

Exploring and Living A Methodist Way of Life



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David Goodall - Missional Communities Enabler

A Methodist Way of Life

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.

As far as we are able, with God's help:

Worship

- We will pray daily.
- We will worship with others regularly.
- We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world.

Learning and Caring

- We will care for ourselves and those around us.
- We will learn more about our faith.
- We will practise hospitality and generosity.

Service

- We will help people in our communities and beyond.
- We will care for creation and all God's gifts.
- We will challenge injustice.

Evangelism

- We will speak of the love of God.
- We will see in a way that draws others to Jesus.
- We will share our faith with others.

May we be a blessing within and beyond God's Church, for the transformation of the world.

The Methodist Church



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They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 2:42

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A Methodist Way of Life

Worship



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We will help people in our communities and beyond.



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We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.



We will share our faith with others.

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Roger Walton in Finding the Way

A Methodist Way of Life sets out what it means to be a Methodist. It puts into words how we try to live our lives in response to God's love made known to us in Jesus. A Methodist Way of Life is both new and old. It is new, in that it was first discussed by the Methodist Conference in 2018 and was shared with all Methodists in 2020. But it is based on what Methodists agreed was their calling in the year 2000 and that, in turn, was built on what Methodists have always done, since the days of John Wesley, as they tried to follow Jesus and live out the Christian faith. It is a way of living.

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David Goodall

The Methodist Way of Life is a way in which Christians can live out their faith in Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. Through the Methodist Way of Life they will deepen their discipleship and play their part in bringing God's love to the world. It is rooted in the Methodist tradition but draws on a move of the spirit which is drawing Christians into community with each other in new ways.

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What do you think? What are your questions?

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Use Whiteboard to capture responses

Three Reasons Why ...

1. Holiness & Fullness of Life
2. Breathing In and Breathing Out
3. Personal & Not Private

Holiness & Fullness of Life

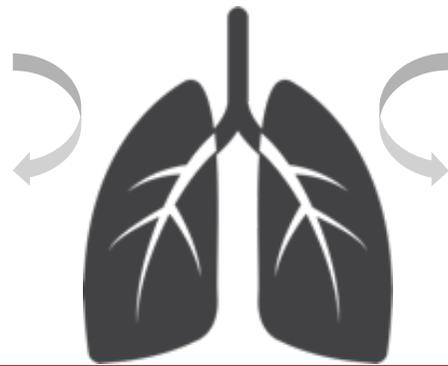
- 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'
John 10:10, NIV
- 'I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.'
John 10:10 The Message
- 'in the providence of God Methodism was raised up to spread scriptural holiness through the land'
The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, Deed of Union Clause 4.

Holiness

- 'You shall be holy, for I the Lord Your God am holy'
Leviticus 19:2
- 'Holiness is rooted in the gracious action of God'. & 'It is the heart of who God is'
More Distinct: Reclaiming holiness for the world today, Calvin Samuel, pages 3 & 17.
- 'We cannot become holy unless God shares God's holiness with us; and yet we never become holy apart from seeking it, working at it and pursuing the Holy One.'
Samuel, page 18.

Breathing In and Breathing Out

Breathing In



Breathing Out

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Three Reasons Why ...

1. Holiness & Fullness of Life
2. Breathing In and Breathing Out
3. Personal & Not Private

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Breakout Room Questions

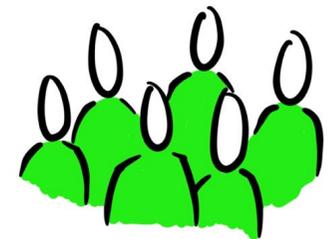
How do you respond to the Why of a Methodist Way of Life?

How might A Methodist Way of Life help you in your discipleship?

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Journeying with Others

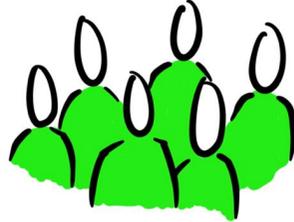
- Who
- When
- What
- How
- Review



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Together we will be ...

- Encouraged and supported in our faith
- Helped to see more clearly what's going on
- Restored
- Challenged
- Share in an ongoing process

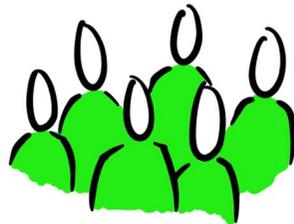


Seeing more clearly what's going on:



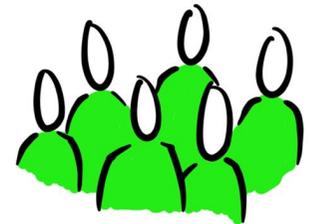
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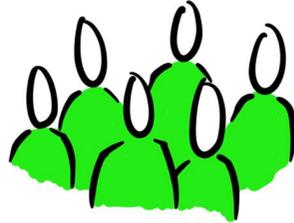
To do this safely we need to ...

