



ORGANISATION FOR PROPERTY RELATED ISSUES

Local churches manage their own affairs (including church property) through lay volunteers called Church Stewards, but they are connected to others in the circuit, and more widely to the district and the Methodist Connexion.

The circuit is led by the superintendent minister who presides over the circuit staff (lay and ordained) and the circuit meeting, and with those colleagues facilitates and encourages mission throughout the circuit. He or she is also responsible for drawing up the preaching plan and arranging the gathering of information about activities (e.g. baptisms, weddings, and funerals) and about membership statistics in the circuit.

Responsibility for the direction and policy for the circuit is shared between lay and ordained. Voluntary circuit stewards have responsibility for maintaining, buying and selling circuit property (usually manses), and for the general welfare of the ordained and employed staff in the circuit. There is also a circuit treasurer. Information flows through the Circuit Office and administrator.

The circuit is the place where new initiatives and changes in the pattern of church life need to happen. This is where the staffing capacity, where closures of chapels are debated, and where fresh expressions of church or new pioneer ministries are launched.

Districts differ in terms of the kind of support they offer to local churches and circuits, but this can often include

- encouraging Connexional priorities
- offering or subsidising training
- giving pastoral care to presbyters, deacons and key lay people
- providing people who represent Methodism to the local media
- having an overview of legal obligations
- organising large initiatives.

Our Calling - The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. When considering buildings; churches, circuits and districts should consider how that building reflects our calling.