



A brief overview for churches and circuits

"I have grown a lot closer to my church, especially the older people and I have realised how supportive it is." Katy

"The scheme was a great opportunity to meet with other young Christians and my faith was made stronger over the residential weekends." Gemma

"I really enjoyed the weekends as it meant I got to meet others of my age, learn new stuff, and generally just have a fun time! I also got to explore the inner me & expand my faith." Tim

The ONE Opportunity Programme gives young people aged 16-23 years the opportunity to be involved on a part-time basis in the development of the mission and ministry of their local church. It offers a salaried position of 3 hours per week (on average) on a one-year project that will enhance the life and mission of the church and enable the participant to work out their discipleship in new ways. The participants are supported by a district team of three staff – coordinator, administrator and presbyter.

The programme aims to:

- Provide an opportunity for young people to journey within an intentional community exploring together what it means to be a disciple.
- Create a space for participants to discover and take ownership of their own unique Christian identity.
- Generate expectancy within the church for young people to live out their faith and discern and use their gifts.
- Develop project in partnership with the participants that cross generations and influence their church.

It enables the participants to:

- Feel the value of being part of a Christian community.

- Feel accepted for who they are.
- Know their unique identity as a child of God.
- Know more about the wider Christian community and opportunities for serving Christ within it.
- Develop a spiritual toolkit, for prayer, engaging with scripture, discernment and reflection.
- Increase confidence in taking their place within their home church community.
- Become active in shaping their future discipleship.

It aims to help **participating churches** increase their confidence in nurturing young people as active disciples within their church family.

How does it work?

Each participant is part of a local team with a project enabler and a mentor from the local church or circuit. Project enablers support, guide and encourage the participant in their project. They also help liaise between the church and the young person and between the district team and the church. The mentor's role is to walk alongside the participant to help them develop in their personal journey and discipleship; allowing time for reflection on the project, the residential weekends, their faith and anything else they wish to discuss and share.

Alongside their paid hours all the participants attend an induction day and three residential weekends during the year, enabling them to be part of a community of young people learning and reflecting together.

How is the Programme funded and supported?

The funding for the programme is shared between the District and the participants' churches and circuits. The District funds the main running costs of the programme, including the salaries of the programme staff and participants. The cost of the weekend residentials is shared equally between the District, churches and circuits.

“One Opportunity is an exciting adventure for young people. It has proved itself to be an effective way to develop projects in the local church using the gifts and skills of young people and a path to stronger faith for all participants. It is a gift not to be missed.”

Revd Dr Roger Walton, Chair of District.

For more details and participant application pack please contact:

Nicky Hoyle, onecoordinator@ymethodist.org.uk Tel: 07305 822596

John Burland, oneadmin@ymethodist.org.uk Tel: 07400 601143

Or visit <http://yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk/mission-ministry/youth-and-children-s-work/one-opportunity-programme>