

Newman Association Communications Working Group

Short report for AGM

1. Following the Hinsley Hall assembly, Council convened a group by inviting Circle representatives. Winnie Flanagan, Michael Jameson, Arthur Skelton and Maureen Thomas volunteered. Brian Hamill and I were added from Council. Kevin Lambert, Marie Rose Low and Barry Riley have been kept informed.
2. It's fair to say that our progress has not been properly interactive. The Circle representatives had/have quite different views on communication issues/priorities, and partly because of the geographical spread we operated through email. One member thinks that we should be asked formalise our processes, also obtaining agreement for a budget to enable proper meetings and fuller debate.
3. In the circumstances, and to at least map out the field, I drafted an interim report, still open for members comment. Some copies are available today and I can circulate further by email.
4. In summary I think that in communication there are two large intractable areas:
 - a. Getting out message out to a younger, especially University, or immediately post-University, groups
 - b. Establishing a closer working/understanding with the Catholic Bishops Conference
5. Other key points such as:
 - a. Council communicating with Circles
 - b. Circles communicating with local parishes/ ecumenical contacts etc

Are being addressed with greater or lesser degrees of vigour through existing mechanisms, and there is a need to for wider use of, for example the website, before attempting anything more elaborate.

6. Others may disagree with this summary view, and I suggest that the new Council should be invited to discuss the interim report and to assess what further to do.

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