

ANGLICAN/METHODIST FORWARD FOR US (AMFU)

*A Declaration of Intent between the Witney & Faringdon Circuit, in the Oxford & Leicester District of
The Methodist Church and the Witney Deanery, of the Diocese of Oxford in the Church of England.*

As clergy and people of the Witney & Faringdon Circuit of the Oxford and Leicester District of The Methodist Church and the Witney Deanery of the Diocese of Oxford in the Church of England, we have, in many instances, grown closer together through prayer, worship and co-operation in our witness and mission. The sense of oneness in Christ has increased and we are looking forward to the time when we can more fully join in the life of each other's churches. The purpose of this declaration is, therefore, to encourage and enable the congregations of the Circuit and the Deanery to worship, work and witness together more effectively.

The Declaration

- We confess our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, according to the scriptures, and acknowledge our calling to serve His mission in the world.
- Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has made it possible for sinners to become reconciled to God; and in Jesus Christ unity has been offered to all people. Through the Word of God we are called into a new relationship with God and with one another as the children of God – a relationship inaugurated by baptism into Christ through the Holy Spirit, nurtured and deepened through the ministry of word and sacrament and expressed in a confession of one faith and a common life in loving service.
- We affirm that the fullness of life is to be found through participation, by grace, in the eternal life, which the Holy Trinity possesses by nature – a life of perfect communion in love. We give thanks for our common heritage and shared life, and the mutually enriching communion, which they bring. We acknowledge that our divisions are a betrayal of this calling and we therefore repent of all that is sinful in them.
- God invites us to partnership in his creative work of reconciliation and the establishment of his kingdom on earth. We share in this work through openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- As churches wishing to live as one in the power of the Holy Spirit.

WE THEREFORE COMMIT OURSELVES TO GROW TOGETHER IN WORSHIP, WORK AND WITNESS, AS WE MOVE TOWARDS FULL VISIBLE UNITY

We recognize that, for the present, clergy and congregations will retain their own traditions and that ministers will continue to be appointed according to denominational procedures. However, in recognising the importance of continuity we would encourage consultation with the partner denomination whenever a new ministerial appointment is to be made. We shall continue to explore ways of implementing and furthering the aims of this declaration through AMFU. Regular reports will be given to both Deanery Synod and Circuit Meetings. We shall continue to co-operate with Christians of other denominations within the area, and in particular, the various Churches Together groups, to seek and to encourage ecumenical development.

Signed..... Area Dean
Signed..... Anglican Lay Chair
Signed..... Circuit Superintendent
Signed..... Senior Circuit Steward
Signed..... Bishop of Dorchester'