

Monday 3rd March 2025
Session 1 - Zoom
Pulse Mission Roadshow

On Monday 3rd March we hosted the PULSE - Mission Roadshow on Zoom. We, the PULSE working group, felt that what was brought and shared was insightful, open and authentic – in terms of where people felt they were in regards to mission.

We had 36 screens present - with some screens hosting more than one person, rather, churches had gathered together in order to have relevant missional discussion.

What follows is a summary of what was presented, shared and reflected upon by those present. Prior to the reflection – an explanation of the scope of the evening session was given and the missional context was set as Exodus 3: 1 – 11; 4: 1 – 2 was read...

1. Reflection given by Rev. Darren Middleton (NPNP Co-ordinator)
2. Summary of feedback from breakout groups
3. What next – session 2
4. Dates of session / information

**1. Reflection given by Rev. Darren Middleton
(NPNP Co-ordinator)**

Devotions

Reading: Exodus 3: 1 – 11; 4: 1 - 2

Take the sandals off your feet.

The photo on the slide shows shoes – many shoes of all different shapes and sizes, gathered together...



We recognise, here tonight, that we are a people that have gathered together for a specific purpose – a holy purpose – a missional purpose.

John Wesley famously said, "our only business here on earth is to save souls," showing that at its heart, the people called Methodist are a missional people... with a missional purpose... however we interpret or understand those words.

We recognise that this time together is a holy moment, when we willingly turn aside, and in turning aside we hear the voice of God calling to us.

We like Moses respond to this missional call – **Here I am**, identifying, in that moment that he is present, located in a place of holiness, holy because both God and he (Moses) are locked in a mysterious existential encounter!

Here I am - words to be spoken not only in that particular moment, but in many moments – when God calls a person to the mission place:

Abraham (Genesis 22:1; 22:11),

Jacob (Genesis 31:11; 46:2),

Moses (Genesis 3:4),

Samuel (1 Samuel 3:4),

Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8),

Ananias (Acts 9:10).

A costly response – but a necessary one!

Who am I said Moses... the task, the need, the scope of the mission, at times can be overwhelming. No sooner has Moses identified himself before God, than he questions God's choice about the one that he is identifying (himself).

God encourages Moses with the words – I will be with you! Whenever we find ourselves out of our depth, in mission, ministry or life – we encourage ourselves with the words, God is with us! How Methodist, reflecting on some of the final words spoken by our very own John Wesley – the best of all is, God is with us!

What is in your hand?

For me, when the call came, I was holding a pair of hair dressing scissors...

I wasn't asked what I would like to be in my hand or what I think should be in my hand...

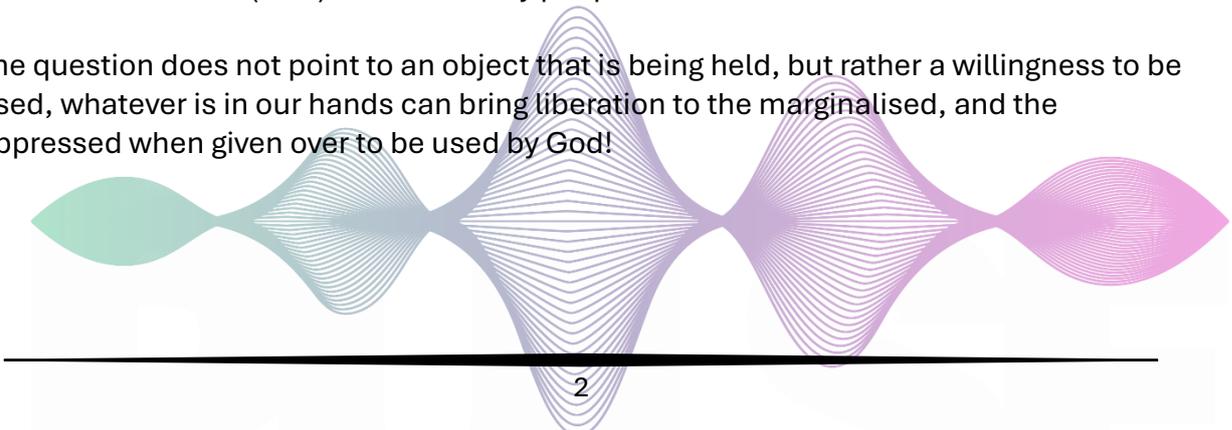
What I was asked was, what is in your hand – now?

What will I (God) use to show my love to humanity?

What will I (God) use to redeem my people?

What and who will I (God) use to lead my people home?

The question does not point to an object that is being held, but rather a willingness to be used, whatever is in our hands can bring liberation to the marginalised, and the oppressed when given over to be used by God!



I am slow of speech and tongue!

Moses, in his vulnerability, highlights his reasons why God has chosen the wrong person...

“Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD?”

Now Go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say,”

‘Please send someone else!’ – cry’s Moses!

We too may cry, ‘Please send someone else...’, but we like Moses find ourselves in this place – here, now...

