

## Flyer– LGBT+ Safeguarding Webinar

### LGBT+ Safeguarding webinar (Zoom)

The webinar took place on 24 January 2023 via Zoom.

The webinar explores how we in the Methodist Church can safely welcome people who identify as LGBT+ into our church communities. We look closely at the decisions arising from the God In Love Unites Us movement and the statement from the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church that:

*“Within the Methodist Church [...] marriage is understood in two ways: that marriage can only be between a man and a woman; that marriage can be between any two people. The Methodist Church affirms both understandings and makes provision in its Standing Orders for them”*

#### Speakers:

- **Revd Charity Nzegwu** –: Introduction to this topic and what the JDS Strategy seeks to achieve;
- **Revd Dr Karl Rutledge** –conversion therapy, the misuse of scripture to target people identifying as LGBT+, tropes round abuse and LGBT+ people and the appropriate and inclusive Christian pastoral response to someone coming out or questioning;
- **Sarah Hagger-Holt** –sharing some stories of lived experience from people identifying as LGBT+ people in local churches and reflecting on what the church did / could have done to make those people feel more welcome;
- **Revd Ashley Cooper** –God in Love Unites Us Part 1, acceptance that traditionalists have hurt people who identify as LGBT+, the distinction between theological conviction and homophobia, how Methodists who believe that marriage can only be between a man and a woman can continue to live their life, trying to follow Jesus alongside Methodists who believe that marriage can be between two people of any gender.
- **Revd Delyth Liddell** –God in Love Unites Us Part 2, the toll taken on LGBT+ people’s mental health by coming to church, living with contradictory convictions, how people who believe that marriage can be between two people of any gender “have not arrived lightly at their ideas that traditional teaching needs to change. They are not careless about scripture. They do not reject Christ. But they have come to a different view on sexuality after long prayer, deep study and reflection on understandings of human nature” (Justin Welby)
- **Revd Dr Augustine Tanner-Ihm**: Intersection of being LGBT+ and from an ethnic minority background.