

# DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT FOR LEATHERHEAD UNITED REFORMED AND METHODIST CHURCH(ES)

## LUMC

### Love, Unity, Mission and Care

#### LOVE

**We rejoice in and celebrate God's generous love for us, shown in Jesus, and poured out through the Holy Spirit.**

*We respond by committing ourselves to a passionate spirituality, with prayer at the heart of life.*

In the next year we will establish a regular prayer meeting to pray together for God's guidance and strength for our future together. (we will invite people from the parish to share with us in this).

*We are also committed to developing inspiring worship which reflects God's awesome presence with us and includes a balance of the new and the old.*

In the next year we will establish an occasional pattern of joint services between CC and LMC, which will include band led and organ led music, and a flexible worship style, particularly when the children are present, using both Singing the Faith and Rejoice and Sing.

Christ Church will review the part the choir will best play in future.

LMC musicians will meet to plan their future role.

In the next year, we will establish with the parish a weekly pattern of joint evening services, with two services each week, one in a contemporary style, (alternating between LMC and St Mary's), and one in a reflective style, (including Choral Evensong) (pattern of venues to be discussed)

#### UNITY

**We rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which inspires the fellowship we have within and between our churches.**

***We commit ourselves to deepening that fellowship and doing nothing separately that we can better do together***

In the next year, we will make a decision as to whether we wish to come together as one church.

In preparation for this decision, we will review our governance structures together, and look at URC/Meth church constitutions for guidance.

We will also engage professional advice about our sites, and consider whether there is a possibility of a different site, leading to a feasibility study for the future of our buildings, based on our mission priorities and the needs of the community.

We will also do a joint programme on Natural Church Development, to continue to learn more about each other and address our mission priorities.

**We rejoice in our Covenant relationship with Leatherhead Parish**

***We commit ourselves to developing our shared life as Christians in Leatherhead through worship and mission.***

In the next year we will develop a shared pattern of evening worship, and continue our joint ventures through Leatherhead Trinity School and Family and Children's work, and community projects like Pit Stop and Leatherhead Start.

In the next year, we will improve communication and joint planning of events between the churches, so that there is more sense of common ownership of shared events.

**We give thanks for the privilege of being members of the Leatherhead Youth Project.**

***We commit ourselves to continued support of their work, and, with the Parish, to working with them explore what it means to be part of the Body of Christ together, particularly in terms of worship and membership/Confirmation.***

In the next year we will explore the possibility and advisability of any joint events between LYP and the churches.

We will explore with LYP whether they wish to be involved in any development of buildings.

**We value our place in Churches Together in Leatherhead.**

***We commit ourselves to greater involvement in the community work of CTL.***

In the next year, we will ensure that requests for help for community projects supported by CTL are picked up from their website and publicised and promoted in our churches.

**We rejoice in the of the Family and Children's worker**

***We commit ourselves to ensuring that the work she has done continues after she officially finishes in July 2013.***

In the next year, we will liaise with Jane's management group, and engage in discussions with them about succession planning.

## **MISSION**

**We rejoice that God has reached out to us in Jesus, to share his love and draw us to himself.**

***We commit ourselves to growing as disciples of Jesus Christ, through helping each other discover our gift-based ministry.***

In the next year we will offer better support and training of our lay ministers.

***We commit ourselves to growing disciples of Jesus Christ through need-oriented evangelism, using the opportunities offered by Messy Church, Time for Tea and Parade Services to introduce those outside the church to the Christian faith.***

In the next year we will set up an Exploring Christianity course to invite those interested in Christianity. We will make Christian Festivals, and the Parade Services opportunities for inviting those we meet at other events to meet with God

***We commit ourselves to develop our commitment to social justice.***

In the next year we will develop LMC's partnership with Grace Mercy children's hostel in South India, through hosting Rev Jeyapaul.

In the next year we will hold a Christian Aid week event and do more to mark Fair Trade Fortnight.

## **CARE**

**We celebrate God's care for us, and the way it is ministered in so many different ways through our church life.**

***We commit ourselves to effective care of members, and a warm caring welcome and follow up for visitors to our churches. This will involve sensitive sharing of pastoral news, especially with those who have pastoral responsibility in the church, (i.e. the minister, elders and pastoral visitors).***

In the next year we will start taking an informal register at both churches to be able to follow up changing patterns of worship and potential pastoral need more quickly.

*We commit ourselves to developing our house groups, both as places where we learn more of the faith together, and as places where there is deep sharing and praying over spiritual and pastoral questions.*

In the next year we aim to encourage 20 new people to join house groups.

## **APPENDIX**

**Building options:**

*Practically, even if we agree the above there are several options for our buildings:*

- a. move to the Methodist site and sale of the Christ Church site,*
- b. move to the existing Christ Church site and sale of the Methodist site*
- c. redevelopment of the Christ Church site with some being sold for housing, and using moneys from the sale of the Methodist site.*
- d. redevelopment of the Christ Church site to a must smaller facility, with some being sold for housing, and a refurbishment of the Methodist site, keeping two sites*
- e. selling both sites and finding a new site for new building*
- f. and finally, the status quo.*

In the next year, we will engage in conversations about whether we need a church building and if we do, what would most effectively fulfil our mission to Love, Unity, Mission and Care.