- Be with the best people for the group
- Commit to being part of the group
- Willing to share and willing to listen
- Maintain confidentiality
- Prayerful



To do this safely we need not to ...

- Try and find perfection
- Pick into peoples “stuff” without their permission
- Be accusatory, instead hold people accountable
- Be coercive in anyway
- Be disrespectful



First Time You Meet

- Make a sharing agreement including how you will pray and practical arrangements
- Pray
- Share story of faith including where you feel you need encouragement and challenge
- Respond to one or two MWOL questions.
- Pray
- Fix date(s) to meet again

Each Time You Meet

- Catch Up & Pray Together
- How have you done since the last meeting?
- Share response to MWOL questions together
- Pray for each other
- CheckIn - have we kept to our sharing agreement?
- Pray
- Fix date to meet again.

Review Meeting

- Pray
- Take time to reflect on the last period. How have you changed, where has God been at work?
- Is our meeting together helping us? Do we want to carry on meeting together?
- What Missional Ministry are we or could we be doing together?
- Do we need to adjust our sharing agreement?
- Pray
- Fix date to meet again.

I Notice
I Wonder
I Realise

FIVE STEPS TO STARTING A METHODIST WAY OF LIFE REFLECTION GROUP

- 1 PLAN AND INVITE OTHERS TO FORM A GROUP WITH YOU:** You could invite people in your pastoral group or class, those you serve with in a church group, others in the congregation you think might be interested. 4 or 5 people makes a good group size. If you are unsure who to invite talk with your minister about who they think would be good to ask.
- 2 DECIDE HOW YOUR GROUP WILL MEET TOGETHER:** Look at the Methodist Way of Life commitment card and other resources. Think about how often you'd like to meet to share together, where you'll meet or will you meet online? Make a sharing agreement to agree how you will manage confidentiality, prayer, challenge and keeping everyone safe. Ask your Safeguarding Officer if there are any safeguarding considerations to you meeting as a group.
- 3 START MEETING TOGETHER:** When you meet together open your gathering with prayer, share how things have been since you last met, then share your responses to the questions on the back of the commitment card. Maybe use one from each section each time you meet or just a couple of the questions. After you've shared together take time to pray for each other and agree when you'll meet next.
- 4 MISSIONAL MINISTRY:** After you have been meeting for a few months consider whether there is a missional ministry God is calling you to undertake as a group. This will help you to live out your conversations so others come to know of God's love.
- 5 REVIEW REGULARLY:** After you have been meeting for six months and then each year review how your group is working. Reflect together on how your faith has grown. Consider whether there are other elements you'd like to introduce to your time together e.g. Bible Study or Theological Reflection. Think about whether there are others to invite into the group or to start a group.

This resource was developed in the Yorkshire West Methodist District
For more information and resources on a Methodist Way of Life
please visit www.methodist.org.uk/MWOL
The Methodist Church

FIVE STEPS TO INTRODUCING A METHODIST WAY OF LIFE TO YOUR SMALL GROUP

- 1 AGREE TO INTRODUCE A METHODIST WAY OF LIFE:** Look at the Methodist Way of Life commitment card and other resources and agree whether this is something you'd like to introduce to your small group. Think about what you might need to stop doing in your group to make space for A Methodist Way of Life.
- 2 DECIDE HOW YOU WILL INTRODUCE A METHODIST WAY OF LIFE:** Discuss how often you'll talk about a Methodist Way of Life together, will you do it for part of your time each time you meet or set the whole of one meeting aside each month. Will you share as a whole group or split into smaller groups? Make a sharing agreement to agree how you will manage confidentiality, prayer, challenge and keeping everyone safe. Ask your Safeguarding Officer if there are any safeguarding considerations to you introducing A Methodist Way of Life.
- 3 SHARE TOGETHER:** As part of your meeting together share how things have been since you last met, then share your responses to the questions on the back of the commitment card. Maybe use one from each section or just a couple of the questions. After you've shared together take time to pray for each other.
- 4 MISSIONAL MINISTRY:** After you have been using a Methodist Way of Life for a few months consider whether there is a missional ministry God is calling you to undertake together. This will help you to live out your conversations so others come to know of God's love.
- 5 REVIEW REGULARLY:** After you have been using a Methodist Way of Life for six months and then each year review how your group is working. Reflect together on how your faith has grown. Think about whether there are others invite into the group or to start a group.

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Breakout Room Questions

Would you find this sort of MWOL group helpful in your discipleship?

What steps might you be able to take to form one?