

A Personal Responsibility Commitment

**for use by anybody who wants to commit to more learning about
Justice, Dignity and Solidarity**

Purpose of a Personal Responsibility Commitment

The purpose of this commitment is to:

- Develop your own learning and development
- Help you take personal responsibility in relation to matters of Justice, Dignity and Solidarity
- Outline what you think your 'gaps' in skills or knowledge may be
- Help you plan how to address these development needs
- Ensure good collaboration and learning between yourself and the Methodist Church.
- Help the Methodist Church in our journey of change to being a Church of justice, dignity and solidarity.

Background

The Methodist Church recognises that all its members have much to receive, contribute and learn within the life of the Local Church Community and that participation in the worship and fellowship of the Church enables faith to grow and develop.

Through the 'Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity' the Methodist Conference (2021) has committed:

- for the rich diversity of people within the Methodist Church to be recognised as a cause for thanksgiving, celebration and praise;
- to eradicate all discrimination and coercive control within the Methodist Church, and for all people to be treated justly and with dignity across the breadth of the Methodist Church;
- for a paradigm shift (a profound change) in the culture, practices and attitudes of the Methodist Church so that all Methodists are able to be full participants in the Church's life.

Working towards a fully
inclusive Methodist Church

www.methodist.org.uk/inclusive-mc-strategy



My Commitment

I am aware of my needs to learn how to integrate and live with the 'otherness' of others without prejudice or discrimination.

I have noticed the following gap in my knowledge or skills:

I have recognised that I have tended to group the people in my church who are from ethnic minorities together, whereas in fact they have very different stories and backgrounds and their national heritage is from different countries, and even continents. I don't know much about these places and I am beginning to realise some of my assumptions about my friends have been over-simplistic or even wrong. I recognise some of my comments to them or questions, though meant in kindness, may actually have been quite tiresome for them, or even offensive.

I aim to learn more by the following actions:

- *Listen carefully to what my friends actually say, without assumptions*
- *Read and watch articles that explain the experience of those of ethnic minority heritage in the UK, especially in the church*

As a result of my learning I will...

Be able to have conversations with those whose cultural background is different to mine, without assumptions, judgements or stereotypes.

What personal testimony might I offer to share with the church?

I would be happy to share my experience with others who are on the same journey of learning. If I find good books, articles and videos I will share them with others, just as some good resources have been shared with me.

People or resources which may help me

- *I watched a video called 'Dear White Church (the British POC Experience)' which really opened my eyes. I am going to seek out other videos, articles and books that can help me understand the experience of those of ethnic minority heritage in the church.*
- *Listening to my friends in the church can help me. I recognise that it is not their responsibility to educate me and I have no right to put that onto them, it is my responsibility to learn. However, I can be genuinely curious and interested in them as people, ask them open questions, listen carefully to what they say, and then speak about them and their heritage in the way they speak about themselves. So without asking them to educate me, I can learn by listening to them more carefully.*

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For any questions, you could contact your district EDI Officer, or email
Equality&diversity@methodistchurch.org.uk

