**District Mission Development Plan 2023-2024**

**Our Mission Statement/principles as a District** *As a District, we are committed to growing a flourishing sustainable network of circuits of worshipping communities which are growing, evangelistic, justice-seeking, and inclusive in their outworking of the mission of God*

**The Methodist Church ‘Our Calling’**

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

It does this through- worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism.

**Therefore as a District our Priorities and Practices are as follow:**

**Priority 1- Growing Communities**

Practices

* To embed the District New Places for New People project FEAST (Friends Exploring and Sharing Together)
* Committed to growing communities that are ‘Safer Spaces’ that prioritise the

safeguarding and flourishing of all by ‘Promoting, Preventing and Protecting’

safeguarding good practices for all who gather whether they are in person/online

* Provide ongoing missional resourcing for churches to review, revise and implement a new mission strategy maximises their resources
* Support Circuits and Churches where appropriate to develop and establish chaplaincy in new housing communities
* Commit to developing and training lay and ordained leaders that are dedicated to multiplication and growth through partnering with the Learning Network
* Ensure tools for growth like ‘Methodist Way of Life’ are being utilised in context to promote multiplying disciples.
* The District seeks to support leaders in their vocations (through events like ReNew) and offer support on suitable training pathways across the wider church. To encourage churches and circuits to become generative.
* Partner with the Connexional Children’s and Youth Team to encourage participation and engagement in 3 Generate and other appropriate events.
* Assist in the creation of new worshipping communities online in Circuits or Churches

**Priority 2 Evangelistic**

Practices

* DME to work with local churches and circuits to use missional start-up grants for new evangelistic activities
* Encouragement in a District-wide evangelistic storytelling initiative called ‘Love is\_\_\_’
* Encourage and resource all circuits as they participate in invitation events like 3 Generate and Bible Month
* Building confidence in evangelism through courses like everyone and evangelist in the local churches.
* Develop and recruit new local preachers and or worship leaders that are encouraged in their evangelistic giftings with the support of the Learning Network and District teachers scheme.
* Encourage through prayer and grant funding the involvement of young people at 3 Generate 2023-24.

**Priority 3- Justice Seeking**

Practices

* Commit to prayerful study and embedding of the A Justice Seeking Church Report’ as commended by the Methodist Conference 2023
* To explore how the Methodist Way of Life can be used to implement the ‘Justice Seeking Church Report’
* To renew the District environmental policy and work with Churches and Circuits on how they can work positively to achieve net zero.
* Partner with JPIT, All We Can, and other Methodist-affiliated charities who work that challenge injustice both in the UK and globally.
* To explore how District events might be focused to those on the margins e.g. Synod

**Priority 4- Inclusive**

Practices

* To encourage Churches and Circuits to see how safeguarding is core to our mission.
* To ensure all necessary personnel have completed both ‘Unconscious Bias training’ and EDI advanced module training through the Methodist online learning platform.
* To publicise and assist the role of the DARS (Discrimination and Abuse Response Service) service across the District
* To promote resources and opportunities that enrich our commitment to being inclusive through the work of the JDS District Committee and the Learning Network
* To increase further diverse participation in our representatives to the Conference and Synod, in our membership of committees and groups and those holding office, as well as on the Methodist Pioneering Pathways
* The District to support churches to explore how their places of worship might be inclusive and accessible for their local context. E.G. DAF property grants

**The principal, priorities and practices can only be understood in the context of these wider relationships:**

* With the environment
* With ecumenical partners
* With interfaith friends