

# Devon Churches Rural Forum Conference 2018

## Re-imagining Rural Ministry: moving towards new structures

### Results from Group Exercise sessions

Prepared by Jacque Ward

#### Group 1

Develop a culture of hospitality and welcome and love in EVERYTHING! Every day of the week

#### Governance

- ❖ Done centrally
  - Leadership; training; enabling leader
  - \*\* sharing of gifts & skills around team \*\*

#### Administration

- ❖ Paid team administrator; treasurer
- ❖ Gather the folk in the team who are good at admin to function as a 'think tank' for what the team needs
- ❖ Team use of organists, choir etc; rota sent out and shared by whole team

#### Mission & Ministry/Spirituality

- ❖ Look at things like Godly play – other types of spirituality based programmes  
Train – they will come
- ❖ Use of appreciative inquiry – where is God already at work & improve on it; offer 'pints of view'; 'table talk'; invitation training on the needs (how to do it)

**Group 2**

Organised Team Work /grown organically

S

- Research to find out what the community is (time limited)

C

- U.S.P. for each church



O

- Collective identity (brand)

P

- PLAN – including who does what

I

N

PRAYER

G

### **Group 3**

Mission & Ministry

Audit – find common aims & objectives – what is God calling us to do?



Communities + churches + Christians

Farmers

Schools

Governance – ecumenical, communicate memorandum of understanding

Pastoral care – ‘triage’ system in each community

Administration

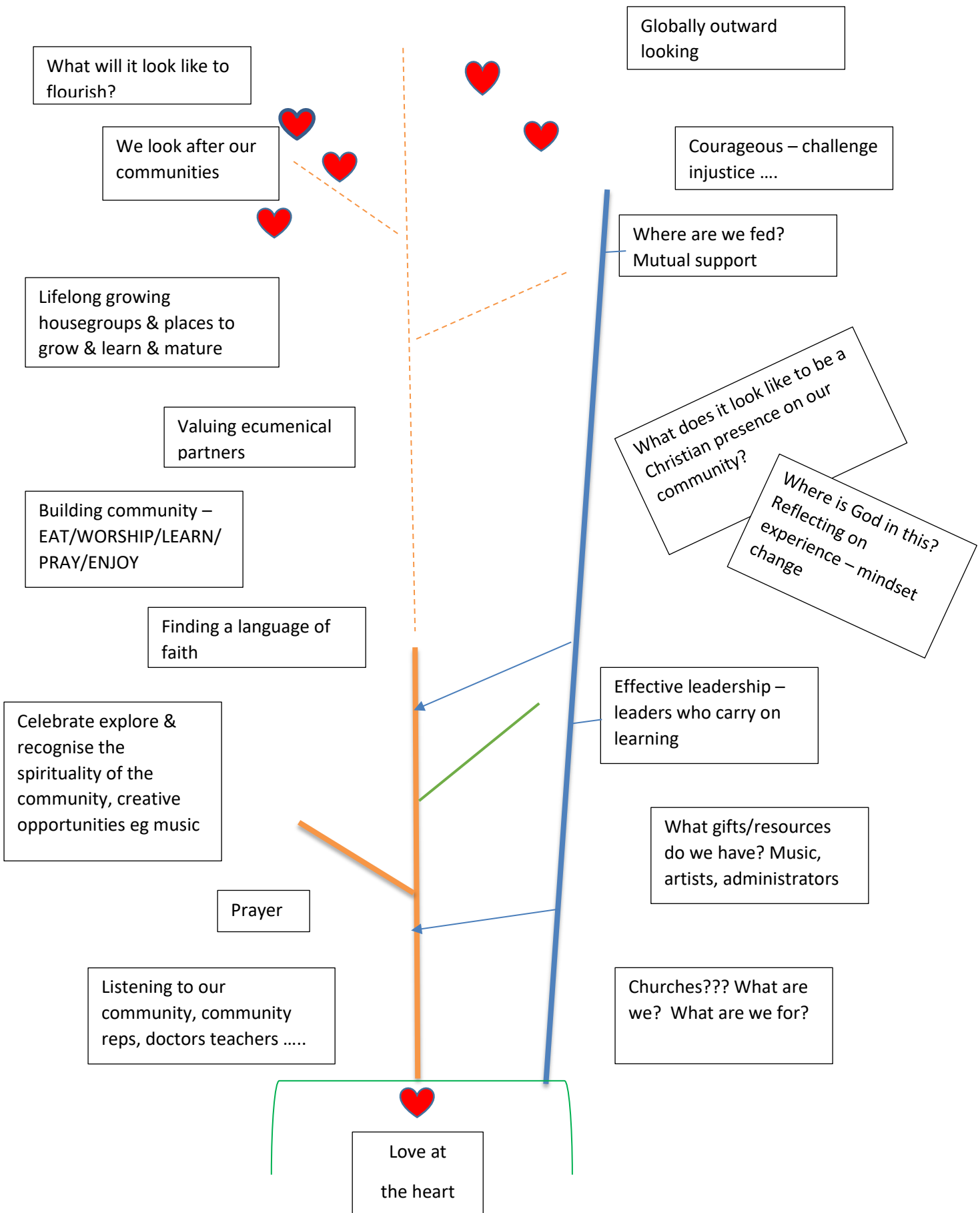
Find out local needs – develop projects ... gather resources

