

# The Network Church

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2022

Stewardship   
*Active generosity*

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB  
[www.stewardship.org.uk](http://www.stewardship.org.uk)

**THE NETWORK CHURCH**  
**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	33 Mayflower Road Park Street St Albans AL2 2QP
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Declaration of Trust dated 16 August 1999
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1078577
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	L Singlehurst T Withers J K Foulger C Hanbury (resigned April 2023) R Kinahan (resigned June 2022)
BANKERS	The Co-operative Bank plc National Westminster Bank plc
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Jaimée Young Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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**THE NETWORK CHURCH**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022.

**Objects of the charity**

The charity, which is a church, is governed by a trust deed and is constituted as a trust. The community of Network Church exists to commit our lives to serve the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our primary responsibility as a church is to:-

- a) Build and nurture a Christian community
- b) Serve those outside the community in a variety of different ways
- c) Provide a forum for those who do not know God to explore the possibility of a relationship with him.

**Our Mission Statement**

A community of God's people working together to see God's Kingdom extended in our spheres of influence.

We are a church built around small groups which means that an important focus of the life of the church is the midweek 'cell groups'. These meet weekly and are where the group members worship together, encourage one another, and share their lives with families and friends.

The cell groups come together for larger meetings as the weekly Sunday morning meeting, where we experience God in corporate worship, and receive teaching from the Bible.

We follow a cell church structure, in that the leadership team supports and trains several small group leaders, who support and train their small group members.

During 2022 we re-established meeting together in-person on Sundays, following the Covid-19 pandemic, and due to numerical growth have moved to a larger rented venue. Much of that growth is from Hong Kong Christians settling in the local area who have contributed to a new multicultural flavour in our gatherings which we enjoy.

**Review of the charity's main activities and achievements**

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

We support and encourage those with a faith to deepen their relationship with God, and to increase the reach and effectiveness of their positive contribution to society.

We provide financial assistance for people linked to Network Church to attend spiritual retreats or counselling courses, and provide occasional financial support to individuals in need that are known to someone in Network Church, irrespective of their faith.

We give regular financial support to various charities and individuals, including to people in YWAM Tanzania, and support local charities either financially and/or with practical help, such as St Albans & Harpenden Education Project, Harpenden Money Advice Centre, Azalea, and The Living Room.

We have strong links with YWAM Tanzania, where several people are supported by Network Church or by individuals within the church. Pre-Covid we regularly sent a team to help with building projects there both practically and financially (e.g. schools, and nurseries), and hope to resume that as soon as practicable. Church individuals occasionally visit as well. Various projects have been supported by people within Network Church for which we receive regular updates, prayer requests and photographs.

We run a community pottery studio on an entirely voluntary and free to use basis to encourage young and old in their creative skills and benefit their wellbeing. Our ethos is to create a friendly welcoming environment for all comers. We attract a wide variety of people from the local community and in conjunction with Mind in Herts have regular groups to benefit their mental wellbeing. In 2021 and 2022 we were grateful to receive grants from The Harpenden Trust for new and improved equipment.

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

### **Connected organisations**

Network church is part of Pioneer, and we also have close links with YWAM, Cell UK, and other St Albans & Harpenden churches. One of the Trustees of Network Church, Laurence Singlehurst, is also a Trustee of Cell UK.

### **Financial review**

During the year income increased by £6,100 to £105,300, and expenditure increased by £14,700 to £104,800. The cash held by the charity at year end is £71,100, of which £67,400 is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose. Additional funds are held in an ethical investment fund.

We gave away approximately 18% of our income during 2022 to a variety of organisations, and to individuals in need.

An annual budget is prepared by the Leadership Team, approved by the Trustees, and presented to the church as a whole. At least twice a year, the actual figures are compared to the targets.

Three of the Leadership Team and one Trustee are bank signatories. Two signatories are required on cheques and all bank documents.

### **Reserves policy**

The Trustees have determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash to cover expenditure commitments for 3 months (which equates to approximately £26,000) so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £67,400 and the charity is holding excess funds; we continue to invest in the pottery project, and are looking to hire a larger venue to accommodate us on Sunday mornings, for which some of these funds will be needed.

**Governance**

In 2022 there were five Trustees, one of whom is also the team leader of the Leadership Team, who oversee the running of the church and the financial decisions that are made by the Leadership Team. Network Church is part of the Pioneer group of churches, who support our Leadership Team, and oversee our progress and major decisions.

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity.

New Trustees are recruited and appointed by the existing Trustees, who discuss and agree on the capabilities and likely profile need to fill the role. This takes into account considerations such as the capabilities of the current Trustees, specialist skills available and diversity considerations.

