

Partner Church Project

Task

To develop a working relationship with a small number of Churches, Circuits or networks identified as Partners committed to Social Responsibility as part of their Mission.

Objectives

- To develop a two year pilot project for leadership, volunteering and good practice in a clearly defined programme of Social Responsibility
- To connect Partners with other Methodist Churches, Circuits or networks in the London District which intend to learn from their experience
- To increase understanding of how social responsibility projects enhance the mission of the Church and develop a toolkit of Biblical and theological resources.
- To showcase best practice programmes that can be adapted throughout the District.
- To discover talented individuals and what motivates them to undertake community engagement projects
- To engage with other anchor institutions so that the Church is enabled to collaborate with neighbouring faith and secular institutions for the common good

Plan of Action

The Social Responsibility Commission (SRC) is conscious that the Commissions are intended to be the engines of work for the District. But imposing projects from above on already overburdened Churches and Circuits is not likely to gain acceptance.

The SRC is therefore seeking to work in relationship with those already engaged in good practice. Ideas for education and project development will be explored within this relationship so that there is opportunity of such initiatives being adapted and communicated with the whole District.

The District will identify three or four possible Partner Churches to engage with the pilot project. In addition to identifying the Partner churches, the SRC will also identify a small number of churches interested in learning which could be twinned with the Partners.

A steering group will be developed from key members of the Partner churches to enable the project to develop its agenda, share good practice and evaluate impact.

The District will identify some key young people who are interested in social responsibility to be part of this process. It is recognised that young people in

particular use social networking media as a common means of communication. It is therefore proposed to explore how the SRC may be able to relate to such a young persons virtual community of interest as part of this pilot.

The District will also ensure that there is engagement with the various ethnic and cultural groups in London Methodism by working with the Language and Culture Fellowship groups

The pilot will be used to explore the basis for planned SRC initiatives such as an educational DVD on Social Responsibility, a Healthy Living Fun Day and a Civic Service for London.

Resources

The success of this project will depend very much on the quality of the relationships developed between the SRC and the Partners. While Commission members will be available for some key meetings, it is probably unrealistic to expect commission members to be involved in individual face to face meetings on a regular basis. Unless this level of trust is developed there is a possibility that the pilot will be impaired.

A part time organiser will be appointed to work to the SRC and undertake the regular contact and development of relationships with key members of the Partner churches. Duties would include servicing meetings, one to one engagement with key leaders, identifying talented young people, monitoring of progress on agreed outcomes, and communication with the SRC.