

The Methodist Church

Newcastle upon Tyne District



District Mission Plan September 2018

“The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.”

The purpose of the Newcastle upon Tyne Methodist District is: “to resource local churches in fulfilling Our Calling”

Through the District Mission Plan the District aims to resource local churches to be more fruitful in:

- Worship
- Evangelism
- Small Group Discipleship.

It will seek to achieve this through:

- A process of reflecting back to Circuit Leadership Teams on the Mission (i.e. Growth or End of Life) Plans that local churches and circuits produce.
- The establishment of a ‘District Evangelism Team’ with a particular focus on urban priority areas, rural areas, fresh expressions and the Together project.
- The appointment of a ‘Worship Working Party’ to consult widely in order to help the District discern how we can support an improvement in the quality of both congregational and small-group worship and what resourcing is needed to help churches implement this.
- Working with Superintendent Ministers and Circuit Leadership Teams to seek the best way to support the development of small groups which promote faith development and church growth.
- A commitment from the District and Circuits to ensuring that ministers’ gifts and callings are not inhibited by being expected to fulfil lay roles, e.g. safeguarding officer, property steward, treasurer, etc.

In order to do this, we will organise ourselves differently:

- The Synod, as the policy-making body, will be asked to confirm that our purpose as a District is ‘to resource local churches in fulfilling Our Calling’.
- The District Policy Committee, as the Managing Trustees, will be asked to resource the District Mission Plan and will review the plan annually. The DPC will be regularly updated with its implementation and achievements.
- The September 2018 Synod will be asked to appoint a District Leadership Team from amongst the District Officers to ensure that the District fulfils its purpose.

(This would comprise the Chair of District, Deputy District Chairs, the Synod and Ministerial Synod Secretaries and the District Evangelism Enabler. Other people would be co-opted as and when required.)

- During the year 2018/19 the work of the current Resourcing Mission Group, Grants Committee, Managing Trustees for District Property and Servicing and Resources team, should be streamlined by forming a Property and Finance Executive (PFE).

(Members of this new group would initially be drawn from the groups named above. We will also take into account the need for succession planning as part of good governance.)

In all that we do we will remember that God is with us, that we seek to serve God alone and make disciples of Jesus Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit!