



# Yorkshire North & East Methodist District

## District Mission Plan 2019

*“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.”*

The District is committed to encouraging and supporting local churches and circuits to fulfil Our Calling in their different contexts.

It seeks to develop a culture that:

- inspires vocations
- sows generously
- appoints leaders
- changes structures for growth.

The District has established four priorities with the aim of cultivating the growth of flourishing, missional communities:

- growing lay leadership
- re-imagining worship
- developing “Our Voice”
- remodelling Governance.

This policy remains a ‘live document’ to be regularly reviewed, updated and developed.

The District is committed to developing its response to these priorities, as follows:

### **Growing Lay Leadership**

- Equipping and releasing different streams of Lay Leaders, for example:
- Local Pastors, with a variety of models:
  - Renewed “Class Leader” role in smaller churches
  - Shared leadership alongside a Presbyter in a larger church
- Pioneers/Entrepreneurs – those venturing beyond inherited church, exploring new models
- Specialists: schools, families, property, administration etc
- Ministry Leaders: Street Pastors, Community ministry, Parish Nursing
- Chaplains: education, health, auction mart, prison, racecourse, workplace, retail etc

### **Re-imagining worship**

- Challenging “The Plan” to be ‘more than a rota’: looking imaginatively at what will help to deepen worshipping life of local church communities. (*Noting the increasing importance of worship beyond Sunday.*)
- Giving priority to developing intentional community-building. Taking hospitality seriously to better welcome the new.
- Building expectancy of God at work in our worship. Developing response opportunities. Pursuing the use of testimony: “What’s God up to?”
- Developing patterns of consistent leadership.

### **Developing “Our Voice”**

- Regaining confidence in the gospel as thoroughly Good News for all the world.
- Developing our conviction in being prophetic for justice and social holiness.
- Actively engaging - *through JPIT North and in other ways* – with civic, business, educational, charity leaders.
- Developing skill in contemporary apologetics.
- Engaging with online space – for communication and in evangelism.
- Developing a renewed intentionality of disciple-making (inc through baptism/confirmation)
- Discovering church not always as ‘host’ but as ‘guest’ in nursing homes, Costa, ‘third spaces’

### **Remodelling Governance**

- Fleshing out how trusteeship can be arranged to release due priority on mission and ministry, such as ‘one church many branches’, ‘one church with “classes”’.
- Finding models of governance that provide an ‘umbrella’ allowing all sorts of creative ministry and mission to develop under its safety.
- Enabling appropriately professional governance, especially in key areas of property, finance and safeguarding to be well-resourced in each Circuit.