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**31 October 2019**

**Dear FX Denominational Leaders,**

I am writing to let you know about the transitions that have taken place with the Fresh Expressions Limited Board and explain how it will now serve the wider Fresh Expressions movement.

First of all, I want to thank you, on behalf of the board and the Fresh Expressions movement, for all that you have invested and for the encouragement and support you have given over the last 15 years. Fresh Expressions is now a thriving and growing movement that has enabled creative, contextual mission to be established reaching new people in new places in new ways.

Secondly, the board, which was founded with representation from six denominational partners, has served to oversee the funds from those partners and manage the staff and workings of the first 15 years of its work. Over the last five years, the board, with the practical support of Phil Potter and other Fresh Expressions leaders, has encouraged each denominational partner to have a Fresh Expressions embedding team within their own structures so that that work can continue to deepen.

Thirdly, the last five years have also seen the development of a growing number of networks of Fresh Expressions practitioners and overseers where much of the momentum for the development of the movement is now focussed. FX Networks, led by Tim Lea, supports and encourages these networks to meet and develop. FX Resourcing, led by Simon Goddard, develops and distributes the training resources and the Godsend App to support the development of the movement further.

Fourthly, the administrative and governance support for Fresh Expressions Ltd has considerably reduced and now been outsourced to the accountancy firm, DNG Dove Naish, who look after payments and issues related to the Charities Commission.

Fifthly, over the last two years, the board has been transitioning to a new modus operandi from a top-down, denominational, representative, centralised, organisational board to a light touch, gift-based, releasing and decentralised board that is geared towards empowering, equipping and enabling the Fresh Expressions movement. At the most recent board meeting in September, the board agreed to this transition and said that each of their denominations had been consulted about this too and were happy to proceed. This letter formally marks that transition and the denominational representatives have agreed to resign at the end of October 2019. Some of the existing board will remain in a provisional capacity to enable the new light-touch board to get established.

The new board will have 6 members, with each member staying on the board for 3 years. Each year, 2 members will resign, and 2 further new members will be appointed. They will be properly inducted so that they can play their part in enabling the Fresh Expressions movement to thrive. Current members who have offered to resign at the end of the month are: Francis Brienen (URC), Stephen Dean (Church of England), Norman Smith (Church of Scotland), John Drane and Steven Wild (Methodist). Existing members who will make up the new board are: Karen Openshaw, Mark Sheard, Rt Revd Ric Thorpe (chair), and Drew McCombe. Tim Lea and Simon Goddard will attend board meetings to report back on their work supporting the movement. We are actively seeking two further board members with governance and finance gifts who we hope to appoint in the next few weeks. We have a few irons in the fire but if you would like to recommend anyone with skills in governance or fundraising, I would be most grateful to hear from you.

If you have any questions about this transition, please do not hesitate to come back to me directly or to ask any of the other board members. We will be releasing a short statement through relevant media channels about the above transition on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

It leaves me to finish by saying a huge thank you for your part in this great adventure and for all the support of your denomination in getting us to where we are now.

With very best wishes, on behalf of the Fresh Expressions Ltd board,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ric Thorpe". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Ric Thorpe, Bishop of Islington and Chair of Fresh Expressions Ltd

Karen Openshaw

Mark Sheard

Drew McCombe