



youth
YPS
participation strategy

www.youthparticipation.org.uk



Supporting Youth Work in the Methodist Church



Why do we have it?

What will I be able to do?

How does it work?

What will these people do?

How do I find out more?

The Youth Participation Strategy (YPS) is an exciting new plan to support youth work throughout the Methodist Church in Great Britain. It was designed with young people, for young people.

why do we have it?

The Methodist Church has always tried to involve young people in what happens in the Church. In 1945 when MAYC was formed, young people had to be involved.

In preparation for the 50th anniversary of MAYC, 14 months were spent in discussion, prayer and consultation to catch the vision young people in 1995 had for The Methodist Church. It was called Charter 95 and led to the creation of Methodist Youth Conference and the Youth Exec. In 2004 – almost ten years on from Charter 95 it was decided that it was time to assess how well the Youth Exec and Youth Conference were doing.

The review found good bits, but it also found many problems. It said that young people should be part of the Church in every way and that a massive emphasis on **youth participation** is needed.

Participation is not just about taking part, but also having your voice heard. The Ladder on page 4 shows the levels, and the new model will help us move up the ladder.

roger hart's ladder of young people's participation

Rung 8: Young people and adults share decision making

Rung 7: Young people lead and initiate action

Rung 6: Adult-initiated, shared decisions with young people

Rung 5: Young people consulted and informed

Rung 4: Young people assigned and informed

Rung 3: Young people tokenized

Rung 2: Young people are decoration

Rung 1: Young people are manipulated



Note: Hart explains that the last three rungs are non-participation

*Adapted from Hart, R. (1992). Children's Participation from Tokenism to Citizenship
Florence: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre*

what will i be able to do?

So we have been working on a strategy and the new model is known as the YPS. The YPS will mean you will be supported to participate at whatever level you want and to help other people in the Church to participate with you. The Methodist Church wants to help young people:

- **Develop skills from radio presenting to organising campaigns and events**
- **Make a difference to the places where they live – the local community, the country or even the world!**
- **Work with young people who aren't linked to the Church**
- **Help the Church change and grow**

and here's how!

Work with your church on projects that affect your church, your community, the country or the world...

Meet with your district youth enabler and district forums, and find other people interested in the same things...

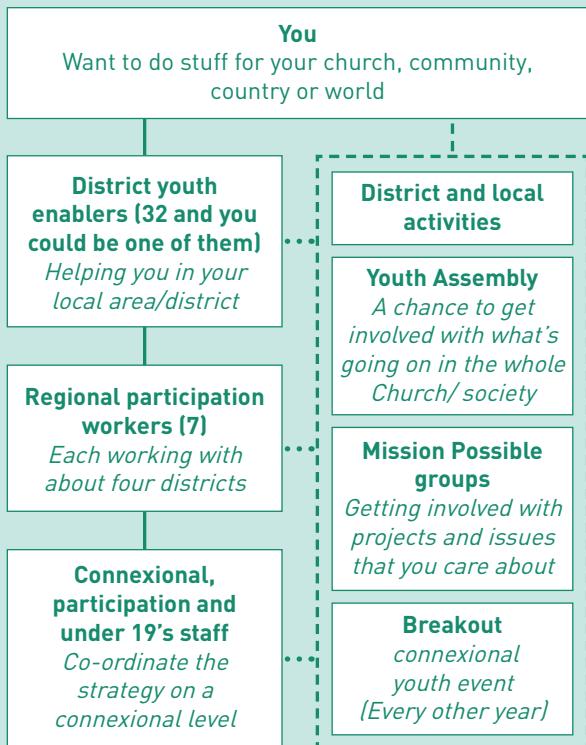
Plan and run a campaign making people aware of the issue and the facts...

Come to connexional youth meetings:

Youth Assembly and Breakout - meet lots of other young people and share the issue with thousands of other young people. Vote for it as a campaign for the whole Church, through Mission Possible. Make a difference to Church in Britain and beyond...

ps - connexional means across all the Methodist churches that make up The Methodist Church in Great Britain.

how does it work?



Key

supported by —

Take part in - -

Co-ordinated by

Definitions

District - Groups of churches are formed into circuits and several of these make a district
Region - A group of around three districts

what will these people do?

District Youth Enablers

District youth enablers (DYE) will be young people aged 16-23 based in each and every district to help things happen on a local level, and work on issues that affect you. They will have the position for a year, will be given training to fulfil their roles and will be paid for 15 hours a week. They will also work together to help Breakout, Youth Assembly and other connexional and local level events happen.

Regional Participation Workers

These are people in full time posts who help co-ordinate work across the Connexion and will each work in about four districts. They will support the district youth enablers in what they want to achieve and are responsible for holding regional forums where your voice and opinion can be taken between Youth Assemblies.

Connexional Participation and Children and Youth Staff

These people will be working full time to support the youth enablers and participation workers and coordinate the whole strategy across the Connexion, as well as other work with those under 19.

Finding out more

Go to www.youthparticipation.org.uk
or fill in this form and send it to:

MAYC, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR

Name:.....

DoB:.....Address:.....

.....

Email address:.....

Mobile number:.....

Tick all that apply:

- I would like to apply to be a DYE
- I would like more information about the DYE posts
- I am a young person and would like more information
- I know someone else who may want to apply to be a DYE
- I am a youth worker and want more information about the Youth Participation Strategy
- Please send me information on how to apply to be the youth president

youth president

Charter 95 generated another special role... the youth president. As part of the new Youth Participation Strategy, the youth president role has changed and grown into a full-time, year long paid post, with training and support. The Youth Assembly will appoint the person in the November before they take up the role.

The things you might do as youth president, include:

- **Speaking on behalf of young people linked to the Methodist Church**
- **Being a member of the Conference, the Methodist Council and the Connexional Leaders' Forum**
- **Leading the Youth Assembly**
- **Chairing meetings of the Youth Assembly planning group and the district youth enablers and**
- **Travelling around the Connexion, encouraging and enabling young people.**

SO... if you're planning to take a year out and think you're up to it why not apply?

For more details fill in the form on page 10

The **Methodist** Church 

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