418

16-17 Expenditure:

Formission: £133.00

Hands-On: £412.00

Volunteer Programme: £140.00

Oasis: £3,519.00

Radford Project: £10,160.00

Web/software: £990.00

Michelle Savage prjct £500.00

Guest speaker costs £1,200.00

Training/conferences £1,050.00

Expenses/books £763

Total 16/17 Expenditure = £18,867

Balance at 5/4/17 = £7,400

Current Student numbers:

Formission – 5 students

Hands-On – 8

17-18 projections:

Formission – 3

Hands-On – 10-15

Projected Income:

Formission: £1,500

Hands-On: £3,500

Oasis: £4,000

Friends Scheme: £1,000

Total projected 17/18 Income: £10,000