

The 'Passion for church administration' network

An update at July 2015

The network

The 'Passion for church administration' network ('Passion Network') is a small group of people with a vision for church administration on a wider scale than just in their, or any one, church.

There have been eight of us since formation in October 2014. The network's purpose has been updated in July 2015 and everyone given a chance to rethink their involvement. As a result two members have left but the hope is that others will join as the network is promoted over the summer and early autumn.

Some history by way of explanation

Over a period from about seven years ago my own work took on a significant change in direction. I called it my 'Fresh Perspective' and it meant that I saw a key area of my work should be to promote all I stood for through other people. Until that time I had been undertaking consultancy and training assignments and had more than a full diary. But from then on I saw the strategic importance of mobilising others to promote the cause, as it were. I set up the UK Church Administrator Network (UCAN) in 2009 and gave more time to writing resources for my website. Both ventures seem to have been successful in their aim of promoting administration as a spiritual ministry through a much larger body of people than just myself.

What was my fresh perspective (which in fact was a return to what I was doing in the organisation Administry in the 1980s and 1990s) is now my mainstream. So over the past two years my thinking has switched much more to succession planning – for the vision I stand for to be passed on to others so that I can retire gracefully (I hope) and focus much more on writing (I still have a very great deal to get down in print!).

The UCAN Oversight Group are now actively working on this and have recently come to the idea, which I am excited about, that not only should UCAN form itself into its own organisation to run the Administrators' network, but that it should also be the body that takes on consultancy and training work.

In other words, UCAN has been an add-on to my work in consultancy and training. That will be reversed in the future so that consultancy and training become an add-on to UCAN's work. The kind of timetable in mind (and nothing is set in stone in all this) is that UCAN establishes itself as its own organisation and I completely back out of running it by 2020 (when I shall be 70), and that I then train up consultants and trainers to take that side over from then on.

So, what about the Passion Network?

After discussion I now suggest that the network should have the following purposes.

- 1 To unite Christians who share a passion for the growth and development of God's spiritual gifts of administration within the Church (UK and beyond).
- 2 To encourage prayer for and discussion of this great vision and to act as a forum for sharing ideas that arise as a result of this.

- 3 More specifically, to pray for and to be able to input into the discussions of the UCAN Oversight Group as they grapple with transitioning UCAN into a body that holds a specific vision for promoting the creative gifts of organisation in churches (see below).

This is the vision the Oversight Group presented to the March 2015 Cutting Edge conference.

- 1 **UCAN proactively working towards enabling the Church in the UK to**
 - o value the spiritual gifts of administration;
 - o give due recognition to those who exercise this ministry (changing present perceptions);
 - o rethink Minister training, UCAN speaking directly to Ministers and senior church leaders.
- 2 **UCAN able to offer professional consultancy/training services to the wider Church.**
- 3 **By 2020: UCAN as a separate organisation, with at least 1,500 members across a wide range of churches, independent of John's work, staffed in an appropriate way.**

Note that the Passion Group holds a vision that is **wider** than UCAN, but sees what is happening within UCAN as being a specific outworking of this vision.

What will this mean in practice?

- 1 The Passion Network will be promoted in August and September mailings and on my website.
- 2 Members will be sent a list of other members with email addresses to enable contact (and so membership includes an understanding that this information will be shared).
- 3 I will send out a special prayer letter before each UCAN Oversight Group meeting with a PS afterwards.
- 4 I will in addition send out if necessary any exceptional news or comment about the vision we hold (whether related to UCAN or not) at any time. It will also be in order for any member to communicate ideas to others at any time.

John Truscott
24th July 2015

69 Sandridge Road, St Albans, AL1 4AG
T: 01727 832176 E: john@john-truscott.co.uk W: <http://www.john-truscott.co.uk>