



Discovering the Heart of God.  
Growing Disciples  
Reaching New Generations.  
Transforming Communities.  
Practising Generosity.

## **Criteria for Recognition as a Covenanted Parish in Shared Leadership**

### **1. AN AGREED VISION**

**What is the evidence that the local church, as represented by the PCC, is clear about its priorities for mission and the kind of ministry it needs to enable it to meet them?**

Has the church considered: in this place and at this time,

- What is God calling us to be?
- What is God calling us to do?

Is there a current Mission Action Plan that sums up these aims? How does the PCC keep this under review?

### **2. EVIDENCE OF OWNERSHIP**

**What evidence is there of a satisfactory level of awareness about and ownership of the new developments in the local church?**

Has the church considered:

- How to make sure the vision is shared as far as possible by the whole congregation?
- How the Mission Action Plan is communicated?
- How people are kept informed about what is happening?

### **3. PARTNERSHIP**

**What evidence is there that relationships between laity and clergy in the local church are based on partnership and expressed in collaborative ways of being the church together?**

For example: is there

- Sharing in the shaping of important priorities.
- Consultation at all levels?
- Good communication between groups and individuals

#### **4. EVERY-MEMBER MINISTRY**

**What is the evidence that the shared ministry of all Christians in both church and world contexts is being actively promoted and developed?**

For example: is there evidence of

- People being affirmed in the variety of skills they possess and encouraged to use their gifts?
- Attempts to help people discover their gifts and support in using them.
- Support of people in their daily lives?
- Growth of individuals through taking responsibility?

#### **5. HELPFUL STRUCTURES**

**What evidence is there for structures that model the shared approach to ministry and enable the people of the church to work together in ways that are mutually supportive?**

Is there is evidence of team-working? e.g.:

- Clarity about individual responsibilities
- Relationships between different groups in the church clearly worked out
- An effective PCC and/or PDT (Parish Development Team) with a clearly defined role and function

#### **6. A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

**What evidence is there that the church is providing a range of opportunities to draw people into fresh learning and growing, addressing 'being' as well as 'doing'?**

For example, is provision made for:

- Reflecting together on experience?
- Acknowledging failure as a potential growth point?
- Encouraging flexibility and openness to change?
- Continuing learning opportunities within the life of the church, both corporate and individual?
- Callings to further authorised ministry?