**Cheshire South Methodist Circuit Mission Policy**

*The Circuit has supported ‘Our Calling’ since the time of its merger in 2010. [‘Our Calling’ was first introduced in the year 2000]. More recently the District has published a District policy and we have made considerable efforts to raise the profile of Mission, Discipleship and Evangelism in the last two years through workshops, circuit trustee discussions and the direct involvement of the Circuit Leadership Team. Much progress has been made in some areas whilst in other areas much remains to be done. Progress to date is listed below using the format of ‘Our Calling’ and is followed by an attempt to define objectives for the period 2019 to 2021.However this is spirit led and sometimes we find ourselves succeeding in areas we had not expected and failing in others*

**Worship**

***[****The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love]*

* Worship leaders have been trained and recognised in several of our churches
* A number of younger members have been fully trained and accredited as Local Preachers
* We have encouraged the adoption of ‘Singing the Faith’
* The whole circuit has used the Book of James (2017) and the Book of Jonah (2018) in June 2017 and 2018 respectively

**Learning and Caring**

*[The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care]*

* The circuit has developed and introduced a lay leader programme
* Several churches have regular house groups and special lent studies have been well attended in recent years

**Service**

***[****The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice]*

* There has been an ambitious building refurbishment programme in several of our churches to provide good facilities and to encourage the local communities to come in and share the new space provided
* Lay workers have been recruited to support new initiatives such as children and family work
* Every church displayed the wide range of activities they offer at the welcoming service for our new superintendent in 2017
* Grants have been provided to encourage new initiatives

**Evangelism**

*[The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ]*

* Two Mission, Discipleship and Evangelism workshops were held with a wide range of attendees to identify how the circuit could support local churches in mission
* A Hope Journey programme has been rolled out and several schools have enthusiastically participated and been introduced to the real meaning of Christmas. This has been followed up with the Easter story on a limited scale. A remembrance programme has been piloted in 2017 in preparation for the 100-year anniversary later this year
* An exciting new form of Fresh Expression was created in 2015 following closure of a traditional church building and replacement with a modern facility based around a coffee shop. It is run as a Circuit project. This is considered true pioneering work by the Connexion who have provided £75000 over a 5-year period (North Street, Crewe)
* A ‘quiet garden’ and prayer labyrinth has been created around a small rural chapel (Poole) and has become a Circuit project.

**Aspirations for the future period**

* Churches are being encouraged to develop **‘growth plans’ or ‘end of life plans’**. Where ‘mission in that place’ is concluded we encourage a real positive celebration of what God has achieved
* Where several churches are serving in close geographical areas (we call these ‘Mission Areas’) they are exploring **what distinctive roles they can each play** and how they support each other and most importantly focus their available resources on mission
* We encourage **working in partnership** with other charities, such Winterley Brass Band and the Oakhanger project, and will continue to promote these and other new partnerships
* **Members of the community** will increasingly be invited to share in the use and management of community facilities.
* The circuit will explore use of **social media and other technology** to aid better communication, sharing of ideas and successes, events etc
* We will pray that the spirit moves individuals in the circuit to volunteer for Circuit roles both new and existing
* We plan to extend the use of **storytelling** by engaging more churches in the ‘Hope Journey’ at festivals such as Christmas and Easter
* We pray that new faith-based communities will be created around the ‘fresh expressions’ projects at North Street and Poole’

 The Circuit Leadership Team 15th October 2018