

Church at the Margins

To nurture new Christian communities amongst economically marginalised people

Vision

To nurture new Christian communities amongst economically marginalised people.

Belief

We are not taking God to the margins. We believe God is present with and in all people, in all circumstances.

Goals

Every district and circuit to include Church at the Margins as part of their mission action plans by 2025.

Beginning a new Christian community: four key elements

1. Creating connections

Create spaces where people truly encounter one another, discover friendship, and in which the gifts of people experiencing poverty are recognised, valued and received.

2. Nurturing communities

Communities where power is shared and transformed, and people with lived experience of poverty are recognised as the experts.

3. Sharing the gospel

Communicating the good news of God's transforming love and justice for all people.

4. Seeing transformation

New Christians are nurtured in discipleship and new communities emerge which challenge and respond to injustice.

Enabling those at the economic margins to transform the wider Church through their gifts.

NEXT STEPS...

- Make connections and listen to the struggles within your community.
- Join a Church at the Margins introductory workshop or 'Beginning a Church at the Margins' course.
- Learn more about the reality of poverty from the Joint Public Issues Team, Church Action on Poverty or Life on the Breadline research project.

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

More information on this strategy is on the Methodist Church website at www.methodist.org.uk/churchatthemargins

For more information on the reality of poverty in the UK, visit:

www.jointpublicissues.org.uk

www.church-poverty.org.uk

<https://breadlineresearch.coventry.ac.uk>

Theological foundations

God's preferential option for people in poverty

God's character reveals a God of justice and an emphasis on our need to care for the vulnerable, the stranger and those who are living in poverty.

The good news of Jesus Christ

We hold that to abandon people in economic hardship is to abandon the central theme of the liberating, life-giving message of the gospel for us all.

Evangelism and social justice

Evangelism and social justice are inseparable aspects of our Christian discipleship.

Interdependence

We recognise our shared brokenness and our capacity and need to receive from one another.

Inclusion

Whenever we 'other' people because of their economic circumstances, we cannot see the image of God in them and ourselves.

Core Values

Seek Justice

We will seek opportunities to enable the voices of the economically vulnerable to be heard by those with power to instigate change.

Prioritise the lived experience of people at the economic margins

We believe people with lived experience are the experts and are essential partners in co-designing, co-creating, co-delivering and co-leading any project.

Share power

We will share power and recognise the dynamics and potential misuse of power.

Celebrate inclusion and participation

We will resist service-provider models of community engagement based on the rich doing something for the poor. We believe the whole Church needs to receive the gifts of those at the economic margins to be fully transformed by the gospel of Christ.

Enable leadership communities

We will nurture, enable, and develop local leadership within people already present and invested in their local context.