

UPPER THAMES METHODIST CIRCUIT – MISSION POLICY DOCUMENT 2020

We believe there are three levels of response required to this mission policy and each Church member, each local Church and our Circuit Meeting should positively contribute to deliver it.

A. **WORSHIP.** We treasure the historical pattern of worship but we will explore new ways of leading and sharing worship to the Glory of God. We will take opportunities to combine services with other Methodist churches and our ecumenical partners. All members will be encouraged to support Circuit Services for the purpose of celebration, building fellowship, blessing one another and for sharing the Good News. The Circuit will train all Local Preachers and Worship Leaders especially in relation to new patterns of worship. We will promote the 'call to lead worship', the 'call to preach' and 'the call to presbyterial and diaconate ministry'.

B. **LEARNING AND CARING.** All local members will be covered by their church's pastoral care system. We encourage every church to examine its pastoral care to ensure that it is not overly dependent upon a minister, that it is robust, that everyone is aware of how it operates and that all members are reminded of the need for the Body of Christ to exercise a common responsibility for pastoral care. Each church should identify those with a pastoral heart who will then be subject to Safer Recruitment & Safeguarding procedures and trained in pastoral care.

C. **SERVICE.** The service given by Church members and friends will be acknowledged in an annual act of worship celebrating Christian Service and dedicating service to God as an outworking of our faith. The Circuit will be the employer and the deployer of all paid lay workers and will appoint management and support personnel for all posts to establish a clear established pattern of working and accountability. The management of the circuit will be delivered by a CIRCUIT SUPPORT NETWORK, a CIRCUIT WORSHIP NETWORK and a CIRCUIT MINISTRY NETWORK.

D. **MISSION and EVANGELISM** To be intentionally missional, both personally and as churches, we believe we are called to be :

- 1 **CENTRED IN GOD.** We mission as an outworking of our desire to share the love of God. We evangelise so others may experience the love of God as it is revealed in the ministry of Jesus. We seek God's Spirit to empower us for this challenge. We will review each Church's Mission Statement to ensure that the proclamation and the demonstration of God's Kingdom is a priority.
- 2 **EVERYONE AN EVANGELIST.** We will seek to provide opportunities in worship, fellowship and study groups for individuals to share their own faith story safely.
- 3 **TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP.** We will help our churches to transition from where they are now to what they might become.
- 4 **NEW CHURCHES FOR NEW PEOPLE.** We aim to be church in ways that will show imagination and take risks. The Circuit Ministry Network will explore new models to help us find the most suitable for our mission context.
- 5 **EVERY CHURCH A GROWING CHURCH.** We will treasure and celebrate what is good, sharing the gifts that God has given us to build up all Gods people.
6. **CHURCH AT THE MARGINS.** We will demonstrate the connection between social justice and evangelism. We will support and value those within our congregations who work on the margins and will look for opportunities to engage in new forms of mission where appropriate.
- 7, **YOUNG EVANGELISTS, PIONEERS AND LEADERS.** We will provide opportunities for young people to be initiate new projects and lead them. We will identify the potential of those we employ locally to add this ministry to their experience by funding training and by opening up opportunities to lead safely as well as serve.
- 8 **A DIGITAL PRESENCE FOR DIGITAL AGE MISSION.** Each church should have a website and a way of connecting safely and positively with the church members and especially the communities in which they are set.

We call on every CHURCH MEMBER, every CHURCH LEADER and every member of the CIRCUIT MEETING to take positive steps in playing a part in the delivery of this Mission Statement.