



Faith and Work

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The Faith and Work Programme was set up under the auspices of the Methodist Diaconal Order's Faith and Work Group. The group came into being in 2003. Since that time, it has been engaged in offering encouragement and resources to deacons as enablers and educators of lay people for their ministry and mission in the world of work.

The worksheets presented here are one part of an ongoing Faith and Work Programme. Their purpose is to offer a range of reflections, ideas, skills and resources not only to deacons, but to all within Methodism and other Churches, lay and ordained, engaged in this key aspect of ministry and mission.

This first pack consists of 20 worksheets. Over each of the next two years further worksheets will be produced. They will address and fill out the topics identified under the index headings set out on the other side of this sheet. Their publication has been made possible by a generous grant from the Luton Fund.

This set of worksheets focuses largely on what deacons, presbyters, lay church employees, local preachers and worship leaders might do to raise the awareness of and support "the people of God in the world" (as the seminal report to the Methodist Conference of 1990 described them) in their ministry at work, be that paid or voluntary. The reason for this focus is that, hitherto, the recognition of lay people as the 'pioneers' of mission in the world, and the Church's responsibility for equipping them for this ministry, has been much neglected. It is believed by the diaconal Faith and Work Group that unless the Church addresses this leadership deficit the laity could well remain 'God's frozen people', as Mark Gibbs and Ralph Morton once put it. In future years, the worksheets will focus more specifically on the nature and expression of lay ministry and mission within the workplace.

This set of worksheets has been written mainly by Methodists, many of them deacons. The worksheets represent each author's personal views and not those of any association or group to which they may belong.

These worksheets are being sent to every circuit within Methodism in the spring of 2009. It is hoped that circuits will take the opportunity to reproduce further copies themselves, or download them from the contact address given on each worksheet, and use them to stimulate discussion and promote new initiatives related to this vital field of ministry and mission. No copyright is being exercised with regard to the worksheets but acknowledgement of their source is requested. In future years, the worksheets will be mainly available in electronic form, though hard copies will be produced as and when required.

Contact addresses:

For electronic copies of the worksheets download from: www.methodist.org.uk/businessworksheets

For comments on the worksheets and suggestions for future topics: Deacon Dr. David Clark (Convenor of the Diaconal Faith and Work Group) at: david@clark58.eclipse.co.uk



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