



DISTRICT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GROUP - REPORT FOR SYNOD 21.9.24

Over the last year the District Youth Development Group have met online and been working on the following:

1. District Youth Strategy

A draft youth strategy has been written and presented to the District Policy Committee. The group continue to update this document in light of the Methodist Conference 2024 resolutions relating to 3Generate and the voice of young people of the Methodist Church.

These resolutions include the encouragement of local churches to celebrate, support or establish uniformed organisations. The conference also adopted the recommendation that ALL churches develop strategic plans to engage and connect with children and young people, releasing funding to enable these plans as appropriate. In addition, the conference urged all Districts to allocate money within existing budgets for which local churches, Circuits or the District can apply for youth events.

The strategy will also continue to explore a District Youth Enabler paid role and to look at how youth ministry can be encouraged and supported.

It is hoped an updated and complete strategy document will be available to be presented to Synod in April 2025.

2. District Youth Survey

The group have conducted a survey of youth work across the District and the final results are being collated. The survey will provide an outline of where children's and youth ministry are taking place, alongside seeking church aspirations relating to finance, regular meetings and the role of any District Youth Enabler.

It was good to see the picture of where pockets of youth work / ministry are taking place and in summary there seems an active appetite for help with funding and to see youth work as a greater priority with practical help and encouragement.

This has been a large and important piece of work as we endeavour to promote and support youth ministry across the District.

3. District 3Generate / Youth Ambassador

The group will be seeking to define a role description for a young person to become our youth ambassador, although the exact title is still to be decided. This is an exciting development as we seek a young person to be at the centre of encouraging and promoting youth ministry and enabling the voices of young people to be heard in our church, Circuit and District meetings.

4. 3Generate 2024

We are grateful that the District has made a commitment to pay for our young people to attend 3Generate this year. We are aware of some young people from across our region that are attending, and it would be good to co-ordinate this in order to encourage sharing of resources and the importance of networking and support.

If your Circuit / church have young people attending, please can you let Rev Nick Witham or Susan Eldridge know as soon as possible.

The Development Group will also be looking at organising or promoting other District wide events that may be possible through the next Connexional year.

The Youth Development Team currently consists of:

- Richard Dean
- Chris and Maggie Finbow
- Rev Nick Witham
- Rev Helen Hollands
- Yasmin Finch
- Carol McAloon
- Bx Belshaw
- Susan Eldridge

Rev Nick Witham

27.8.24