



The Voice of Leadership, Management and Ministry

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Members: 26 September 2007

### Chairman's Report

Welcome to the Chairman's Report to the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of Members of MODEM. Last September we met in Sheffield during a very successful Residential Conference held at Whirlow Grange. Our theme was ***Christian Leadership through Transition and Change***. Our excellent team of guest speakers included Arno Andreasen, Founder of World Shapers, Mary Chapman, Chief Executive of the Chartered Management Institute, Su Morgan, Human Resources Director for the Archbishops' Council, and Malcolm Grundy, Director of the Foundation for Church Leadership. Many of you were either present then or have been able to learn what we heard and said through MODEM MATTERS.

The last year has been one during which we have found ourselves progressing through a new stage of development. The most significant change has been the way in which we communicate with members - moving on from communication by snail mail with occasional e-mail to regular communication by e-mail and occasional snail mail. Assembling an up-to-date list of current e-mail addresses has been more difficult than we imagined - but we are hopeful that the task is now done! However we have fallen somewhat behind in collecting the subscriptions of members and so will be instituting a new system for payment of subscriptions later this year.

E-mail communication has made it easier to continue our regular publications .... ***MODEM Matters*** edited by Anton Muller and ***Spirit in Work*** edited by David Welbourn. Both continue to attract a good deal of interest. They carry accounts of people engaging with, and being engaged by God in Church life, in daily life and in daily work, all seeking to advance the Kingdom of God. Both are now available by e-mail in glorious colour. However, we will continue to make black and white versions available to those who wish for printed copies. And we have begun to produce some Occasional Papers. The first Occasional Paper - ***Thinking about Christian Leadership - a MODEM viewpoint*** - has been e-mailed to all members and is also available as an A5-size booklet. The second Occasional Paper - ***Church Leaders Development Plan*** - will follow. Both papers are available on our website.

The development of our website has been another major change. For many years our website was looked after by Alan Harpham and Robbert van Beveren, for whose work we are very grateful. Thank you Alan and Robbert. Tim Harle has become our new editor. We regard this as a major resource and hope that everyone will appreciate its value as it is developed. The new address is [www.modem-uk.org](http://www.modem-uk.org). And over the year, with the help of Len Simmonds, a marketing advisor, we have developed, and will be adopting, a generic template for all our MODEM communications.

Our next book ***Becoming a Creative Church Leader*** is due to be published by Canterbury Press later this year. The team of clergy and lay contributors is Christian and ecumenical, the contributors (in alphabetical order) being: Anglican, Baptist, Church of Wales, Methodist, Presbyterian Church of Wales, Salvation Army etc. We are confident that it will be an inspiring resource for everyone interested in developing and sustaining local leadership in Churches, communities and other organisations. Again we are deeply indebted to John Nelson for assembling such excellent authors and material. We shall be arranging a number of launches of this book at different venues throughout England during the early part of next year.



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We continue to work in a variety of different ways with several other organisations. Let me briefly mention some of them:

- First we are involved with a group of **Leadership Development Providers** who, in a wide variety of different ways, can make a significant, contribution to a coordinated and informed approach to clergy and ministerial training and development. If you would like to draw on their gifts, experience and other resources, get in touch.
- We work with the **Foundation for Church Leadership** who report that in the Church of England 20 of the 43 dioceses are running leadership development programmes for their clergy, suggesting that a further 23 dioceses have yet to get started. I wonder what the figures might be for other Christian Churches?
- We work with **CABE**, the Christian Association of Business Executives.
- Over the year we have developed our links with **Churches Together in Britain and Ireland** (CTBI) beyond merely holding Leadership Committee meetings at CTBI HQ. The Revd Bob Fyffe, the new General Secretary, has been able to meet with us and so put flesh on a relationship that we hope will grow and deepen.
- We continue our conversation with **The Crossover Trust**, a Charity set up to promote and bring about communities based on Christian principles, especially in new housing areas. We have indicated that MODEM is willing to share in the recruitment and training of Christian leaders and managers in the creation of Lifestyle Training Centres if and when Crossover's vision becomes reality.
- And Peter Bates and Anne Johns made an interesting and valuable visit to the 2007 **Christian Resources Exhibition** at Esher, Surrey for us in May. There we were able to sell copies of our 3 books, recruit some new members, and promote MODEM. However they also heard some rather alarming comments about Leadership and Management in today's Church which you may have already seen (MM Edition 2)

One of the major changes in your Leadership Committee has been the appointment of Keith Williams as Treasurer, taking over from Peter Bates. Peter has served MODEM as Treasurer since its inception in 1993. Thank you Peter for this long, sustained period of dedicated service. Peter continues to be our Membership Officer. For many years Wendy Larkin assisted Peter, keeping & maintaining our membership records - but she has moved on. Thank you Wendy for your loving support. Anne Johns, our newest Committee member, is our new Member Liaison Officer with a remit to initiate, maintain and develop personal links with every member. And a final Thank-you to Sue Jewell who has served on the Committee for many years but has now had to withdraw.

In summary, your Committee is fortunate to have enjoyed the continuing presence and work of Deputy Chairman Peter Chiswell, John, Peter, Richard, Tim, Anton, David, Keith, and Anne. Three are due for re-election - I hope all three will be re-elected. And we would be delighted to welcome two or three additional members. Over to you!

**Chris. J. Mayfield (Chairman)**

September 2007

[www.modem-uk.org](http://www.modem-uk.org)

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