



Unity Methodist Church

Registered Charity 1173520

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Unity Methodist Church (UMC) is based in Sandbach, Cheshire. It formally came into being in September 2020 and was formed with the merging of three Methodist Churches, Sandbach, Wheelock and Sandbach Heath Methodist Churches.

UMC is part of Cheshire South Methodist Circuit and is an active member of Churches Together in Sandbach.

UMC has responsibility for three sites and over 130 church members. In January 2022, UMC decided to close permanently its site at Sandbach Heath. A final service was held there in May 2022 and a decision was made in July 2022 to sell the building and surrounding land. It is envisaged that the sale will be completed sometime in 2023.

Our other buildings are used by the church or hired out for a wide range of community activities and organisations throughout the week.

Trustees 2021/22:

Jayne Bunn
Karen Foster
Katy Lowe
Jeremy Tresise

Ellen Cieka
Robert Glassonbury
Stephen Parker-Aiken

Timothy Cooke
Ann Horsfield
Alan Pimlott

Nilda Eyre
Linda Jones
Pauline Sherwin

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our weekly prayer group continued throughout COVID restrictions to meet on Zoom and this has continued after the ending of lockdown with an appreciably higher number in attendance.

Regular in-person worship resumed in the summer of 2021 and became a weekly event in September 2021. These include 4 "All-Age" services a year with our Uniformed Organisations, a new monthly Contemporary Worship Service and a monthly "Breakfast Church" for young families.

In September, we resumed our popular Saturday Coffee Mornings. This was particularly appreciated by those living alone and by members from the local Dementia Friendly Sandbach group. Our two toddler group sessions, Stepping Stones continue to thrive, under the supervision of our Circuit Children and Family Worker.

In addition, Unity provides a monthly community hot lunch meal at its Wheelock site, which is well received with a variety of other social events provided during the year.

In December 2021 and May 2022, we hosted "Hope Journey" for a local Primary School, explaining the Christmas and Easter stories respectively. Members also took part in the Churches Together in Sandbach outdoor carol service in the town. Unity were also part of the making and delivery of Christmas Teas on Christmas Eve.

The foodbank continues to operate and is reporting a steady increase in numbers of those being referred. It remains an internal organization of Unity but with support from members of other local churches. During the course of the past twelve months, talks also began with a view to starting up a Community Food Pantry based in one of our buildings, The Wesley Centre. In July 2022, this was set up as an internal organisation of Unity and will become "live" in October 2022. Its aim is to support local households cope with the increases in the cost of living by offering food and toiletries at substantially reduced rates.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

FINANCE REPORT

The method of accounting used is that of Receipts and Payments and the Methodist Standard Form of Accounts, which is attached to this report, summarises the Receipts and Payments for the year ending **31 August 2022**.

Like most organisations, the church finances suffered during the pandemic lockdowns and restrictions but during this year there has been a gradual improvement. Excluding the Receipts and Payments for the Internal Organisations, the Church Receipts were **£100,788** and Payments amounted to **£117,437**, leaving a shortfall of **£16,649**. This sum was met from reserves.

The biggest outgoing was the Circuit Assessment of **£61,243**. The figure of **£51,103** for Offerings and Tax Recovered was over £9,400 less than the previous year but that is partly due to receiving two years' tax refunds in 2020/21. Lettings of the premises has gradually increased and, although the income is not yet up to pre-pandemic levels, **£32,108** was raised. The figure of **£15,607** for Donations includes donations for the two years – 2020-2022. Also fundraising events have increased during the year and have raised **£11,172**.

Volunteers work hard to look after the premises and to organise fundraising events and it is thanks to their efforts that the church's finances are better than originally forecast.

RESERVES

A Reserves Policy has been prepared. At 31 August 2022 the General Fund was **£50,595** and designated funds include **£10,000** for a future mission project at New Horizons and **£433** for the Christmas Day lunch. Restricted funds total **£2,784** - £535 in the Charity Fund and £2,249 given specifically for projects in the Wheelock community. A draft Budget for 2022/23 has been prepared and the forecasted figure for expenditure is **£106,000**. It is our policy to hold 50% of anticipated expenditure in our reserves.

