

## City Centre Churches and Projects

<b>Contact Name and Details</b>	The Revd D Paul Wood Coordinator, Ministry Development woodp@methodistchurch.org.uk
<b>Status of Paper</b>	Final
<b>Action Required</b>	Decision
<b>Resolutions</b>	20/1. The Council receives the report.  20/2. The Council adopts the City Centre List as set out in paragraph 3.  20/3. The Council agrees the process for changes to the City Centre List as described in paragraph 7.  20/4. The Council recommends the rota for review (Appendix 2).

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	To present the Council with the revised City Centre List as directed.
<b>Main Points</b>	The new City Centre List and mechanism for reviews and updates to the list.
<b>Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)</b>	MC/15/100, City Centre Churches – Review Group [Council minute 15.3.29]
<b>Consultations</b>	Methodist City Centre Network Stationing Committee City centre churches and projects

## City Centre Churches and Projects

### 1. Background

In October 2015, the Council adopted the following recommendations [minute 15.3.29]:

- The current Standing Orders should be maintained but the criteria in paragraph 8 [of MC/15/100] should be used to define the features and characteristics of a City Centre Church.
- Churches not meeting the new criteria, following a district review, should be removed from the list and those meeting the criteria should be added.
- Districts should be offered support from the Methodist City Centre Network (MCCN) and the Connexional Team through the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network (DMLN) to identify and review churches meeting the new criteria (as required by SO 440(5)).
- A new City Centre list should be compiled as part of the connexional database and maintained by the Ministry Development Team from submission from the districts by October 2017.
- The Stationing Committee is encouraged to review the suggestions above.
- Discussion should be held with the Queen's Foundation and MCCN to offer student ministers exposure to City Centre opportunities during initial ministerial training.

The Council further directed the DMLN Ministry Development Team to develop guidelines for City Centre Churches and to work with districts, alongside the MCCN, in reviewing the City Centre List. The Council commended the paper to the Stationing Committee for further consideration, and directed that a new City Centre list be presented to the Council in 2018. This paper contains the revised City Centre List for the Council's approval.

## 2. How was the list compiled?

A direct approach was made to city centre churches and projects already known (identified using the old connexional list and that of the Methodist City Centre Network). Further information was sent to District Chairs and via the ordained ministers' newsletters. Churches and projects were invited to register onto the new City Centre List by online submission. (For details of the questions asked see Appendix 1.)

In MC/15/100, the Council approved the criteria for inclusion on the City Centre church list, indicating that a church or project should have at least 4 out of 5 of the following features:

- The features of the environment are retail, civic, leisure, judicial, commercial and educational institutions serving a dense population.
- The significant population is transient.
- There are obvious extremes of power and powerlessness, wealth and poverty.
- There are obvious changes of community between the daytime and night time economies.
- The City Centre church acts as a magnet to various groups of people.

Each registering church or project identifies as having at least four of the above traits.

## 3. The New City Centre List (2018)

The following churches or projects have self-identified as City Centre Churches or Projects and have been recognised as such by their District Policy Committee.

Name of Church (or Project)	District
The Methodist Church at Coventry Central Hall	5. Birmingham
The Church at Carrs Lane, Birmingham	5. Birmingham
St Andrew's, Worcester	5. Birmingham
Wigan Methodist Mission	6. Bolton and Rochdale
St John's Northgate Methodist Church (Gloucester)	7. Bristol
Burslem Methodist Mission (Swan Bank)	11. Chester and Stoke-on-Trent
Longton Central Hall	11. Chester and Stoke-on-Trent
Truro (with Tresillian) Methodist Church	12. Cornwall
Elvet Methodist Church	13. Darlington

North Road Methodist Church	13. Darlington
Linthorpe Road Methodist Church and Resource Centre	13. Darlington
Leeds Methodist Mission	16. Leeds
Somewhere Else	18. Liverpool
Charing Cross Methodist Church	18. Liverpool
Tiviot Dale Methodist Church	19. Manchester and Stockport
The Newcastle Central and East Circuit	20. Newcastle upon Tyne
The Cornerstone, Lancaster Methodist Church	21. Lancashire
Nottingham City Mission (comprising the Life at the Centre and Bridgeway Hall)	22. Nottingham and Derby
Bridge Street Methodist Church, Mansfield	22. Nottingham and Derby
Bishop Street Methodist Church	23. Northampton
Plymouth Mission Circuit	24. Plymouth and Exeter
Victoria Hall Methodist Church	25. Sheffield
Touchstone, Bradford	27. Yorkshire West
Central Hall Methodist Church, Walsall	28. Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury
Darlington Street Methodist Church	28. Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury
Trinity Methodist Church	29. Yorkshire North and East
Central Methodist Church, York	29. Yorkshire North and East
Hull International House	29. Yorkshire North and East
City of Edinburgh Methodist Church	31. Scotland
Methodist Central Hall Westminster	35. London
Chelsea Methodist Church	35. London
West London Mission	35. London
St.Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury	36. South East
Beacon Church and Christian Centre, Dover	36. South East

