

District Mission Strategy

- ❖ Promoting a culture of experimentation and risk-taking in which every Christian community is focused on being and bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to others, making new Disciples of Christ, and trusting in the work of God in the world.
 - ❖ Encouraging Circuits and Churches to affirm the importance of wise and proper use of resources of people, property and finance through conducting regular reviews (every 3-5 years).
 - ❖ Recognising those fragile pieces of work that need to be maintained as a mission priority.
 - ❖ Giving attention to areas where new work should begin, supporting and affirming the value of existing work which focuses on mission, and discerning aspects of work which might cease.
 - ❖ Fostering a climate of learning and development.
- ❖ Being good stewards of the earth, mindful of our impact on the environment and issues of sustainability.
 - ❖ Being welcoming and inclusive communities, mindful of issues of equalities and diversity.
 - ❖ Encouraging ‘closer collaboration in all areas of witness and service’ⁱ and ‘appropriate initiatives for local cooperation’ⁱⁱ with other churches, faith groups and local agencies with whom we share common values
 - ❖ Encouraging closer cooperation between Circuits and with other Districts.
 - ❖ Encouraging people to explore, recognise and nurture spiritual awareness in themselves and others

The District affirms that people of all ages, including children and young people, can participate in this work in appropriate ways.

‘It is not the church of God which has a mission it is the God of mission who has a church.’

Tim Dearbourne

Our Calling

is to:

- ✚ Increase awareness of God’s presence and to celebrate God’s love
- ✚ Help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care
- ✚ Be good neighbours to people in need and to challenge injustice
- ✚ Make more followers of Jesus Christ.

The District also has a role in relation to the region, addressing issues of concern in public life across the District, enabling partnerships with other agencies and Churches and as part of the wider Connexion.

The Priorities

The Leeds District affirms *The Priorities of the Methodist Church*ⁱⁱⁱ that:

In partnership with others wherever possible, the Methodist Church will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments on this priority:

- ✚ To proclaim and affirm its conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the Church

As ways towards realising this priority, the Methodist Church will give particular attention to the following:

- ✚ Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer
- ✚ Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor - in Britain and worldwide
- ✚ Developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved
- ✚ Encouraging fresh ways of being Church
- ✚ Nurturing a culture in the Church which is people-centred and flexible

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i Anglican Methodist Covenant (Nov. 2003)

ii WYEC Covenant

iii Methodist Conference 2004

Leeds Methodist District



Mission Strategy

The Leeds District exists to support, equip and enable the work of the Churches and Circuits in the District to fulfill *Our Calling* as understood by the Methodist Church of Great Britain.