THE FUTURE

The Circuit has agreed to reduce the Assessment by 25% for one year only, which will be a great help. Energy costs have not yet affected the church and, as the fixed-term gas and electricity contracts end dates are staggered between November 2022 and June 2024, the rise in costs, although significant, will be gradual. The forecasted budget for 2022/23 shows that we should break even, but the concern is that when the Circuit Assessment returns to 100% level in 2023/24 and the energy price rises start to take effect, the church will need to use its reserves, leaving nothing for new mission work.

DECLARATIONS

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature



Full name Jeremy Tresise

Position Chair

Date 11 January 2023

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

UNITY METHODIST CHURCH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

Cheshire South Methodist	Circuit	Circuit no.	11/8
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1173520

**If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and
Customs Gift Aid number**

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Rev Jeremy Tresise

Church Stewards:

Nilda Eyre

Cynthia Kelly

Ann Horsfield

Pauline Sherwin

Treasurer:

Ann Horsfield

**UNITY METHODIST
CHURCH**

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
			£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	1	49,899	1,204	51,103	60,597
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		233		233	53
a4	Lettings	2	32,108		32,108	21,713
a5	Other receipts	3	15,095	2,249	17,344	4,896
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		97,335	3,453	100,788 (a7)	87,259

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		61,243		61,243	61,243
b3	Donations	4	14,675	932	15,607	1,468
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	5	17,634		17,634	13,921
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	6	19,117		19,117	16,015
b6					0	
b7	Other payments	7	3,836		3,836	1,891
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		116,505	932	117,437 (b9)	94,537

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(19,171)	2,522	(16,649)	(7,278)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		77,456	263	77,719 (c6)	82,877
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	58,286	2,784	61,070	75,599
c4	Transfers and adjustments		2,742		2,742 (c7)	2,120
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	61,028	2,784	63,812 (c8)	77,719 (c6)

SECTION D				
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			
	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		0	0
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,778	150
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,778	150
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)	0	0

UNITY METHODIST CHURCH

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Sandbach Foodbank	1,872	8,711	(6,839)	(1,200)	20,947	12,907
e2 Wesley Guild	630	580	50	0	8	58
e3 Lifeline Debt Advice	1,600	977	623		2,988	3,611
e4 Bowling Club	0		0	(273)	273	0
e5 Ladies Circle	0		0	(1,542)	1,542	0
e6 Mums and Tots	496	353	143		743	887
e7			0			0
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	4,599	10,622	(6,023)	(3,015)	26,501 (e11)	17,463 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 1 - totals column)	100,788 (a7)	117,437 (b9)	(16,649)	2,742 (c7)	77,719 (c6)	63,812 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	105,387	128,059	(22,672)	(274)	104,220.53 (x)	81,275 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2022

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	2	0
f2 Bank Current Account	10,380	10,477
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	67,336	53,335
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	77,719 (c6)	63,812 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	26,501 (e11)	17,463 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	104,221 (x)	81,275 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	8,934,850	9,770,988
g3 Other Assets - Contents (Insurance Value)	201,815	186,965
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church **UNITY METHODIST** No 11/8

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer *Am Horsfield* Date *30/9/22*

Name and address of treasurer *MRS A. HORSFIELD*

31 FIELDS DRIVE, SANDBACH, Post Code *CW11 1YB*

Representation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on *12.01.23*

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Jeremi Trejise*

Name of the Chair of the meeting *JEREMI TREJISE* Date *12-1-23*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Unity Methodist Church

Charity Number 1173520

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **Unity Methodist Church** for the year ended **31 August 2022** set out on pages 2 to 3. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church **UNITY METHODIST CHURCH** No 1173520

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner PETER FRANK HITCHCOCK

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 11 COOKESYERE LANE

..... SANDS BATH Post Code CW11 1BQ

Date 29.12.22

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-22