Central Methodist Church, Eastbourne	36. South East
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*Note: Districts 18, 19 and 21 still need to inform the Connexional Team of district synod's approval.*

#### **4. Other churches working with the Methodist City Centre Network**

The following churches or projects recognise that they have much in common with the work of city centre churches and have asked to be affiliated to the list by being a member of the Methodist City Centre Network:

St John's Methodist Church, Llandudno	2. Wales Synod
Nexus Art Cafe	19. Manchester and Stockport
Bolton Methodist Mission	6. Bolton and Rochdale
Victoria Methodist Church	7. Bristol
Central Methodist Church, Burnley	21. Lancashire
Susanna Wesley House	22. Nottingham and Derby
Huddersfield Mission	27. Yorkshire West

#### **5. City Centre Review**

Standing Order 440(5) requires each Synod to review the mission and ministry of each church or project on the City Centre List every five years.

Of the thirty five churches or projects listed eleven had some record of a review, often as part of a circuit wide initiative.

In order to help city centre churches and projects carry out their reviews in a timely manner a rota of review is recommended (Appendix 2). The rota takes into account the last known review date and sets the next date 5 years on. It also seeks to integrate the other churches and projects who have not yet carried out a review, grouping regions together to enable a coordinated approach. Churches that have never carried out a review are encouraged to do so before the due date.

#### **6. Guidelines for City Centre Review**

Working with the Methodist City Centre Network coordinating group guidelines have been developed using a variety of approaches including: *Our Calling*, Appreciative Inquiry, SOAR and Developing Healthy Churches to enable a review to take place. It is hoped that the variety of approaches will enable a district to best select the review that will help the mission of the church or project. These are available to download from the Methodist Church website.

#### **7. From the Stationing Committee**

The Stationing Committee responded by asking who decides whether a church or group meet the criteria. In the first place a church or project self-selects to request to be part of the City Centre List. Standing Order 440 then requires the district synod to decide if it is to be recommended to the Methodist Council via the appropriate member of the Connexional Team, currently the Coordinator for Ministry Development.

#### **8. Further work with the MCCN and the Secretary of the Conference**

In 2017 the Secretary of the Conference met with the Revd Dave Martin (the Coordinator of the Methodist City Centre Network) and the Revd Paul Wood (Connexional Team) to consider ways in which the Connexional Team might better support the work.

It was agreed that:

The Coordinator for Ministry Development would work with the coordinating group of MCCN to prepare their conference;

The MCCN website would be migrated to the Methodist Church Website. This can now be found at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/the-methodist-city-centre-network>

## **9. Recommendations**

The connexional database be amended with the updated list as listed above.

Application to join the list should be made by the website link and administered by the Ministry Development Team reporting to the Council as necessary.

The Ministry Development Team should continue to work with the Methodist City Centre Network.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**20/1. The Council receives the report.**

**20/2. The Council adopts the City Centre List as set out in paragraph 3.**

**20/3. The Council agrees the process for changes to the City Centre List as described in paragraph 7.**

**20/4 The Council recommends the rota for review (Appendix 2).**

## Appendix 1: Details of Questionnaire

### City Centre Churches List

The Methodist Council has instructed the Ministry Development Team to redraft the City Centre List as required by Standing Order 440. The purpose of this “getting our house in order” is to place a right emphasis on the potential mission opportunities of City Centre Churches rather than what has sometimes been seen in the past as an avoidance of any sales levy.

Churches and City Centre District Projects are invited to apply to be added to the newly formed list by completing the attached form. Your application will then be referred to the District Policy Committee for their recommendation/approval. Recommendations to the list will then be brought to the Methodist Council for approval. Churches and Districts should note that by being added to the list they commit themselves to a regular review as outlined in SO440 (5).

Name of Church (or Project) and Circuit
District Name and Number

**1. A City Centre Church or Project within Methodism is recognised to have certain dominant features. Which of these relate to yours?** (please tick as many as are relevant to your situation)

The main features of the environment are retail, civic, leisure, judicial, commercial and educational institutions serving a dense population.	
The significant population is transient.	
There are obvious extremes of power and powerlessness, wealth and poverty.	
There are obvious changes of community between the daytime and night time economies.	
The church acts as a magnet to various groups of people.	

