

## **District Policy Committee vacancies 2025/26 onwards**

The newly-constituted<sup>1</sup> District Policy Committee (DPC) has several vacancies from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025. It would be helpful to the new DPC to have a blend of continuity and change; there is therefore some flexibility in how long people wish to be appointed for, envisaging terms of between two and six years.

All these roles offer the opportunity to be at the heart of Methodism in Scotland and to facilitate the transition which will take place as we move from a district of six circuits to a single circuit.

### **Requirements:**

- Ideally, DPC members need to have a good working knowledge of Methodism, although this can be learnt on the job.
- There can be a large number of papers to be read and commented on before meetings, and the committee also does some of its work between meetings by email.
- Most meetings are held in evenings on Zoom, but some Saturday on site meetings may be held.
- The responsibilities of the committee include financial scrutiny and in Scotland at present the DPC also acts as the District Trustees, the General Committee of the Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland (REFMS), the Grants Committee and the Lay Employment Committee.

**The general responsibilities of the DPC** are outlined in the Constitutional Discipline and Practice of the Methodist Church (CPD) (Standing Order 431) as:

- i. to formulate and promote policies which will advance the mission of the Church in the Circuits and Local Churches, and in particular to supervise the use of resources of personnel, property and finance and to assist Local Churches and Circuits having exceptional problems;
- ii. to encourage inter-circuit and ecumenical co-operation;
- iii. to act in an executive capacity in matters remitted to the committee by the Synod;
- iv. to keep within its purview all district concerns not dealt with elsewhere;
- v. to contribute and respond, as the case may be, to the development of connexional policies as reflected in the work of the Conference and the Methodist Council, and to carry out its other responsibilities with any such development in mind.

**In the Scotland District** the DPC would exist to fulfill those responsibilities laid down for it in CPD, many of which are occasional tasks and would also operate with the following ethos.

1. A key purpose of the DPC would be to offer scrutiny and authorisation on behalf of the District to plans which emerge from the Circuit Meeting. Whilst members of the DPC may also be members of these meetings, their participation in DPC would be from a District perspective.
2. The DPC would be a small body with a very different function from the much larger, more representative Circuit Meeting, but would still aim to be as diverse & balanced in key areas as possible.
3. The DPC would meet at least quarterly, after each Circuit Meeting. It is recommended that in the first year of operation, the DPC plans to continue to meet 6 times. The majority of meetings are held online on weekday evenings, with occasional longer in person meetings, on Saturdays (no more than 2 p.a.)
4. As is already covered in the requirements of CPD, the DPC would need to make provision for the proper attention being given to ecumenical work, lay employment and safeguarding.

## **Current vacancies**

**Secretary:** working with the Chair of District to formulate the agenda for the meeting, collecting and distributing papers, taking and circulating minutes and acting on behalf of the DPC in some situations. Taking an active part in meetings as a full member of the Committee.

**District champion roles:** In all three District champion roles, individuals are sought who are keen to be involved in all aspects of district policy making and scrutiny. In addition, each role gives the opportunity to bring to the committee a passion and specialised insights into three key areas of concern in the Methodist Church. More of the church's understanding of and work in these areas can be found by following the links:

- Justice, Dignity and Solidarity (JDS) and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/the-inclusive-methodist-church/strategy-for-justice-dignity-and-solidarity/>
- God for All/New Places for New People (NPNP) <https://www.methodist.org.uk/action/god-for-all/>
- Action for Hope (Working towards a Net Zero Church by 2030) <https://www.methodist.org.uk/action/climate/>

**If you would like to know more about any of the vacant roles, or to express interest in being appointed to a role, please email the current secretary, Jill Baker [ejillbaker@btinternet.com](mailto:ejillbaker@btinternet.com).**

<sup>1</sup>Spring Synod 2025 agreed a small reduction in the size of the DPC from 12 members to 10, to be made up as shown below:

### **2024-25 membership of the District Policy Committee**

	Role	2025/26 onwards
1	District Chair	Mark Slaney
2	Secretary of Synod	Helen Jenkins
3	Secretary of DPC	Position vacant
4	Property Secretary	Janet McKerral
5	District Treasurer	Janet Bryer
6	Superintendent minister	Adam Stevenson
7	Circuit steward	To be appointed by circuit meeting
8	JDS/EDI champion	Position vacant
9	God for All/NPNP champion	Position vacant
10	Action for Hope/Net Zero champion	Position vacant