**Risk statement**

The Trustees have reviewed the risks to which a small charity operating with few employees is exposed. Appropriate procedures are in place to identify, monitor and review these risks on a regular basis.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

**Approval**

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

T Withers

Date: 17 August 2023

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**TO THE TRUSTEES OF**  
**THE NETWORK CHURCH**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Network Church ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2022 on pages 6 to 9 following.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jaimée Young

Stewardship  
1 Lamb's Passage  
LONDON  
EC1Y 8AB

Date: 21 August 2023

**THE NETWORK CHURCH**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Notes	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		General Funds	Designated Funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
<b><i>Income receipts</i></b>						
Donations		63,411	-	17,541	80,952	78,089
Gift aid receipts		9,901	-	2,217	12,118	10,516
Other grants		8,000	-	3,645	11,645	10,599
		<u>81,312</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,403</u>	<u>104,715</u>	<u>99,204</u>
<b><i>Capital and similar receipts</i></b>						
Sale of fixed assets		633	-	-	633	-
		<u>633</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>633</u>	<u>-</u>
<b><i>Total receipts</i></b>						
		<u>81,945</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,403</u>	<u>105,348</u>	<u>99,204</u>
<b><i>Payments</i></b>						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	70,228	-	5,219	75,448	61,126
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	15,020	-	14,307	29,327	28,906
<b><i>Total payments</i></b>						
		<u>85,249</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,527</u>	<u>104,775</u>	<u>90,031</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers		(3,303)	-	3,876	573	9,173
Transfers between funds	5	608	-	(608)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>(2,695)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,269</u>	<u>573</u>	<u>9,173</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		70,066	-	1,078	71,144	61,971
<b>Cash funds at this year end</b>	A	<u>67,371</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,347</u>	<u>71,717</u>	<u>71,144</u>

The notes on pages 8 - 9 form part of these accounts.

**THE NETWORK CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>A Cash funds</b>					
Cash at bank with immediate access	67,371	-	4,347	71,717	71,144
	<u>67,371</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,347</u>	<u>71,717</u>	<u>71,144</u>
<b>B Other monetary assets</b>					
Gift aid due to charity	800	-	-	800	681
CCLA investment	46,779	-	-	46,779	51,805
	<u>47,579</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,579</u>	<u>52,486</u>
<b>C Liabilities</b>					
<b>Falling due within one year:</b>					
NEST [pension]	220	-	-	220	220
Fee for Independent Examination	1,008	-	-	1,008	990
	<u>1,228</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,228</u>	<u>1,210</u>
<b>D Assets retained for charity's own use</b>				Value 2022	Value 2021
				£	£
Equipment and fittings				11,689	11,130
				<u>11,689</u>	<u>11,130</u>

The trustees have used insurance values as the trustees are unable to reliably estimate current values; insurance values may differ materially from current values.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

by T Withers date 17 August 2023

The notes on pages 8 - 9 form part of these accounts.



**THE NETWORK CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**1 Accounting policies**

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly</b>					
Employment costs	50,707	-	-	50,707	50,781
Venue hire	8,080	-	-	8,080	1,360
Church activities and Community events	4,709	-	-	4,709	1,509
Equipment	367	-	49	416	1,494
Gifts and visiting speakers	1,680	-	-	1,680	644
Courses / conferences / training	1,474	-	-	1,474	130
Phone	358	-	-	358	405
Insurance	383	-	-	383	409
Office and administrative expenses	1,050	-	-	1,050	2,131
Computer and internet	397	-	-	397	315
Governance	978	-	-	978	960
Pottery	-	-	4,958	4,958	730
Sundry	47	-	212	259	259
	<u>70,228</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,219</u>	<u>75,448</u>	<u>61,126</u>

**3 Grants and gifts paid to others**

Organisations:					
YWAM Tanzania	1,200	-	13,107	14,307	13,271
STEP	2,700	-	-	2,700	2,700
Cell UK Ministries	3,000	-	-	3,000	3,000
Pioneer Trust	1,440	-	-	1,440	1,440
Organisations < £1,000	3,080	-	-	3,080	3,100
Individuals	3,600	-	1,200	4,800	5,395
	<u>15,020</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,307</u>	<u>29,327</u>	<u>28,906</u>

**4 Transactions with related parties**

Mr Trevor Withers, Team Leader, was paid £38,143 [2021: £37,786] for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; as permitted by the charity's governing document.

No payments were made to any other trustees or persons related to them, except for reimbursement of expenses paid out on behalf of the charity.

**THE NETWORK CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**5 Movement of funds**

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
General funds	70,066	81,945	(85,249)	608	67,371
	<u>70,066</u>	<u>81,945</u>	<u>(85,249)</u>	<u>608</u>	<u>67,371</u>
Restricted funds					
Mission support	497	14,287	(13,819)	(608)	358
Pottery	531	7,116	(4,958)	-	2,689
Pioneer grant	49	-	(49)	-	-
Hardship fund	-	2,000	(700)	-	1,300
	<u>1,078</u>	<u>23,403</u>	<u>(19,527)</u>	<u>(608)</u>	<u>4,347</u>
Total funds	<u>71,144</u>	<u>105,348</u>	<u>(104,775)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,717</u>

The Mission Support fund relates to donations given for the support of mission organisations and missionaries. The transfer from this fund relates to an administration fee which is taken from the recovered gift aid, with the permission of the donors.

The Pottery is a small community pottery run by and supported by Network Church. It is open (by appointment) to anybody whether families or groups or individuals. The purpose is to provide a safe space for people to have fun with clay and rediscover their creativity. Other donations have been given to support this project.

The Pioneer grant was for Pioneer churches who wanted to purchase equipment to provide hybrid church after the Covid lockdowns eased.

The Hardship fund can be used to give a small gift to anyone in financial need who is brought to the attention of the Leadership Team