**2. We would like to register our church or project as:** (Please tick one)

An officially recognised City Centre Church or project within our Connexion – with the rights and responsibilities laid out in SO 440. (Please Note: If your church has less than 4 of the above features please contact the Ministry Development Team for guidance)	
An affiliated member of the City Centre network – as listed on the MCCN website	

**3 Which of these relate to the mission of the church or project named above?** (Please tick as many as are relevant to your situation)

A wide range of demands and opportunities – with a pressure to respond to everything.	
Working collaboratively is expected – local teams, secular agencies and ecumenically.	
The magnet effect brings a higher proportion of the poor and vulnerable to the church’s door.	
Consistency of presence gives the church greater impact in the community.	
The Minister is often required to speak on behalf of the Methodist Church.	
The Ministers often live in a different area to that in which they minister.	
Engagement with city life is central to the calling and mission of the church.	
The demands and opportunities require constant theological and missional discernment – does the opportunity fit within the long term vision of the Church?	
Being in a commercial environment the expectation is that everything we do has to be of a high standard.	
City Centre ministry can be isolating.	
The minister often needs to develop specialisms.	
There is an expectation that the minister manage a large site/plant or teams of people.	
There is an expectation that city centre churches/circuits will take on interns/students/ placements/probationers.	
There are knowledge gains and expertise that might be shared across the Connexion, with city centre churches acting as potential centres for learning and sharing experience.	

**4 Our work is shaped by:** (Please tick as many as are relevant to your situation).

A clear, vision led mission strategy.	
The worship offered often has or needs a “Unique Selling Point”.	
The building and its location.	
The lack of a building	
Intense demands require intense resourcing.	
Often requires specialist professional advice.	
Availability (or lack) of skills and expertise within the congregation.	
Income stream: resources potential for letting.	
Accessibility: transport links and location.	

The “open door/24-7” nature of the work offers potential for reflective space and prayer.	
Potential for mid-week worship.	
Challenge of offering a spiritual opportunity /experience.	
The demands of Methodist heritage.	
Constant unpredictability.	
Staff – training and proportion of lay and ordained.	
A disproportionate number of homeless and vulnerable	
Legislation: Safeguarding and Health and Safety	
Other (please state)	

**5. Briefly describe the distinctive mission of the Church or project named above:**



**6. Please name and describe the roles of staff employed by the church or project named above**

Name of Role	Description of role

**7. Has there been a District Synod review of the Mission and Ministry of the said church or project as outlined in SO 440(5)? If so when was the last one?**

**8. If applicable who else (other than the district) was involved in this review? Eg Methodist City Centre Network (MCCN), Regional Officers etc**

**9. How could the Connexional Team and or MCCN further support your work?**

Please supply the email address of your District Policy Committee Secretary

Completed by:

Date:

**Comments from the District Policy Committee**

Completed by:

In your capacity as:

Date:

Appendix 2: Rota of review

<b>Name of Church (or Project) and Circuit</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Last Reviewed</b>	<b>Suggested review date</b>
The Methodist Church at Coventry Central Hall - Coventry and Nuneaton	5. Birmingham	2016	2021
The Church at Carrs Lane, Birmingham (5/1)	5. Birmingham		2021
St Andrew's, Worcester	5. Birmingham		2021
Wigan Methodist Mission	6. Bolton and Rochdale		2019
St John's Northgate Methodist Church (Gloucester) Gloucestershire Circuit	7. Bristol		2021
Burslem Methodist Mission (Swan Bank)	11. Chester and Stoke-on-Trent		2019
Longton Central Hall	11. Chester and Stoke-on-Trent		2019
Truro (with Tresillian) Methodist Church	12. Cornwall		2019
Elvet Methodist Church	13. Darlington	2012	2018
North Road Methodist Church	13. Darlington	2012	2018
Linthorpe Road Methodist Church and Resource Centre	13. Darlington		2018
Somewhere Else	18. Liverpool		2018
Charing Cross Methodist Church	18. Liverpool	Awaiting DPC confirmation	2018
Tivot Dale Methodist Church	19. Manchester and Stockport	Awaiting DPC confirmation	2018
The Newcastle upon Tyne (Central and East) Circuit	20. Newcastle upon Tyne	2015	2020
The Cornerstone, Lancaster Methodist Church	21. Lancashire	Awaiting DPC confirmation	2018
Nottingham City Mission (Comprising the Life at the Centre and Bridgeway Hall)	22. Nottingham and Derby	2013	2020
Bridge Street Methodist Church, Mansfield	22. Nottingham and Derby	2015	2020
Bishop Street Methodist Church	23. Northampton	2008	2020
Plymouth Mission Circuit	24. Plymouth and Exeter	2009	2019

Victoria Hall Methodist Church	25. Sheffield		2020
Leeds Methodist Mission	27. Yorkshire West		2020
Touchstone	27. Yorkshire West	2011	2020
Central Hall Methodist Church, Walsall	28. Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury		2021
Darlington Street Methodist Church	28. Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury		2021
Trinity Methodist Church	29. Yorkshire North and East		2020
Central Methodist Church, York	29. Yorkshire North and East		2020
Hull International House	29. Yorkshire North and East		2020
City of Edinburgh Methodist Church	31. Scotland		2018
Methodist Central Hall Westminster	35. London		2019
Chelsea Methodist Church	35. London		2019
West London Mission	35. London	2012	2019
St.Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury	36. South East		2018
Beacon Church and Christian Centre, Dover	36. South East	2012	2018
Central Methodist Church, Eastbourne	36. South East		2018