

Encouraging Discipleship Circuit Initiative

Idea behind this:

- By being Circuit-wide, it draws more attention to this initiative, which in turn may help more people to engage with what God is saying to us (individually and corporately).
- People are generally encouraged by reflecting together with others.
- Whilst our churches do have their own ongoing discipleship initiatives, this may enable reflection and possible review, and also provide opportunities for new ideas and new people to be involved.
- We have a period of stability in the Peterborough Methodist Circuit, and now would be a good time for this kind of initiative.

As Christians, we are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ. The following suggested themes are part of the means through which God works in us to grow in our personal relationship with our Lord and each other; for us to grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God, and to enable us to fulfil God's mission.

Themes:

After a conversations with Revd. Peter Hancock (Northampton district chair), Revd. Tim Woolley (Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network) and Revd. Langley Mackrell-Hey (circuit superintendent) , the following themes are suggested.

- Radical hospitality
- Passionate worship
- Intentional faith development
- Risk-taking mission and service
- Extravagant generosity

Suggestion:

- Every participating church to have a series of 5 services on the above themes – possible dates 18 and 25 October, 1, 15 and 22 November 2015
- Discussions to take place with local preachers and worship leaders – some of whom may feel especially called to lead these services.
- Suggested Bible passages will be provided. Possibly also suggested points to be covered within the service, whilst still allowing the Holy Spirit to lead those preparing to lead worship.
- A sheet for further reflection would be provided for everyone, which could be handed out or emailed as appropriate. These could be used for individual study, or in small groups.

Follow up:

Each themed service has the potential to open up discussion about possible new initiatives for the churches. A clear avenue for resulting suggestions/ideas to be considered would be put in place, so that people feel their opinion matters. Also an openness to offer a variety of courses as a follow up: for example 'Mission shaped Intro' or an evangelism course etc. as the Spirit leads.

Beforehand:

Suggest that in advance of the start date for the themed services, churches are to be made aware of this initiative. Also an article to be written in Forum the month before.

Next step:

Preparation of suitable passages of Scripture and thoughts for each themed service, and preparation of reflection sheets.