

# Yorkshire Synod Ministries Committee

## Synod Policy for the Deployment of Ministry within the Synod

### INTRODUCTION

We need to be more imaginative and creative in the way in which we provide ministry in the local church:

- Seeking new and exciting ways of providing leadership;
- Using all types of ministry, both lay and ordained;
- Being more flexible in order to make the best use of our ministers of word and sacraments.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of such a policy will be :

- To create fresh patterns of Christian presence, both by recasting the life and work of less lively churches, and by establishing new groups or networks of people;
- To support, encourage and develop local churches that are open to the challenges of the Holy Spirit;
- To seek creative ways to use the synod's available resources for the provision and maintenance of ministry across the synod.

Its objectives will be to provide affordable ministry to all the churches and mission areas in the Synod that equips and enables each congregation or group:

- To support and nurture each other through worship, prayer, study and care;
- To present a corporate witness and service to the place in which they are set;
- To make a difference as the dispersed church where each member exercises a Christian presence in the workplace, leisure place, community involvement or neighbourhood.

We understand 'ministry' to mean the ministry of all believers exercising their God given gifts in a variety of ways in the body of Christ. However, this policy applies to the provision of ministry as a *resource for leadership* in the local church, of which the Ministry of Word and Sacrament is a vital part

### POLICY

In seeking to provide appropriate ministry to all the churches and mission areas in the synod, the following *basic principles* will apply.

1. Jesus Christ, whom we are all called to serve, is the head and leader of the church.
2. It is the responsibility of synod to care for all churches, chaplaincies and their ministry; and all churches within the synod have a mutual responsibility to care for each other.
3. The sharing of resources across churches will be encouraged.
4. Ministry will be mission orientated, relevant for the local church and the local community situation. No single model can be used in all situations.
5. In a spirit of prayer the local church will discern needs for ministry within the contexts of its local situation, its Mission and Care Group, its ecumenical relationships, and the synod.
6. Mission and Care Groups will be encouraged to engage with the synod committees in discerning and enabling appropriate collaborative ministry.
7. Ministry will be provided using effective teams, led by the person with the necessary skills.
8. The synod will seek to use the God given gifts of all people and will endeavour to provide training and support.
9. The pastoral relationship between ministerial teams and churches is of prime importance, but the needs of the existing teams must be recognised.
10. As part of the whole United Reformed Church we accept our responsibility for the financial cost of ministry within the national deployment quota.

This policy was adopted by the Yorkshire Synod at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009