**West Sussex (Coast and Downs) Circuit**

 **Mission Policy 2024**

**“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.”**

**In this, and in partnership with others wherever possible, West Sussex (Coast and Downs) Methodist Circuit will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments on this priority.**

**Circuit Mission Statement: We encourage and support each church to share God’s love in Jesus with all people through worship, mission, outreach and service within their local communities.**

**Our Calling**

**Worship: The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love**

**As a Circuit we will…**

1. Offer inclusive and safe places for worship
2. Encourage and make available varied worship opportunities appropriate for all, during the week as well as on Sundays and in places other than our buildings
3. Support the training and development of our ordained and lay people including local preachers, worship leaders, and others
4. Encourage and support the appropriate use of technology in our churches to enhance worship
5. Provide opportunities for the Circuit to worship together

**Learning and Caring**: **The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care**

**As a Circuit we will…**

1. Support churches and resource members in continuing to grow in Christian discipleship
2. Support and encourage churches to create loving communities characterised by hospitality, generosity, welcome, care, acceptance and respect
3. Resource and support work with children, families and young people in local churches
4. Develop opportunities for all Circuit churches to support Circuit Youth Initiatives
5. Provide training for those holding specific roles in the life of the church

**Service: The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice**

**As a Circuit we will…**

1. Inspire an outward-looking focus to the life and service of the churches within the circuit to support those in need in our community and the wider world
2. Provide safe, welcoming, warm, well maintained, disability- and child-friendly, inclusive premises to give space and opportunity for church and community activities
3. Encourage churches to work for justice and peace in their local area, the nation and the wider world
4. Advocate care for the environment and work towards achieving net zero
5. Encourage a culture of active service as part of Christian life

**Evangelism: The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ**

**As a Circuit we will…**

1. Equip churches to be confident and intentional in sharing the Gospel
2. Support churches in developing their mission policies and action planning

**Resourcing our Mission: This includes staffing, communications, finance, property**

**As a Circuit we will…**

1. Evaluate financial support required for lay ministry
2. Regularly review the property portfolio
3. Consider strategic priorities in relation to staffing and finance
4. Facilitate sharing of news across the Circuit