

**District Mission Development Plan**  
**Isle of Man District**

As a District we are committed to sharing the love of God across our island and throughout our communities. We want to fully adopt the 'God For All: Connexional Strategy for Growth and Evangelism' by committing to be more inclusive, justice seeking, evangelistic and open to spiritual growth.

We are called to be Jesus' disciples and to share the Good News with those around us. Jesus teaches us to 'love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and 'love your neighbour as yourself.' (Luke 10:27) As a District, we will support and resource the chapels and congregations to grow spiritually and to be able engage in mission and outreach in their locality.

As a District we seek to develop a culture of:

- Spiritual Growth
- Evangelism and Mission
- Inclusion & Justice Seeking

**Spiritual Growth**

'Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.' (Proverbs 3:5-6)

- Make spiritual growth a priority – and promote decision/vision making through spiritual discernment
- Support the continuing development of all who lead worship – that our worship may be Spirit-inspired, contextually relevant and theologically rich.
- Ensure tools for growth like 'Methodist Way Of Life' are being utilised in context to resource growing and authentic disciples
- Support chapels to become more prayerful and meet regularly in small groups to meditate on God's word outside of Sunday worship.
- Develop and train lay and ordained leaders to support their spiritual growth and confidence in mission.

**Evangelism and Mission**

'I can do all this through him who gives me strength.' (Philippians 4:13)

- Equip our chapels to be confident to engage in mission through District training events e.g. use of Connexional 'Everyone an Evangelist' resources
- Hold quarterly God For All mission gatherings to celebrate current practices and discern possible new projects
- 'New places for new people' - The District will support the circuit in engaging with and identified new communities where they consider God could be calling them to work.
- Support the development and delivery of the 'Warm Spaces' initiative throughout the island
- Develop and recruit new local preachers and or worship leaders that are encouraged in their evangelistic giftings with the support of the Learning Network.
- Utilise Connexional resources across the island to enable mission e.g. the 'There is Room' Connexional resources for this Christmas.

### **Inclusion and Justice Seeking**

'Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.' (Romans 15:7)

- Work ecumenically with other denominations to help build justice and peace in our communities.
- To encourage churches and circuits to see how safeguarding is core to our theology and mission.
- The District will support churches to explore how their places of worship might be more inclusive and accessible for their local context.
- To encourage every circuit to engage with the application of the 'God In Love Unites Us' report to see how their spaces and places become safe and welcoming places for all.
- Encourage churches, circuit, and District to implement the justice, dignity and solidarity programme.
- Resource chapels in their response to the Climate Crisis – and encourage working together towards reducing our carbon footprint as a District.

### **Mission plan**

We will encourage and assist every chapel, or every missional grouping of chapels to work towards a Mission Plan. Particularly to expect chapels to be able to articulate their missional priorities, and to have an action plan.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/evangelism-growth/lead-churches-into-growth/write-a-great-mission-plan/mission-planning-toolkit/>

### **Being good stewards of property and money**

If we are true to our calling of loving God and loving our neighbours – then our money and property will always be seen as belonging to God. We are good stewards of these resources if we can hold them lightly – making sure they support God's mission and do not hinder it.

### **As a District we want to support chapels to turn their resources into missional potential.**

We do not want to close chapels or lose our witness in a particular community.

We long to see green shoots of spiritual growth.

We don't want to see all remaining time and energy being diverted to property maintenance and 'subsistence' fund raising – leaving little space for joy, creativity, spiritual exploration, holy risk and scriptural holiness.

### **Encouraging vision/review of potential**

A small District 'God for All' team will visit all chapels that have an average Sunday attendance (or membership) of 15 or below. The aim will be to listen carefully, to help the folks identify their unique calling and gifts, to encourage a clear focus on missional potential and help with forming a realistic 5 year plan.

### **Work needed from the DPC:**

#### **District Advance Fund**

Review the criteria and maximum award amounts.

In terms of property - consider District-wide financial support to:

- a) Install wifi in all chapels where it will be used and useful
- b) Support chapels in upgrading their public-facing signage – and consider how each can be more attractive physically to those walking or driving past.
- c) Consider how we can work together more effectively to reduce our carbon-footprint. To provide some funds specifically for this work.

#### **District Reserve**

Draw up a reserves policy for the next 5 years

#### **Registering properties**

The District will help with legal fees for chapels to properly register title for their land.