

# THE ONE PROGRAMME



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Take a year on

The Methodist Church is committed to young people. More than that. We're committed to enabling you to really participate in shaping and making the church.

We call it our 'Youth Participation Strategy'. It's all about opening up space and time for you to make decisions about the way the church looks and works - not just for you as young people, but for everybody.

As part of this, we've set up **The One Programme** to give you the opportunity to work for a year in your local churches and Districts in creative projects that help to show Jesus to others.

### OPPS

Young people on The One Programme are called **One Programme Participants**. They are our **OPPs**. Our special OPPs.

And what are OPPs? Well, they are:

- unique individuals
- giving one year of their time
- committed to one place and project
- part of a bigger whole, God's family

**So, to recap: it's called The One Programme. And it's time for you to take a year on.**

# The One Programme is ...

### ... INDIVIDUAL AND UNIQUE

- The One Programme is essentially about **one person**. And that one person could be you.
- Each OPP will experience and participate in a programme of work **tailored** specifically to them and their development.
- The One Programme is about saying that everyone can make a difference; even just one person; even you.

### ... ABOUT TIME

- The One Programme is about one year of a young person's life and time; **one year to make a difference**.
- The One Programme is about **taking 'a year on'**; it's about opting in, not opting out.
- The One Programme is about looking forward. Yearning, praying, hoping. **Working for a better tomorrow**, 'one day'. It's about standing with Martin Luther King when he said: 'I have a dream that one day...'

### ... ABOUT PLACE

- OPPs will be rooted in **one place**. Right where they live. They will be grounded in their context, enabling them and those they work with to experience and **achieve something real, deep and long-lasting**.
- We know that each and every location and circumstance is **unique**. We know this means that each project placement requires an individual approach and commitment.

### ... THEOLOGICALLY COMMITTED

- **Though we are many, we are one**. One body. One church. And we worship one God. That's 'One God, perfect in unity.' That's 'One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all.' That's what it says in the Bible. (Ephesians 4:6)

# The deal

- The OPPs will play a key role in ensuring that each District sends at least two young people to **Youth Assembly** in November.
- The One Programme is part of the 'Extending Discipleship, Exploring Vocation' process in the Methodist Church.
- OPPs will undertake works of service, taking on challenges to do with **Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation**.
- OPPs will be supported locally by trained youthworker staff.
- OPPs will not be expected to be mobile across their whole District.
- \*These hours may be banked to provide a larger portion of time for attendance at full day or weekend/overnight meetings.

- OPPs are young people aged 16 – 23.
- Each District will employ an OPP for 15 hours a week.
- OPPs will spend 9 – 12 hours a week working in their District, with the remaining 3 – 6 hours a week given over to national initiatives.\*
- OPPs will be appointed for one year (September to August). Young people will apply for an OPPs role within the District where they live.
- OPPs will be sympathetic with the aims of the Methodist Church.
- All OPPs will attend an initial training weekend in September as part of their induction, with four more residential meetings during the rest of their year on.
- OPPs will be provided with access to skills-based training during their year on.

*Take a year on*

# The OPPs

## OPPORTUNITIES AND OPERATIONS

### ONE PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS

OPPs are young people who take a year on, growing through making the most of opportunities and by engaging in operations. They will get stuck in. They will do something that will change them and the lives of those they work with. This is not armchair stuff. It's active. It's engaged. It's practical and exciting.

### OPPORTUNITIES

OPPs are young people who will seize hold of an opportunity. Opportunity is defined as 'giving someone a chance, something they might not get to do otherwise, a chance to try.'

This is part of the DNA of the One Programme - and of the YPS more widely. It's about young people getting involved, making a change in their locality. This is incredibly hopeful; it says that things can be different. It says, like Ghandi once did, that you can be the change we want to see.

### OPERATIONS

Wikipedia describes 'Special Ops' as: 'typically carried out with limited numbers of highly trained personnel ... able to operate in all environments, utilise self-reliance ... to easily adapt and overcome obstacles, and use unconventional ... skills and equipment to complete objectives.'

We think this sounds incredible - like something that young people will want to be part of. Being an OPP will be hands-on, alright.

To find out how you can take a year on and join the OPPs, contact [opps@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:opps@methodistchurch.org.uk). And, if you know of a project you'd love to work with or a person you'd like be an apprentice to, then let us know - it might be possible for us to sort this.

*One love / One blood  
One life / You got to do what you should  
One life / With each other  
Sisters / Brothers  
One life / But we're not the same  
We get to / Carry each other / Carry each other*

'One', Achtung Baby, U2