



Three Districts, One Connexion

In July 2019 we moved from having eight districts to three, as a response to the leading of God's spirit to see Methodist Churches throughout Ireland released for mission.

Click [here](#) to read **Connexional Structures: Frequently Asked Questions** .

God is at work in and through the Methodist Church in Ireland; we see that in the faithful witness of congregations in villages, towns, and cities across this island.

We see and hear of God at work as lives are transformed, and communities impacted through the work of Christians. We see God at work in congregations and individuals prayerfully wrestling with what it means to be faithful to God in their communities.

Over many years, as a Church family we have kept coming back to the question,

“Could we be organising ourselves better, particularly in a way that releases resources locally and which helps us respond to the opportunities and challenges we are facing?”

Part of our heritage is the willingness to respond to the needs of the time. A recognition that structure matters for mission, Wesley developed structure which supported mission.

What is our mission as a church?

'God's Mission, Our Mission'

"Our spiritual heritage encourages experimentation, diversity and flexibility supported by a methodical approach in analysing the missional context so that we can go where we are needed most". The change process in which we are now engaged has come from the question 'how can we be effective for God's mission at this time?' and we are changing our structure so that more support is offered to local churches in their mission.

Structural change is not the end to the story

The change will enable us to be more effective as we serve God together. We start with this vision of a structure which is there to support local churches in the work which God is calling them to do with rigour, strength and flexibility.

Conference in June 2018 agreed a set of proposals by which:

(i) The eight current Districts will be joined into three geographically and numerically viable Districts;

(ii) A full-time separated District Superintendent is appointed for each District to provide oversight, leadership support and Connexional vision for the mission and ministry of Societies, Circuits and ministers;

(iii) The current District administrative layer is re-defined to reflect contemporary practice and make it fit for purpose, and;

(iv) A “Connexional Team” is created to enable more effective collaboration and efficient decision making across the Connexion.

As the new structures developed, we have asked each other hard and helpful questions as we sought to discern God’s way forward together.

Meet the District Superintendents



Rev Andrew Dougherty
Southern District



Rev Philip Agnew
North Eastern District



Rev Stephen Skuce
North Western District

Watch 'Meet the DS's' video [here](#).

We're making changes to how our church is governed

“Leading us toward structure that better supports mission today.”

The Working Group on Governance Reform was set up in 2018 to examine the national-level governance structures of the Church. It examined the roles of Conference, General Committee, and the Secretary of Conference, as well as looking at our finance and support structures and our committee system. In December 2020, General Committee, acting as Conference 2020, voted to accept the report and recommendations of the Working Group. These recommendations will come before Conference 2021 for final approval and, if accepted, will result in changes to all of the areas mentioned above. The full report of the working group together with some ancillary documents can be read at the links below.

[**The Benefits And Implications of the Registration of the Methodist Church In Ireland as a Single Charity**](#)

[**Report and Recommendations on the Governance Structures And Processes of The Methodist Church in Ireland**](#)

[**Governance Reform FAQ**](#)