



Birmingham Methodist District Policy Statement

The Birmingham Methodist District seeks to enable the church to be growing disciples of Jesus Christ for the Kingdom of God.

The Church, in undertaking its mission, seeks to grow in the following ways:

- The holiness, transformation and commitment of her members (growth in depth) – both individuals and churches.
- Transformed society (growth in the outworking of our discipleship).
- Increased number of disciples of Jesus Christ (growth in numbers of new members).

The church seeks to grow not for its own sake but so that it can be an effective agent of the Kingdom of God.

We seek to support the mission of circuits and churches in the Birmingham District and help them to be intentional in responding to God's call to serve the present age.

As a District we will aim to support local churches and circuits in their mission through:

1. Effective deployment and use of available resources
 - a. Stationing: stationing profiles will be prioritised in terms of growth oriented mission opportunities and in the context of wider circuit dynamics.
 - b. District Advance Fund: District grants will be prioritised to target situations that have growth potential.
 - c. Property Schemes will be subject to the same criteria as District Grants.
 - d. Circuit reorganisations: Support will be given to circuits to help them to be the appropriate size for both mission and mutual support.
2. Helping Circuits, Churches and Methodist people both lay and ordained by providing an infra-structure that promotes healthy, Godly growth:
 - i. Safeguarding
 - ii. Lay-Employment oversight
 - iii. Property
 - iv. Financial management
 - v. Administrative hub
 - vi. Troubleshooting
 - vii. Pastoral oversight

This infrastructure will be provided in ways that reflect our care for each individual and our concern for mission and personal spiritual growth and kingdom values. Each of these elements are not ends in themselves but means to an end of our core mission: growing disciples of Jesus Christ to work in partnership with God, for the growth of God's Kingdom.

3. Pastoral and developmental support of ministry lay and ordained
 - i. Training
 - ii. Candidating
 - iii. Probationers Support
 - iv. Sabbatical Support
4. Supporting particular projects that promote growth in various ways:
 - i. National Exhibition Centre Chaplaincy and Chaplaincy Support
 - ii. Adavu
 - iii. District Evangelism Enabler
 - iv. Birmingham International Student Homes
 - v. Methodist Tax Justice Network
5. Where appropriate working in partnership with ecumenical partners through
 - a. ensuring appropriate oversight and review of Local Ecumenical Partnerships
 - b. supporting and helping develop joint initiatives which facilitate growth
 - c. representing the Methodist Church at appropriate ecumenical events
6. Working with the Discipleship, Ministries and Learning Network and others to help use the resources they offer to promote growth in the district and ensuring an appropriate balance between the three areas of growth.
7. Having a clear strategy in how we implement the above and regular review as to its effectiveness.