Bottom up

Making disciples – growing the Kingdom of God

Not uniform - but best you can be

Group 4



**Group 4 (continued)**

**Worship**

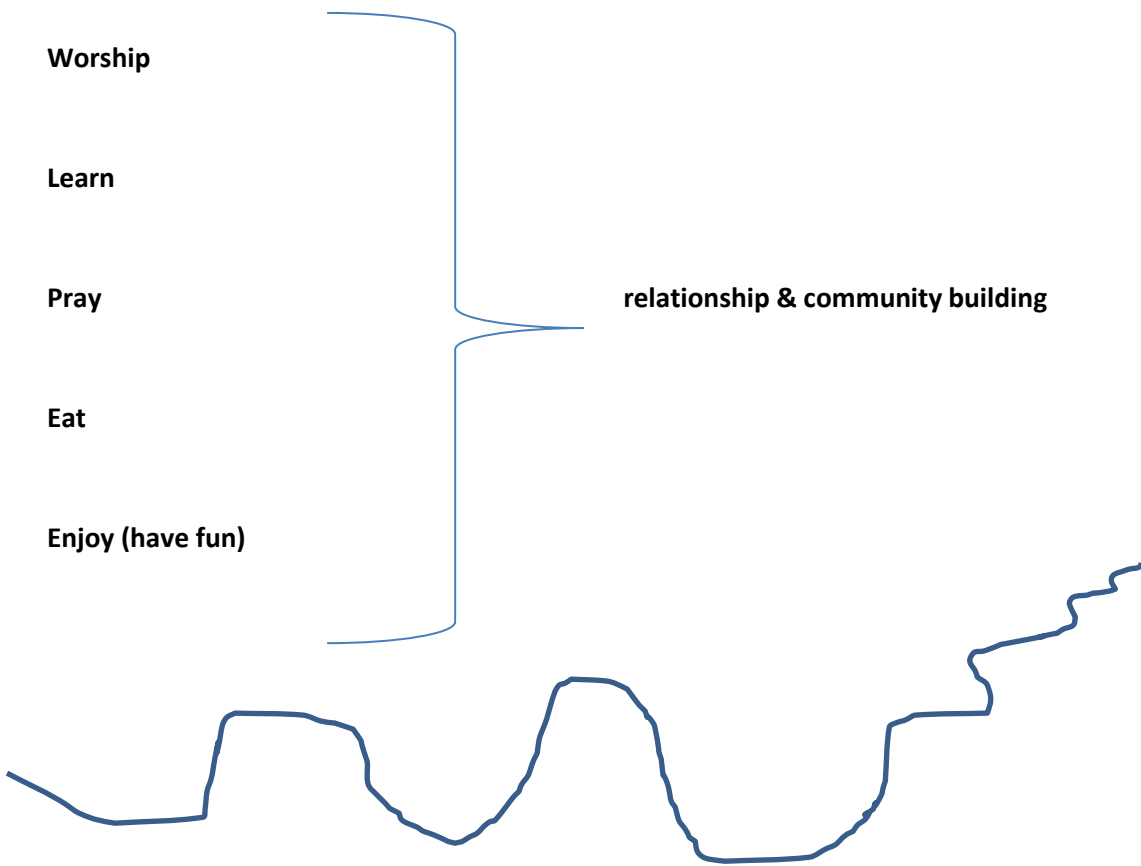
**Learn**

**Pray**

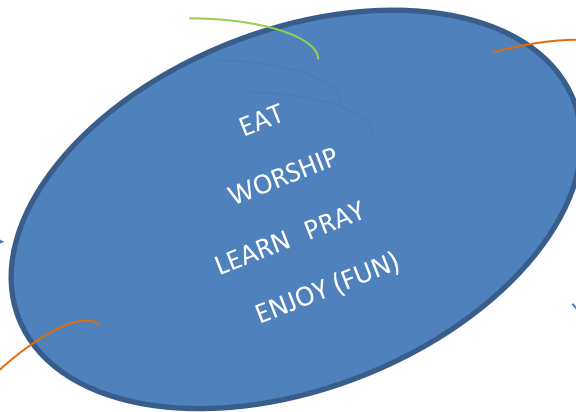
**Eat**

**Enjoy (have fun)**

**relationship & community building**



**DRAWING PEOPLE INTO  
THE LIFE IN GOD**



**CARE/SERVICE**

**LEADING PEOPLE  
OUT TO LOVE OUR  
NEIGHBOUR**

