



MCCN

The Methodist City Centre Network

www.methodistcitycentrenetwork.org.uk

Aims and purposes of the Network

- Advocacy in promoting, presenting and developing the role of ministry in the centres of large towns and cities.
- The continuing training and mutual support of those engaged in this ministry.
- The discernment, encouragement and management of good practice in city/town centre ministry.
- To administer the list of Churches and projects in accordance with Standing Order 440 of the Methodist Church of Great Britain on behalf of the Methodist Council.

The Network offers

- A forum for the exchange of ideas and resources.
- A meeting twice a year that gives opportunity for updates and the sharing of experience.
- A conference every two years.
- The opportunity to collaborate with experienced practitioners. Structure and support to aid in reviews.

The Network is open to all churches, groups and projects working in the centres of cities and large towns and to individuals with concerns or interests in town and city centre ministry.



What is distinctive about church and ministry in the centres of cities and large towns?

Context

- The dominant features of the environment are retail, civic, leisure, judicial, and educational institutions
- There may or may not be residential accommodation
- The population is transient with extremes of power and powerlessness, wealth and poverty

Identity

- Often a collaborative style of ministry, with or without a gathered congregation and with or without premises of its own
- Working in partnership with other churches, groups and agencies who share Kingdom values

Role

- To demonstrate the love of God, as seen in Christ, for all who live, work and spend time in the city centre
- To provide opportunities for varieties of worship for a transient people
- To offer pastoral care and nurture for a scattered congregation, for members of other churches whilst they are in the city centre and for those who belong to no church at all
- To fulfil a representative and prophetic role to civic, media, district and ecumenical authorities and structures on behalf of the wider Methodist Church
- To offer support and affirmation for Christians in the work place

Tensions and Challenges

- Responding to the changes in city centre life and embracing new and varied models of ministry – there is a constant need for the city centre church to reflect, adapt and reshape itself
- The city centre, with other areas, often bears the brunt of many injurious changes in society
- The responsibility of being the flagship church and focus for the District, denomination and the wider church
- The explosion of the leisure industry and new patterns of Sunday life
- The development of city centres and the continual change of population
- The demands of a seven-day, 24-hour city
- The effective deployment of resources and personnel