

CONNEXION PRAYER POD

NIGHT

20th - 21st November 2010

Day



BELONGING ~The Connexion - Prayer Pod

INTRODUCTION – who's who and what's what?

The CONFERENCE is like a bishop! Instead of one person at the head who is ultimately responsible for running the Church, MCI has 250 who meet every year, representing all the Circuits and sections of the Church. 125 are ordained and 125 are lay people.

The meeting is a conferring – that is a conversation about all the things that concern the Church – its doctrine and practice; social and youth affairs; mission at home and abroad; finance and property. Every organisation needs structures and rules. The Church is no exception and Methodists see themselves as one body throughout the whole island – we are connected to one another for mutual benefit and care. We call the body a Connexion.

This word was first used in connection with John Wesley. As revival spread across Britain and preachers needed to be sent and supported in their work, they were chosen by and said to be in connection with Mr Wesley. The churches they formed also joined in this "Connexion". SO....the Conference is the Connexion governing the Connexion!

The PRESIDENT is appointed for one year, during which he or she presides at the Conference and its committees and is the prime representative of the Conference / Methodist Church. Since this year 2010, there is also a Lay Leader whose task is to work alongside the President and shares in presiding at Conference.

The Conference also appoints a SECRETARY. (S)he is the guardian of the Conferences' decisions. Because decisions are made every year, the 'mind' of the Conference is always developing. This mind, is contained in the Manual of Laws, which is really a list of practices that experience has taught the Church are beneficial. The Manual contains the rules for the good ordering of Churches and defines how the various parts of the Connexion, including ministers, should work.

You will need:

Large outline of a church building.

Print out of Psalm 133

Large outline of a person.

Paper people.

Print out of the one another's sheet.

Pens – markers, biros, blue tac.

Print outs of other bible verses.

Space to display on the wall or floor the church and the person drawing.

How to build your action station

Place the outline of the larger church building either on a wall or the floor, with some markers and the instructions sheet included below beside it. (sheet with Psalm 133 on it).

Nearby set out the large outline of a person, paper people and pens, along with a large copy of the one another verses.

People will be asked to write inside the outline of the church and stick the paper people onto the outline of the person.

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How to build your station

This station has three areas:

1. Praying for people – choose from the website photos of people in leadership to pray for, invite people to select a prayer or promise from scripture (from a number printed) and put-it beside one of the photos as you pray for that person. Leave some space and blank paper for people to write down anything they feel God may be saying to these people.

2. Choose from one of the images below

IMAGES: –

Draw images of a tree and root system where Jesus is the root: the trunk is the Conference and major branches are Districts; smaller branches are departments and administration whilst the Churches around the country are leaves and fruit.

The Solar system where different planets orbit the Sun – each one has a pull on the other just as Jupiter attracts most comets and helps make earth safer, so larger Churches can support smaller ones. Are the smaller ones like Earth or Mars? (print off a picture of the solar system from google images).

3. Use the Methodist Symbol:

Christ is the vertical and Church horizontal. (sheet included). Each of the four segments can hold several parts of the MCI. Invite people to place different sections of the Church under the banner which they think most appropriate:

Sharing Mission –

You will need:

PHOTOS of Conference from website (www.irishmethodist.org) of President; Secretary/ Lay Leader etc.

Print out's of promises and prayers from scripture (multiple copies of each).
Print out maps of the district with the churches pinpointed from the irishmethodist website and district information included and/or copies of prayer focus.

Blank postcards

Large sheets of card/paper to write prayers on.
Pens

An image that best represents the Church (see below) and list of various departments and committees.

Print out of Methodist orb (if required).

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Equipping for Ministry –
Holding it together Administration –
our shared witness 'Under the Banner'.

The list might include:– called to ordination; employment advisory group; local preaching; lay witness; pioneer ministry; ministry of healing; Finance committee; General Purposes; General Committee; retirement funds; Faith and Order; Property; Communications; Child care; Boards of Education; MWI; Covenant Council; MMS(I) HMD; Trustees: Social Responsibility