You are the one who has turned aside this evening,

You are the one who is answering God’s call this evening,

You are the who is being asked,

You are the one whose promise for God to be with them is given...

If not you, then who?

If not here, then where?

If not now, then when?

Here I am!

2. Summary of feedback from breakout groups

Question – What did you ‘hear’ that stood out for you in the reflection?

Here I am – a willingness to offer oneself to God. An intention to take the good news of God’s love to people who need to be transformed by it. However, how? Where do we go? Many felt unprepared for such a task.

What is in your hand – a powerful image of God moving in context, where we are and find ourselves. God being with us, seeing our intention of heart and potential and using whatever we find in our hands.

Is this God or just me? My wild imagination and passion to see something done?

Question – What thoughts/insights come to mind for you in relation to the church you represent?

A desperate need and the running out of time – not knowing what direction to go in. Confusion on what to do and how to do it. The recognition that opportunities lay outside our church doors – however, so much of our energy is drained by just keeping the show on the road. Is the churches mission God’s mission and how do we disentangle where God seems to be calling us?

A willingness to listen to people within and without our present structures and a real passion to do mission, recognising that the call to mission is great!

Question – What’s important to you about the churches mission and why do you care?

People need to know that God is with them and loves them – recognising that God is doing things within and without our structures and a desire to join in!

But we, the Church is tired, we need enthusiasm, we feel overwhelmed – we are so tied up in doing church that we often forget to be church. No one is redundant in the Kingdom of God – all can be employed in prayer and support.

Not being afraid to engage in that which is other from ourselves, not fearing disagreement but willing to hear each other and learn.

So often our desires and concerns are tied up within sustaining the Circuits.

No game plan!
God’s love in action!

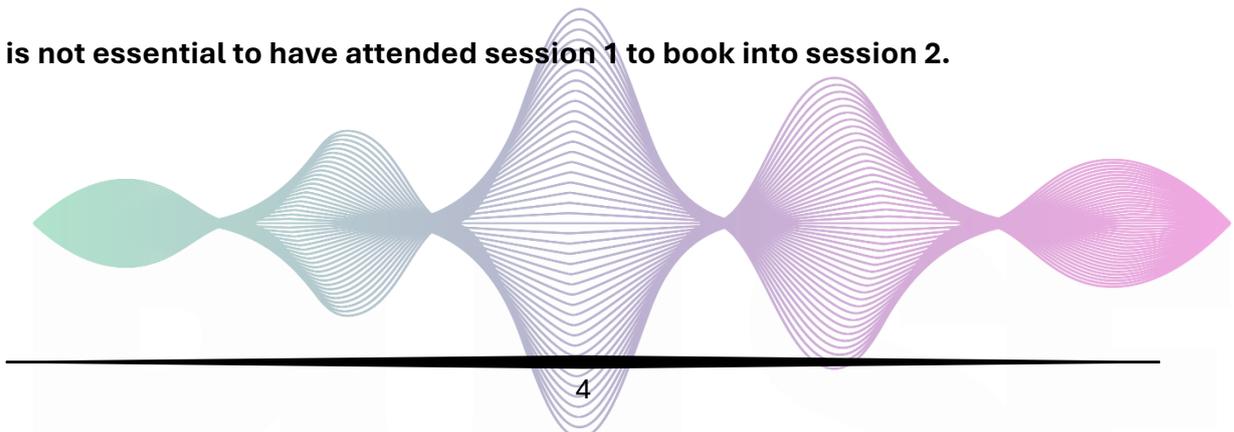
3. What’s next? – session 2

Next, we look at the priorities of mission, dependant of the variety of contexts... As was shared in the previous session – identifying the species so we can determine the bate – a fishing analogy.

We recognise that each mission must have it’s imperative (that which is of vital importance, urgent, crucial). Each mission, church, congregation, group, location will have a different imperative. In session 2 we work together to explore what that looks like from a church perspective, ‘current context’. Using Simon Sinek’s Golden Circles of Why? How? And What? We theologically explore the context of our mission and see if our theologising of the ‘Why?’ can radically impact the How and the What of our contextual Mission?

Note – this is really a very intriguing exercise for all groups, congregations, circuits and churches who are exploring missional strategy!

It is not essential to have attended session 1 to book into session 2.



4. Dates of sessions / information

After some discussion the organising group decided to press ahead with the zoom sessions and cancel the all face-to-face sessions at both PMCH & TMC - again due to potential low booking numbers.

We are, however, proposing to keep the face to face, evening sessions at Taunton Temple Methodist Church on 11th April and 13th June (7 - 9pm).

In addition, we are directing those interested in attending the following two sessions to do so by booking in with the administration Team (admin@swpmethodist.org.uk).

Please note it is not essential that you attended session one in order to attend sessions two and three.

The Zoom Sessions will take place: Booking is required – on Booking please let Admin know where you are from in terms of Circuit / Church.

Monday 12th May at 7pm (Session 2)

Monday 9th June at 7pm (Session 3)

or alternatively please book for the evening face to face, 2hr session at Temple Methodist Church, Taunton.

Every blessing,



The PULSE Organising Team

