

May 2021

Living well with difference: Reconciliation and Mediation Pilot Project

We are excited to announce that the Reconciliation and Mediation Pilot Project, run in partnership with the Methodist Connexion and Place for Hope, will be launched in your Learning Network Region this coming June. Accompanying this letter is a brochure and a poster for the service. Hard copies have been distributed for each church in your District to all Circuit Superintendents.

Conflict, tension and difference are a normal part of church life, and this pilot project seeks to help congregations, Circuits and Districts navigate conflict well, so that all can live well with difference. A team of trained reconcilers has been equipped, empowered, trained, and accredited, to offer impartial support to those experiencing times of disagreement and difference. Initially, the pilot regions to benefit from the funded support are the North West and Mann, Eastern and London Learning Network Regions. This service is independent of the Complaints and Discipline Process and can be accessed by anyone in leadership in the Methodist Church prior to or once an informal complaint has been made. We would encourage anyone finding themselves in this situation to get in touch with Place for Hope as early as possible, as our experience tells us that the later requests for support are made, the more likely conflicts will escalate.

Our hope is that this pilot project will help the Methodist Church discover new opportunities for positive working together as church communities are supported to be places of peace, where all can live together with difference well and flourish in their God-given diversity.

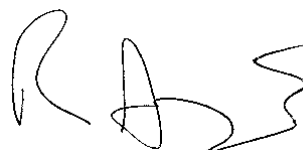
To find out more please visit Place for Hope's website:

<https://www.placeforhope.org.uk/support/methodist-connexion-reconciliation-and-mediation-team>

Kind regards,



Carolyn Merry
Director, Place for Hope



Richard Armiger
*Director for Regional Learning and Development,
Methodist Connexion in Britain*