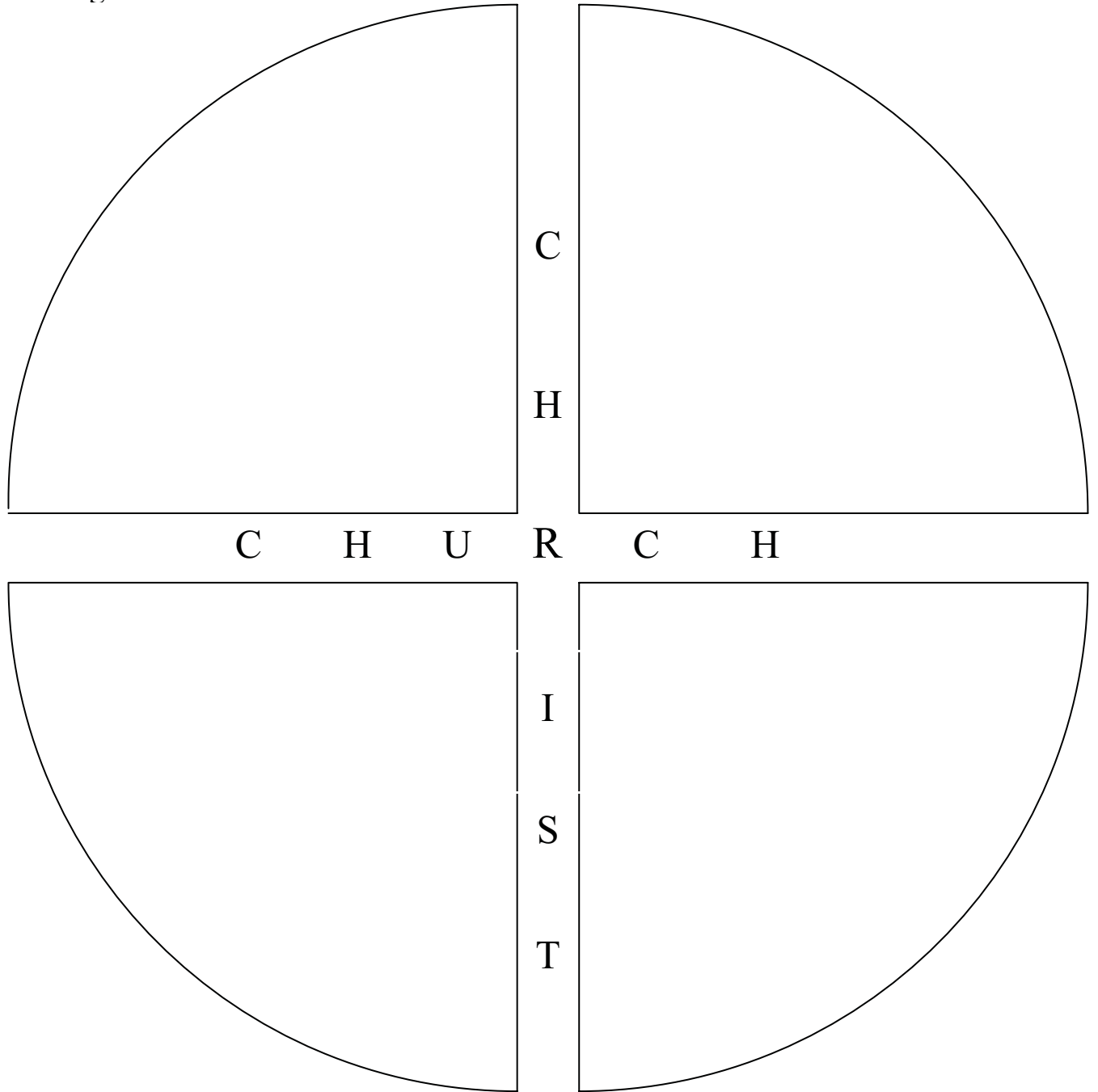
Which Committee or Dept would you feel most comfortable serving on?
Which would you want others to serve on, encourage people to write a short prayer especially for that committee's work.

Lets get specific – display the print outs of district information and maps. In Matthew 18 v 19 Jesus says, 'If two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven'. Encourage people to pray specifically for different areas of the country, (prompted by the information on districts included and the prayer focus manual), encourage them to write their prayers for others to see so that they may add their amen of agreement.
Activity – choose a district that is not your own to write on the postcards provided a message, verse of scripture or prayer. At the end of your night and day we will endeavour to collect these and get the to the appropriate district.

An extra - A logo is being sought for the Methodist Church in Ireland. What would yours be? Try drawing it and if you wish putting an explanation down.

Sharing Mission

Equipping for Ministry



Holding it together:
Administration

Our shared witness:
Under the banner of MCI

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