## **Group 5**

**Audit** – existing resources, social need, context

**Assessment** – gifts, what is working well/not so well

**Goals** – what does ‘success’ look like – how might we get there? Prayerful discernment

**Pastoral Care** –

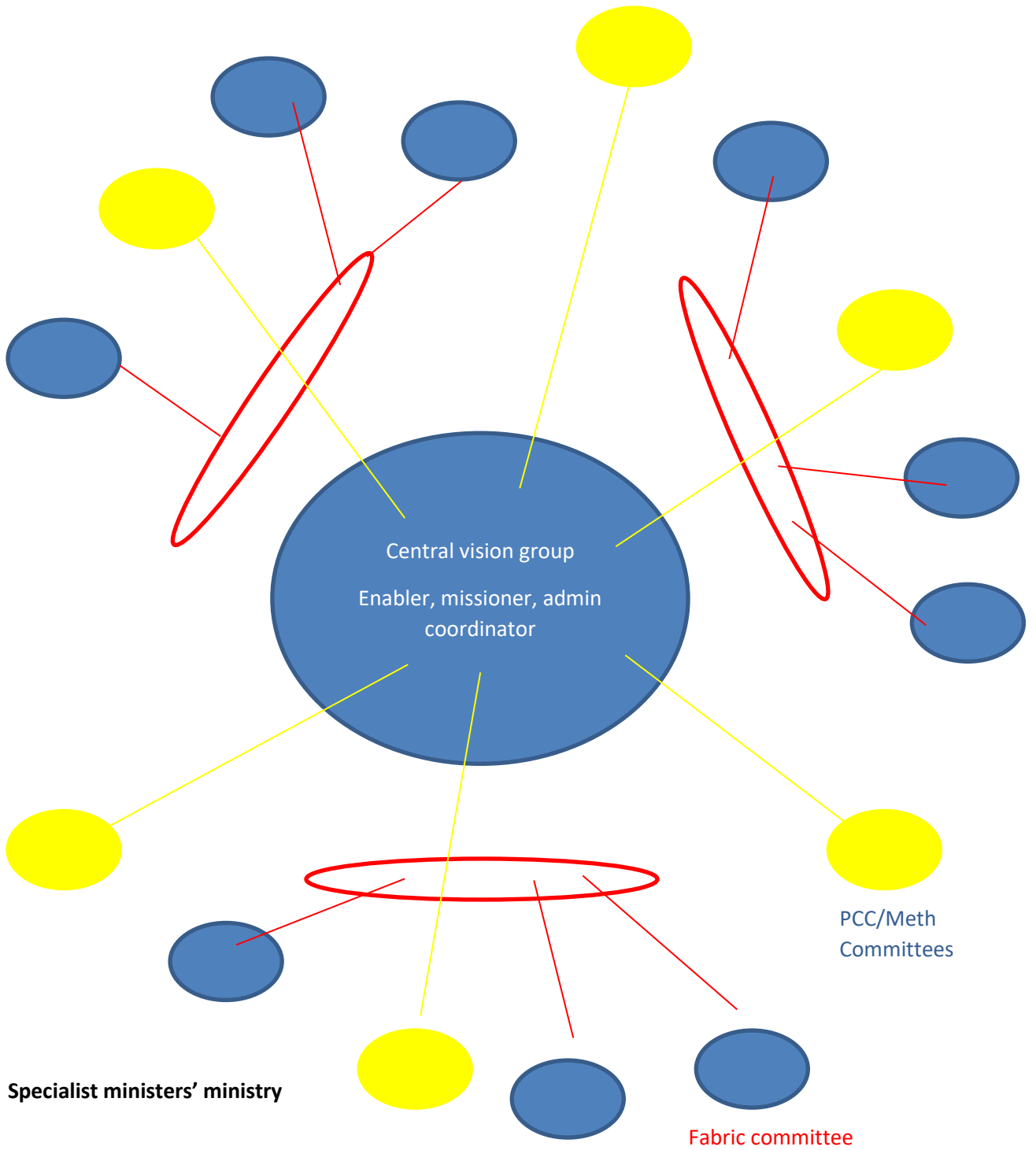
- ❖ Everyone involved – understand existing networks, other services involved.
- ❖ Training and co-ordination. Use of chaplaincy services
- ❖ Need to identify and cover ‘gaps’
- ❖ Changing perceptions – doesn’t have to be the minister/pastor
- ❖ Team effort!

