

## City Centre Churches and Projects

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<b>Resolutions</b>	61/1. The Council receives the report. 61/2. The Council adds Whitechapel Mission to the city centre list under the terms of SO 440(1)(a).

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	To present the Council with the revised City Centre List as directed.
<b>Main Points</b>	Updates to the list.
<b>Consultations</b>	Methodist City Centre Network

#### 1. **Reviews undertaken by members of The City Centre List**

Under Standing Order 440(5), a review of the mission and ministry of each church, circuit or project on the city centre list must be completed by the relevant District Synod, in collaboration with the responsible Church Council or Circuit Meeting or management committee, every five years.

The following churches, circuits or projects submitted to a review by their District Synods in 2019:

- Victoria Hall Methodist Church, Sheffield District
- Beacon Church and Christian Centre, South East District
- Linthorpe Road Methodist Church, Darlington District
- St Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury, South East District

In every case, the Synods affirmed that they wished these to continue in membership of The City Centre List.

#### 2. **Reviews postponed by members of The City Centre List**

The following churches, circuits or projects have decided to postpone their reviews, with permission of their District Synods. They have each produced a reasoned statement for this. In every case, the Synods affirmed that they wished these to continue in membership of the city centre list until a review can take place.

- Durham and Deerness Valley Circuit includes Elvet Methodist Church and North Road Methodist Church, both members of the list that actively serve the city centre in Durham. The circuit is developing a more comprehensive review process that will address all points of *Our Calling*, a skills audit, and detailed studies of finance and property. The circuit is developing Bible studies to precede the examination and have national or regional experts in all areas of the review's construction.
- Plymouth Mission Circuit, Plymouth and Exeter District, wishes to postpone its review in order to continue an envisioning process throughout the winter of 2019/2020. It proposes undertaking the review in spring-summer 2020, when renewed priorities and goals have been clearly shaped.
- The Cornerstone, Lancaster Methodist Church, Lancashire District, wishes to postpone its review. The church is in the process of creating a new 5-year Business Plan for The Cornerstone and as such is undertaking a thorough review of all aspects of its mission and ministry, looking ahead at potential threats and opportunities. This work will form the church's review once the process is completed.

- The City Centre churches in the London District (Chelsea Methodist Church, West London Mission and Methodist Central Hall Westminster) are aware of the requested reviews and have approached the District for advice on how to proceed. The District Council will be engaging in this work as part of the wider missional consultation process around circuit collaboration and the district's stationing strategy.
- Tiviot Dale Methodist Church, Manchester and Stockport District, wishes to postpone its review. Since January 2020, the building has come under the managing trusteeship of the Circuit. The Circuit has engaged *Transforming Churches and Communities* to undertake an in depth 'options analysis' for the site, which will investigate, collate and submit a feasibility study/options appraisal for the building, to report later in 2020. This is alongside the Circuit's own ongoing consideration of the long term mission options for a Methodist presence in the area, centred on Tiviot Dale Church. The Circuit, through the newly formed Tiviot Dale Management Committee that is managing and overseeing the situation on behalf of the Circuit Meeting, is committed to maintaining and developing work on and from the current site.
- Burslem Methodist Mission (Swan Bank), of the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District, is in the process of undertaking its review. It will report to the Council on the results in 2021.
- Longton Central Hall, of the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District, is in the process of undertaking its review. It will report to the Council on the results in 2021.
- City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, of the Scotland District, is in the process of undertaking its review, with results expected at their Spring Synod. It will report to the Council in the next city centre list update paper.
- Truro (with Tresillian) Methodist Church (Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District) is in the process of undertaking its review, with results expected at the Spring Synod. It will report to the Council in the next city centre list update paper.

### **3. New members of The City Centre List**

- Under the provisions of SO 440(1)(a), Whitechapel Mission (Tower Hamlets Circuit, London District) has sought to be included on the official city centre list in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Conference. The District Synod is supportive of this and under the provisions of SO 440(1)(a) now consults the Council. The Connexional Team, in light of the consideration the Council gave to this list last year (MC/18/20) recommends that the Council agrees to this request.

### **4. Members removed from The City Centre List**

- Central Methodist Church, Eastbourne (South East District) has been removed from the list, due to its recent closure.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**61/1. The Council receives the report.**

**61/2. The Council adds Whitechapel Mission to the city centre list under the terms of SO 440(1)(a).**