

Background Information for Mission Enabler and NPNP Lead Job

The role An opportunity has arisen to create a new full time paid post comprising of a half time mission enabler combined with a Connexionally funded half time New Places for New People Lead working throughout Lincolnshire Methodist District. The two halves of the post are complementary; there will be distinct responsibilities attributable to each half of the job but there will also be many areas of overlap between the two. The role is advertised as a full time role however could be a job share.

New Places for New People are new forms of church for people with questions about life and faith who struggle to connect with existing forms of church. This includes a deep commitment to low-income communities, and prioritising new forms of church amongst and led by people experiencing poverty through our Church at the Margins (CAM) programme.

The purpose of this role is to develop the growing movement of New Places for New People by acting as an accompanist to circuits and practioners (pioneers) to develop vision for NPNPs, provide the vital support need in the early stages, continued development, evaluation and sustaining of a new Christian community. The District NPNP lead will work in partnership with the District Chair, District NPNP Team and Connexional NPNP team to provide vital support for new communities and local NPNP teams.

The District Mission Enabler will be responsible for encouraging and enabling the local churches and circuits to reflect on their discipleship and mission helping them ask and answer the following questions:

- *Who are we? What skills, gifts and graces do we have within the congregation and wider family? What resources do we have available to us; property, finance and energy, ecumenical and in community?*
- *Why are we here? Both questions around the nature of Church and around physical location; buildings and community setting.*
- *What can we do to further the work of God? In response to answers to the previous questions what can we do to join in with God's work in this place and at this time?*

It is imagined that the two halves of this job will feed into one another with existing churches being helped to see new and different opportunities and NPNPs enthusing existing church.

Lincolnshire Methodist District consists of around 100 churches currently grouped into 8 circuits. These are geographically spread across North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire (excluding Stamford and Grantham areas). The Methodist membership across the District is approximately 2,800. There are currently 16 FTE presbyters/deacons.

The major centres of population are in the City of Lincoln and the towns of Scunthorpe, Grimsby, Boston and Spalding. There are many smaller towns including Gainsborough, Holbeach, Louth, Skegness, Cleethorpes, Brigg, Sleaford and Horncastle as well as many villages.

As well as industrial centres such as Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Lincoln the District is also characterised by a rural hinterland and miles of beautiful coastline.

The District is currently investigating the possibility of the 8 circuits coming together to form 1 new circuit across the whole of the District. These structural changes are being looked at in order to try and reshape for mission at a time when on the whole membership is generally aging and declining. We are looking ahead to make our structures serve our purposes in the years to come.

The role of NPNP Lead and Mission Enabler is a vital addition to the District Team in order to help churches and circuits fulfil the mission of God in this place.