**Mission & Ministry**

- ❖ Collaborative and ecumenical work in schools – involvement in school governance
- ❖ Teams working in schools – assemblies, reading, crafts, after-school clubs etc – building relationships with children and parents
- ❖ Identify and assess key objectives – do a few things well. supported by prayer
- ❖ Shared vision for mission across the mission community – but may be delivered in different ways depending on context
- ❖ Building in resilience – equipping lay people to become more involved.

**Group 6**

Clergy budget can be used to buy specialist ministry – lay or ordained



**Group 6 (continued)**

Identify gifts of available people

Schools

Specialist ministers

Important ministries – eg pastoral/ worship etc – commissioning important

Eucharistic ministry

Children/family work

Discipleship – across ages

Admin – institutional – finance – central admin across MC

Social concerns

Meeting community needs

Worship music

Trained  
person in  
mission &  
evangelism

Creating  
commonality  
eg preaching



**Group 7**

M&M

1. Get together (+food)

PW&S

2. Pray & Listen

PC

3. Ask

What is God calling us to?

A&F

What is the Spirit doing among us?

What is the 'God Story' in **this** community over the years?

Where are the needs **here**?

GOV

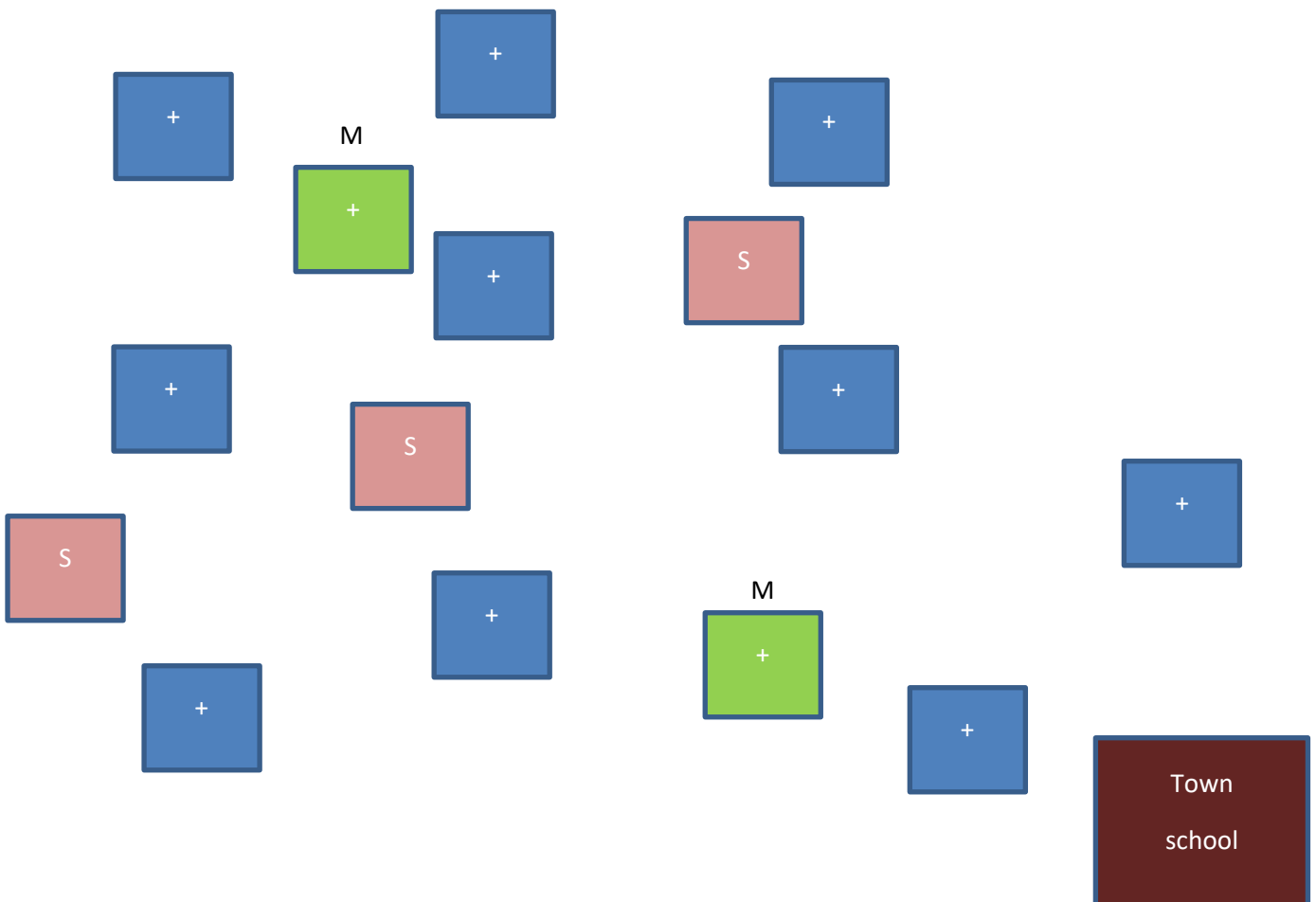
4. 'HOW'?

