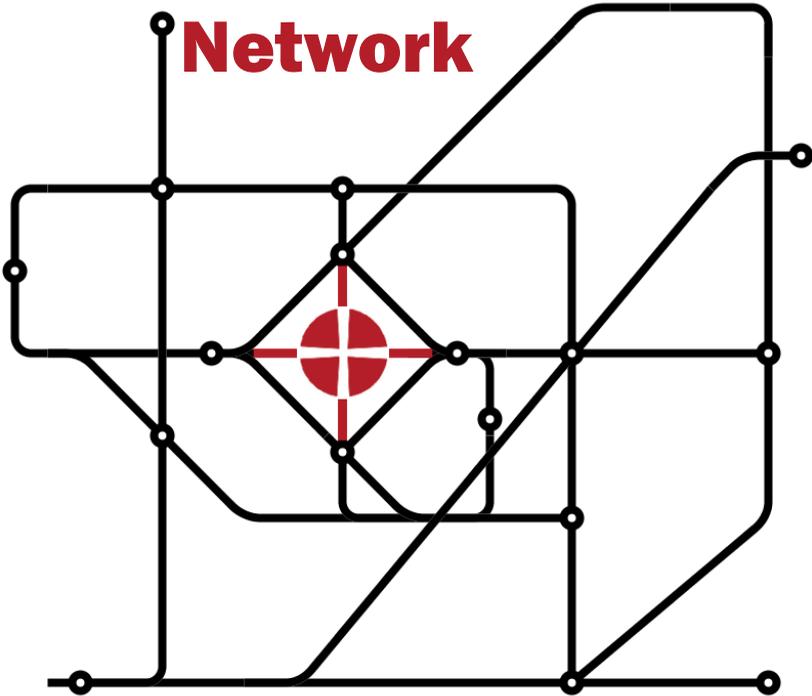


# **Methodist City Centre Network**



**Review  
Document**

## Commendation

In the light of Priorities for the Methodist Church, every part of the Connexion is called to radically review what it does.

The distinctive and crucial contribution to the Church's worship and mission through the Methodist City Centre Network is vital to the well being of our work in every city and large town. I commend these guidelines to every District Synod, City Centre groups and projects.

I would like to see inner city and suburban areas, hard pressed housing estates and regeneration projects build similar networks with equal vigour, adding to the rich mix whereby we re-engage with main currents of contemporary society and witness to Jesus Christ.

*The Revd David Deeks*  
*General Secretary*

## Introduction

The Methodist City Centre Network (MCCN) is a network of Methodists sharing ministry in the city and large town centres.

The aims of the MCCN are

1. The advocacy of the role of city centre ministry
2. The training and mutual support of those engaged in city centre ministry
3. The discernment and encouragement of good practice in city centre
4. ministry.

As part of our commitment to the above and to the inclusion of Churches and Projects on the Connexional City Centre list we encourage a regular review of work within the town and city centres in which we serve.

In the *Ministry and Mission in the City Centre* report that was adopted at the 2001 Conference we committed ourselves to ensuring that each Church/Project would aim to:

- Appoint an overseeing body responsible for carrying out regular reviews.
- Produce a clear strategy of work.
- Produce a robust 5 year business plan
- The Standing Orders place responsibility for the 5-year review in the hands of the synod – working in collaboration with the church council, circuit meeting or management committee as is applicable for the governance of each entity on the official City Centre list.

## **The role of MCCN**

The MCCN plays its part as follows:

1. It will prompt each city centre entity and synod when a review is due.
2. It will offer its expertise to the relevant synod in good time.
3. It will make available one suitably qualified person (Aide) from outside the situation being reviewed, to assist with the review.
4. It will co-ordinate and keep a log of reviews.
5. It will disseminate good practice around the connexion.

## **The aim of this booklet**

The aim of this booklet is to outline some basic guidelines to help you shape the five year review of your Church/Project with the assistance of a practitioner from another Church/Project within the City Centre context.

Because each Church/Project is very different the suggestions may need to be adapted.

## **The requirement**

It is required that a full review take place every five years and **SO 440(5) places responsibility for overseeing reviews in the hands of the Synod.**

## **The support**

MCCN will make available one practitioner (Aide) to work with the team of people from the Church or Project appointed by the Synod to review this work.

## **Aims of the review**

The suggested aims of the review are to

- A. Encourage and share good practice.
- B. Look at priorities for Church/Project.
- C. Encourage the development of a business plan.
- D. Highlight any issues to be addressed by the Church or Project.
- E. Highlight any issues or concerns that may be shared within the wider network, across the Connexion, or with ecumenical partners.

## Recommended areas for discussion within the review

### Context

Brief outline of Church or Project

Location in the town or city.

Significant relationships to other Churches and Projects (including ecumenical links, chaplaincies and partnerships)

Numbers of Staff and Volunteers.

### Strategy:

#### *Annual reflection*

We suggest ***Our Calling*** offers the most straightforward framework within which the required annual reflection on the work of each church, project or circuit could be undertaken.

#### *Five year review*

Because every District has scarce resources (human and financial), we suggest it is vital to prioritise what is done in the light of ***Priorities for the Methodist Church***.

In the context of these priorities we need to ask

1. What are the main activities of the Church or Project?
2. Where are the strengths and weaknesses?
3. What are the aims, objectives and priorities of the Church or Project?
4. Are there any strategy documents? What do they reveal?
5. How is the work being measured and monitored?
6. What is the impact within the context?
7. Is there a business plan? What does this cover?
8. How does the above fit with *Our Calling*?
9. If there is no plan how can one be initiated?

## Resources

- What are the resources available to the Church or Project?
- Where are the significant gaps or difficulties?
- How sustainable is the Church or Project?
- How are the staff and volunteers trained, managed and reviewed?
- Are there proper contracts, job descriptions or equivalent agreements?
- If there are buildings involved is current legislation being adhered to?
- Has there been a risk assessment carried out?
- Are there areas where the Church or Project requires assistance in the above matters?

## Outcomes

- The main findings of the review.
- The issues that need addressing further to assist the work?
- Examples that can be shared with the wider network?

*MCCN would like to gather information about good practice in conducting reviews around the connexion.*

**What issues or areas of concern need to be shared with the network or for consideration within the Connexion?**

*We will seek permission of each Project, Church or Circuit (and its Synod) to spread insights from the review around the network to assist others.*



## **Methodist City Centre Network**

**[www.methodistcitycentrenetwork.org.uk](http://www.methodistcitycentrenetwork.org.uk)**

Coordinator:     The Revd Phil Mason  
                      The Victoria Hall  
                      Bolton Methodist Mission  
                      Knowsley Street  
                      Bolton BL1 2AS  
                      Tel: 01204 522569  
                      Email: [victoria.hall1@virgin.net](mailto:victoria.hall1@virgin.net)