

Road map to the Plan

All these challenges lead to the need for a radical rethinking of how Edinburgh delivers ministry and the ordinances of religion to the city.

The Strategy Team has scrutinised travel routes and public transport in the city, noting that, unlike in rural Presbyteries, most people in Edinburgh can easily access a congregation using public transport. Account has been taken of current parish populations and areas. In addition, the Strategy Team has reviewed how health, local government and national government are delivered in the city to help judge whether our plans are reasonable. *(Some of the information on which this Plan relies is reproduced in appendix 5.)*

Eighteen Cluster Groups were originally identified, and congregations began conversations. The clusters have reported, sometimes more than once, as they considered their mission priorities and developed ideas about their future. Some innovative ways of working were identified, and it is hoped that these suggestions will be implemented by congregations as they move forward. However, a more radical solution is required to get us to the number of posts we are permitted to deploy.

Mission is at the heart of all that we do, and we must think and act in a radical fashion. The Presbytery Planning Strategy Team began their work within the framework of the clusters but realised that for an effective radical mission plan to emerge, there was a need for a level of change and innovation that had not previously been envisioned. *Act 8, 2021* places the 5 Marks of Mission at its heart and also sets out a number of vital Secondary Principles; the proposed Mission Plan has been structured around both.

The 5 Marks of Mission

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth developed

The Secondary Principles

- Each community shall be served by a parish
- We will work Ecumenically
- We will have a priority for the Poor
- The Whole People of God will be encouraged and called out to exercise their gifts
- There will be worshipping, witnessing and serving Congregations within easy access of everyone in Edinburgh
- A mixed economy of existing Church structures and New Expressions of Faith will be encouraged
- Each Congregation must be financially viable and realistic
- Buildings must be “*well equipped spaces in the right places*”