ECU

?

STAFFG

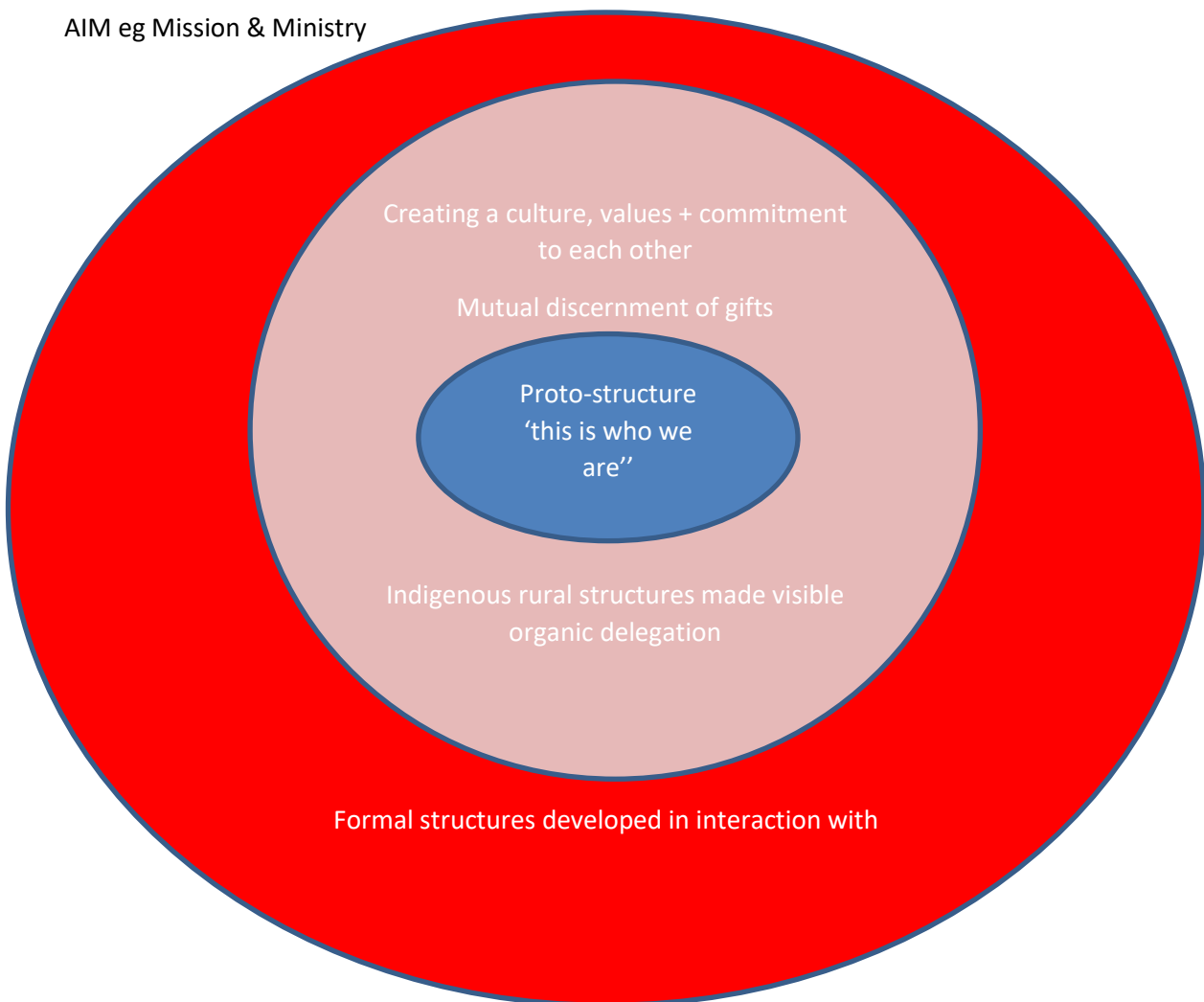
'Form, Follows, Function'!!



