

Healing Ministry Explored

Developing healing ministry in the life of the Church, and the Methodist Church in particular.

Session 1 Why healing ministry?

Facilitator's Notes

Learning Objectives for this session

1. To demonstrate that healing ministry is part of the normal ministry of the Christian Church
2. To respond to anxieties and concerns about healing ministry in the life of the church
3. To begin to develop a broad understanding of the concepts of health, healing, wholeness and suffering.

Powerpoints

There are powerpoints for each of the six sessions. Some of the slides have notes for the facilitator beneath the slide.

What the facilitator needs:

Essential: Flip chart paper and pens, lap top+ ppt projection facility, speakers, a Bible, a small basket, paper cut outs in shape of hands enough for each participant

Desirable : copies of *Methodist Worship Book* and *Encircled in Care* for reference; for the closing worship a central worship focus area.

Also for reference throughout the course : a copy of the book "*The Healing Touch of God*" by Peter Edwards is desirable but not essential. This course is based on the book which may be obtained for £5 plus p&p from the author at revpeteredwards@hotmail.com

Handout 1 : reflective log for making notes or keeping a reflective journal throughout the course.

Start Time and slide	Item	Facilitators' Notes
<p>00.00 Slide : Healing Ministry Explored Slide: Introduction/Welcome</p> <p>Slide: Welcome to Session 1 Why healing ministry?</p>	<p>1. Introductions, welcomes and domestic announcements.</p> <p>2. Group ground rule setting activity:</p> <p>Starter list might include: good listening, not interrupting, making space for all to contribute, respect for different opinions/theologies, confidentiality with usual safeguarding caveat, it's good to ask questions, mobile phones on silent</p>	<p>Explain that the purpose of this activity is to ensure that throughout this course the whole group takes responsibility to ensure that everyone is enabled to feel comfortable, contribute if they choose and have an effective learning experience.</p> <p>Begin by displaying some suggested ground rules on a flip chart, invite agreement or amendment and any additional contributions to the list. Explain that participants may request that the list be revisited at any time for further additions or reminders.</p> <p>Draw attention to the learning objectives for the session. These are at the beginning of the facilitators' notes for each session.</p>
<p>0.10 Slide: What is your experience of healing ministry?</p>	<p>(3) Ice breaker activity In pairs, people find out the other's name, where they are from and what is their experience of healing ministry.* The group reconvenes to hear each one introduce their partner to the group. The pairs then go back together each to identify one question, issue or concern, that they hope will be covered in the duration of the course. In plenary share this with the full group. Facilitator writes these up on a flip chart.</p>	<p>* Adapt to context. If participants are from the same church and know each other well, more time can be spent on their experience of healing ministry. If they are from different churches ensure they work with someone they don't know.</p> <p>The questions/issues/concerns list is likely to be an opportunity to show that others share similar fears or doubts. In most cases you will be able to reassure them that the course will provide a chance to explore these topics (you could refer to specific sessions if appropriate). If someone raises a topic that is not going to be covered be honest about this.</p>
<p>00.40 Slide Worship focus slide</p> <p>Slide: Mark 1:29-34</p>	<p>4. Devotions using Bible passage from Mark 1vv 29-34 and short prayer.</p>	<p>Explain that we will be using Bible study at frequent points in the course to give opportunity to explore key themes. Here the Bible passage serves to introduce us to the healing ministry of Jesus and to the nature of the course. In this session you may wish to lead in a short prayer but in later sessions it would be good to encourage group members to lead in prayer, beginning with those comfortable with doing this.</p>

<p>00.45 Slide Group Exercise</p> <p>Slide with questions for group exercise: What is healing/wholeness? What makes for healing and wholeness?</p>	<p>5. Word shower on what healing and wholeness mean and what makes for healing and wholeness – examples, definitions, component elements (Split into two groups working on each.) Each group writes up ideas on flip chart then is invited to share in plenary.</p>	<p>Depending on group size, you may give one word to each group, or both words, in which case they divide their flip chart sheet in two. The objective is to draw out words and ideas they associate with these concepts and to form a comparison between healing and wholeness. This will be revisited during the ppt presentation.</p>
<p>Slide: What the Methodist Church says about healing ministry</p> <p>Slide : quote from Methodist Worship Book</p> <p>Slide : Service for Healing and Wholeness</p> <p>Slide : 1977 Conference</p> <p>Slide : quote from 1977 Conference statement</p> <p>Slide : 1993 Conference</p> <p>Slide : 2010 Conference</p> <p>Slide : This course</p>	<p>6. Slide presentation with leader input to include:</p> <p>(a)The background to MCHW investment in this present resource and in Healing Ministry generally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paras 1 and 2 from an Order for Holy Communion for Healing and Wholeness, Methodist Worship Book page 407; • the 1977 Conference Statement; • Notice of Motion from Conference 2010 <p>- Session 5 more detail</p> <p>(b) Definitions and concepts of healing and wholeness</p>	<p>Key points Some statements of the Methodist Church on healing.</p> <p>Remind people that in session 4 we will be learning more about the history of healing ministry in Methodism. The liturgy in Methodist Worship Book illustrates the accepted place of healing ministry within the Methodist Church and offers a recommended form of service. The Methodist Church statements indicate a renewed interest.</p> <p>The Methodist Church is in line with other mainstream churches on healing such as the Church of England.</p> <p>Ref chapter 1 of P. Edwards, The Healing Touch of God</p> <p>Non-Methodist group may want to omit this section.</p> <p>Section (c) is in effect the learning contract with the group and hopefully encourages future attendance at <u>all</u> sessions.</p> <p>Section (c) locates interest in healing ministry in the context of contemporary Christianity.</p>

