Faith-Rooted **Community Organising**

Turning **hopes** and **vision** into **action** in our churches and communities

Faith-Rooted Community Organising (FRCO) is about living our Christian faith by coming together to work for change.

Rooted in our faith and Methodist heritage, FRCO is a series of practices that draw people together to listen deeply, build meaningful relationships, and act collectively for justice and transformation in our churches and communities.

The **Methodist** Church

How does Faith-Rooted Community Organising work?

FRCO helps us learn how to follow Jesus in our everyday lives.

Community Organising is a way of working with others that developed in and from grassroots communities. Community Organisers work alongside others, encouraging people to use their gifts and skills and developing local leaders, in order to work towards justice-centred change.

Much like community engagement and development, FRCO tries to make the world a better place, but with a distinctive focus on:

- **listening deeply** to one another
- **building connections** to discover shared hopes and concerns
- **recognising and using our power** and resources for good
- **acting collectively** to bring about change
- **living our faith** in public life with courage and compassion.

We will use FRCO to help us:

- develop existing churches
- establish new Christian communities – New Places for New People (**methodist.org.uk/NPNP**)
- gain the skills needed to be a Justice-Seeking Church (**methodist.org.uk/justice**).

What difference will Faith-Rooted Community Organising make?

FRCO isn't a new idea for Methodism, but does involve making a decision to do things differently. It's not just about what we do – it's about how and why we do it.

At its heart, FRCO helps us to name the challenges of 'the world as it is' and work together towards 'the world as God intended it to be'.

FRCO is rooted in the same theological principles as the Justice-Seeking Church (**methodist.org.uk/justice**).

- **Being *with* not *for*:** We do things with others, not for or to.
- **Humility in community:** We can't do everything, so will discern what is ours to do.
- **Self-awareness:** We will recognise the power imbalances in our world, communities and churches. We will use and share the resources and power we do have.
- **Justice and hope:** We will name and challenge injustice in ways that demonstrate our hope that God will and can bring justice, healing and transformation.
- **Prayer:** All that we do is rooted in prayer – for justice and flourishing in our communities and for ourselves, that God will guide and sustain us.

Moving forwards with Faith-Rooted Community Organising

To find out more about FRCO, including ways to begin, see **methodist.org.uk/FRCO**

Learning and other opportunities:

FRCO weekend training course
An introduction to FRCO for local church/circuit teams, hosted at Cliff College, Derbyshire.

To ask about arranging training in your district or circuit, contact the Connexional FRCO Officer at **FRCO@methodistchurch.org.uk**

Connexional funding for FRCO district leads
Every district can access connexional funding to employ a district FRCO lead who will work with and alongside churches and circuits as they use FRCO in their local context.

If you would like to request this resource in an alternative format, please contact us to discuss your needs at publishing@methodistchurch.org.uk

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