

Study Day: 21 January 2017
with the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

A Church of Holiness and Justice



During the Study Day, those present gathered into clusters pertinent to their role within the life of the Church in order to write a 'rule of life'...

Ministers (1)

- Work at least one day a week but not more than six
- Be washed and brushed by 9:15am
- Pick up a book at least monthly (engage in ministerial development)
- Go somewhere and not talk Church
- Live on a larger map
- Walk each day (at least to the car); importance of exercise

Ministers (2)

- Get over yourself
- Watch over in love
- Creating space for wholeness in life
- Accountability to God, self and others

Local Preachers

- Regular development and devotion through prayer, Bible study, further reading and learning with others
- Openness to new callings, world issues, new styles of worship in the context of a sense of awe at what God can do
- Supporting each other as preachers
- Seeking to understand the context of the congregation to make our preaching relevant and direct
- Working within the discipline of the Local Preachers Meeting

Worship Leaders

- Commit to prayer, Bible study and personal devotion
- Commit to being well informed of the needs and the concerns of the congregation
- Commit to learning about available resources and trends in worship in the wider Church
- Commit to meeting with other worship leaders for sharing, support, monitoring and audit

Stewards

- Commitment to build positive relationships based on mutual respect with team members
- Promoting growth in mission and discipleship and celebrate achievements
- Taking time to discern the will of God for Church and Circuit
- Commitment to pray regularly for the rules of life as identified

Treasurers

- Prayerfully manage the resources of the Church
- Identify (and pray about) the basic goals of the Church / Christian Community which you serve
- Encouraging the Church to be visionary in their ministry
- Keep a balance between legal necessity and creative mission

Worshippers

- To prepare yourself physically and mentally for our worship
- To participate in a disciplined manner with the worship leader, explore our purpose
- Our purpose is to share with others to worship God and Christ, prayer, Bible orientated and discussion

Pastoral Visitors (1)

- Pray for ourselves for wisdom; pray for discernment and for those who we visit
- Commit to confidentiality
- Listen and respond to needs both spiritual and personal

Pastoral Visitors (2)

- To see ourselves as a small community within the larger Church which is based on trust and faith in God and underpinned by prayer
- Experiencing this collectively, meeting together in prayerful fellowship, encouraging each other and sharing vulnerability
- Individually creating a prayer we can all use as part of our prayer life, binding us together; also to use before a visit to experience the support of God and each other
- Practical expression, focus on empathy, listening, encouraging, willingness to learn new skills and explore resources available

Community Ministry

- Prayer
- Meet with a stranger, share hospitality
- Sharing stories
- Reflect in band, like-minded people, spiritual health-check

Community

- Why do we go?
- Structure
- Discipline
- Preparation for the service
- Prayer
- Discussion
- Bible orientated

Vocation in the world

- Each week, pray with another person
- Read or listen to two contrasting points of view on current issues
- Offer friendship with another person
- Rest

What is **your** Rule of Life?