

CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT EDI OFFICER ROLE DESCRIPTION

1. A Methodist Circuit EDI Officer is a voluntary role within a Methodist Church circuit responsible for championing Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) practices across all churches within that circuit, aiming to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for people of all backgrounds by raising awareness, providing training, and advising leadership on implementing EDI policies and initiatives aligned with Methodist values of justice, dignity, and solidarity

Key responsibilities may include:

Awareness Raising:

Educating church leaders and members about EDI issues through workshops, presentations, and information sharing.

Creating awareness of disabilities, seen and unseen within the churches and Circuit by promoting completion of the Access Survey.

Promoting understanding of diverse experiences and perspectives within the church community.

Policy Development and Implementation:

Supporting the development and implementation of circuit-level EDI policies and practices.

Advising church leaders on how to incorporate EDI considerations into decision-making and church activities.

From the Access Survey, propose policies and practices that would enable those with disabilities to be fully active within the church.

Monitoring and Review

Assessing the current state of EDI within the circuit through data collection and feedback mechanisms.

Identifying areas for improvement and proposing actionable steps to address gaps.

Revisit the survey and review and adapt any actions to improve our practices to help those with disabilities.

Training and Support:

Facilitating EDI training sessions for church leaders, volunteers, and members.

Providing ongoing support and guidance to churches in their EDI efforts.

Facilitate training and events that would increase awareness and support for those with disabilities.

Collaboration and Advocacy:

Working with other circuit leaders and the District EDI Officer to coordinate EDI initiatives across the wider Methodist district.

Representing the circuit on EDI matters at district and connexional levels.

Essential qualities for a Methodist Circuit EDI Officer:

Commitment to EDI principles: A strong belief in the importance of equality, diversity, and inclusion and a willingness to actively promote these values.

Interpersonal skills: Excellent communication and relationship-building skills to engage with people from diverse backgrounds and build trust.

Leadership abilities: Ability to influence and inspire others to embrace EDI practices.

Cultural awareness: Understanding of different cultures, identities, and lived experiences to effectively address EDI concerns.

Disability awareness: Understanding of seen and unseen disabilities and have empathy and a will to ensure that wherever possible practices are put into place to support those with disabilities.

Theological grounding: Familiarity with Methodist theology and its commitment to social justice.

Time Commitment

Flexible hours to suit the person appointed and to attend dates set on the calendar of Circuit events as required.

Equipment Needed

Access to ICT and internet connection in order to attend online meetings and receive emails.

Expenses

Travel expenses will be paid at the agreed Connexional rate for volunteers. Receipted expenses agreed in advance with the Superintendent, necessarily incurred in the performance of the duties, will be reimbursed.

- **Review Procedure**

This role is subject to annual appointment by the Circuit Assembly.

Appointments will not normally be renewed after six successive years.

Council secretaries to provide explanations as to why this is an essential part of church life