

The Methodist Church

Newcastle upon Tyne District

Evangelism & Justice Team

The Evangelism & Justice Team seeks to act as a conduit between Circuits, the District Policy Committee (DPC) and Connexion (concerning policies and priorities). Working with a particular emphasis on evangelism and justice, the team also holds a brief for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).

Believing that all people are uniquely made in the image of God, we endorse the Methodist Church's commitment to Justice, Dignity and Solidarity. However, we are very aware that for some the mandatory EDI training is proving problematic to access.

As a team focussed on evangelism and justice, we are looking for creative ways to engage with this training – not because it is mandatory but because as disciples we want to demonstrate the love and welcome that Jesus offers.

With that in mind, we are considering various options such as:

- Opportunities for onsite training
- Working in small groups to create spaces for conversation
- Offering much smaller, 'bite sized' nuggets from the training to share in meetings
- Possibilities for a module type approach so that the training could be spread out instead of one long session

At this stage, these are just possibilities and we would value any other suggestions you might have.

Our main reason for writing this is to try to offer some reassurance to any who are feeling particularly daunted by the training. We know that a review of the first 6 months is taking place and we would imagine that some of it will be adapted already.

You may have read that those needing to complete the training are expected to do so by the end of 2023. Realistically, this ambitious timeline will not be possible for all. Each District is tasked with deciding how best to 'regulate' who has done this training in their own context, so we are encouraging those who are able to engage with the online training to do so as they can. For those who are unable, please do not worry, additional help is on its way.

Our Learning Network Officer, John Boyd, has agreed to guide us through this. If you have questions or suggestion he can be contacted at boydj@methodistchurch.org.uk
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Elaine Lindridge
Chair of Evangelism and Justice team

