

# Paper P4

## Recognition of Mission Projects in Thames North Synod

### Basic information

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<b>Action required</b>	General Assembly asked to recognise four Mission Projects in Thames North Synod
<b>Draft resolution</b>	<b>General Assembly recognises the following as Mission Projects in Thames North Synod:</b>  <b>Resolution 56</b> <b>Seedbeds</b> <b>(395 High Street North, Manor Park, London E12 6PG)</b>  <b>Resolution 57</b> <b>The Lumen Centre</b> <b>(88 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RS)</b>  <b>Resolution 58</b> <b>The Hyde</b> <b>(Varley Parade, Colindale London, NW9 6RR)</b>  <b>Resolution 59</b> <b>Island House</b> <b>(Roserton St, Isle of Dogs, London E14 3PG)</b>

### Summary of content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	General Assembly recognition of Mission Projects in Thames North Synod.
<b>Main points</b>	<p>In recent and previous years, there have been a number of congregations which have closed. In some instances, community work has continued in the buildings, but this does not fully fulfil the charitable objects of the Synod: <i>‘The objects and activities of the Thames North Synod are to advance the Christian religion in accordance with the doctrines, principles and usages of the United Reformed Church, particularly in the Thames North area.’</i></p> <p>Moreover, we are concerned when Christian witness is withdrawn particularly in areas of deprivation and need. In recent years, the Synod has been asking if we discern if there is scope for a future mission in these ‘redundant’ buildings</p>

	<p>before selling the property. These are four churches where we believe that there is a mission to be explored and developed.</p> <p><b>Seedbeds at Manor Park</b>          Since Shalom Church closed in 2010, the premises have been leased to The Renewal Programme providing vital services and support to the local community, which is diverse and has high levels of deprivation. Since 2023, Dave Mann (a Baptist Local Pastor) has been working there for the Synod to grow a new Christian Community. He is working closely with The Renewal Programme to ensure community engagement is maintained.</p> <p><b>The Lumen Centre</b>          After the closure of the congregation known as Regent Square @ Lumen in July 2020, it was agreed that we should retain the building as a resource for the Synod and explore its role within the local community. The present and previous centre managers have also had the remit of developing worship there. Although there is still some uncertainty about the priorities, a Christian witness and sense of community remain at the heart of Lumen.</p> <p><b>The Hyde</b>          Following the closure of The Hyde in April 2024, there have been explorations to church plant in the existing building. Under the oversight of Mill Hill East Church (URC/Baptist). The Revd Isabella Senior (a Baptist Minister) has been commissioned to take on this work for the Synod. There is a thriving Chinese Church in London congregation meeting there and it is hoped to complement their witness and explore opportunities of shared mission.</p> <p><b>Island House</b>          After the closure of St Paul’s Cubitt Town, the building, Island House, was retained as an important facility for the community which is diverse and with significant levels of deprivation. We are seeking to establish a worshipping community there and will be looking to appoint a pioneer worker to oversee the work.</p> <p>The Synod will be establishing a Mission Projects Group to have general oversight of these projects and management groups to support the day-to-day running of the individual projects.</p>
<p><b>Previous relevant documents</b></p>	<p>World Church and Mission resolutions on Mission Projects agreed at General Assembly 1992 (Appendix II, Page 20 Record of General Assembly)          Law and Polity Advisory Group advice September 2020</p>
<p><b>Consultation has taken place with...</b></p>	

## Summary of impact

<b>Financial</b>	To be met by Synod resources.
<b>External (eg ecumenical)</b>	The Synod believes that these projects seek to bring about community transformation as well as ensuring a Christian witness continues where there may be little or none, but always seeking to work with other churches and denominations.