## Group 8

Working groups across the MC?  
Commitment to each other  
Regular meetings  
Visiting other events  
Culture of discernment  
Making visible informal structures  
Who are the 'gate people'  
Collaboration model  
Team ethos  
Communication  
Using people's gifts  
'Chair' is key  
Everybody has valid new consensus  
Culture of trust  
Holding space for newcomers  
Network of relationships  
Methods to stop people feeling forgotten

AIM eg Mission & Ministry



## Afternoon Plenary session notes

### Group 1

Culture of hospitality in love in everything we do  
Governance – sharing of skills across area  
Team Admin (paid!) + finance  
    Gathering admin skills as a think tank  
Rota of live musicians  
Offer training in programmes eg Godly Play  
Use appreciate enquiry  
'Pints of View'  
Training – better of inviting

### Group 2

Initial audit  
Pray all the time  
How do we resource our leaders to enable the strategic thinking as we discussed

### Group 3

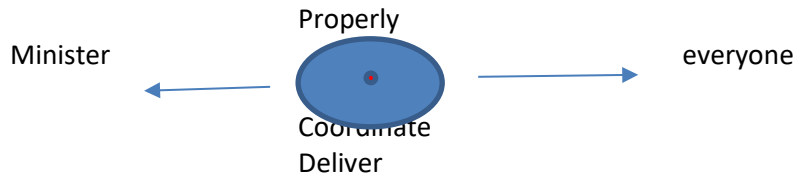
Enable everyone to contribute to future via audit  
    Consent & negotiation  
    Balance between top ↓ and bottom ↑  
Start with what you've got. Find out. Make it work.

### Group 4

Love of Christ  
What's the manure?  
    Listening to communities  
    Celebrating and exploring what is already here  
    Recognising what we already have and how we might use our skills  
Celebrating community  
    Food  
    Fellowship  
    Fun  
    Leadership and lay  
    Keep on learning  
    Tackling isolation – find the place where are fed

### Group 5

Audit existing resources  
What are the social needs?  
Assessment of needs  
Identify goals prayerfully  
Focused on pastoral care – everyone to be involved



Understand existing networks, interim eg chaplaincy services  
Identify and cover gaps  
Change perceptions of those receiving pastoral care

### Mission & ministry

Collaborative & ecumenical  
Involved in schools, governance, assemblies, clubs so relationships are built – drawn into church life

### Group 6

Importance of specialist ministers who could co-ordinate areas of ministry  
Identify gifting's and start from here. Enabler to call out gifts  
Fabric management groups/clusters (in or outside church) which could work with PCCs  
Ministry clusters. Feed info central visionary group  
Clergy budget used to buy specialist ministry in any area

### Group 7

Gospel is located in a community  
Start where we are. Get people together. Pray.  
What are our coming needs. Structures to flow from this to join in with what God is doing

### Group 8

Focused work in schools initially, but then needed to step back and reflect  
Start with current structure – Mission Community and Methodist circuit  
To celebrate what have and are  
Develop a culture in which community can mutually discern who is gifted for what  
Extended networking. You are valued even if don't see/have vicar  
Enabling visibility of strength of rural communities  
More formal structures develop out of culture change