



*Living  
wholeheartedly  
as followers of  
Jesus for the  
transformation  
of the world.*

*“Living wholeheartedly as followers of Jesus for the transformation of the world.”* was adopted by Methodist Conference in 2021 as a vision statement for the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Methodists in Ireland are part of the worldwide church and share much in common with Christian churches around the world yet there are some things about the way that we live as followers of Jesus that are particularly significant.

Read on to learn more about some of the distinctives communicated by this phrase.

## LIVING WHOLEHEARTEDLY

A life lived wholeheartedly in relationship with Jesus is one where nothing is held back - faith in God isn't limited to a Sunday but is lived out every day in how we love God and love others.

*I am no longer  
my own but yours...*

*I freely and  
wholeheartedly yield  
all things to your  
pleasure and  
disposal.*

THE COVENANT PRAYER

## A commitment to live wholeheartedly will be seen:

- In how we passionately worship and pray.
- In our commitment to small group intentional discipleship. In attending to the means of grace.
- In our relationship with our families, our friends, our neighbourhoods and our communities.
- In how we engage with and learn from those with whom we partner around the world.
- In how we relate to the environment around us.
- In our thinking and attitudes, whether that's to politics or people with whom we differ, or on the moral and ethical issues of today.
- In how we engage with wider society which groans waiting for God's justice and mercy to be poured out.

The word "wholeheartedly" comes from a prayer of commitment that is prayed by most of our churches at the start of each new year - the Covenant Prayer.



---

## AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

**We grow together and are sent out as “followers” of Jesus in everyday life.**

*“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.*  
(Matthew 4: 19-20)

The first disciples responded to this call and set out on a journey of following Jesus. They spent weeks in his company as he brought life and healing to those that they encountered in villages and towns along the way.

The word “followers” was chosen for this statement to emphasise that it is of great significance to Methodist people that, like the first disciples of Jesus, “we help each other to be more like Jesus” (Methodist Church in Ireland Mission Commitments).

---

## FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

**God is already at work in the world, and it is up to us to join in – for the transformation of the world.**

Isn't “the transformation of the world” an enormous task? Yes! But all we do is only and always a response to what God has done first. Because of Jesus and in the power of the Spirit we live lives marked by God's love, mercy, and justice - all can glimpse what God's love looks like, and transformation take place.

Wesley spoke on how he viewed the world and his responsibility in it.

*The early Methodists were organised into small groups called “Bands” and “classes”, to learn together what it means to follow Jesus. Small groups remain central to the life of Methodist Churches today.*

*“I look upon all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that, in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation. This is the work which I know God has called me to; and sure I am, that His blessing attends it.”*

JOHN WESLEY

We look for and commit ourselves to being part of a world which, in every part, reflects the character of God - in whatever part of it we find ourselves.

## A REALITY FOR THE PEOPLE CALLED METHODIST

On Covenant Sunday 2022 the Secretary of Conference shared a dream that this statement wouldn't just be a vision statement, or a statement of hope, or an aspiration to which we hold, but in the Grace of God and in the power of the Spirit that it would be a reality for the people called Methodist and for God's glory!

Let's pray together that the spirit will bring new life so that we can take up the challenge of "Living wholeheartedly as followers of Jesus for the transformation of the world."



Watch the Covenant Sunday 2022 video at:

[IRISHMETHODIST.ORG/COVENANT-SUNDAY](https://IRISHMETHODIST.ORG/COVENANT-SUNDAY)

*On May 1738, at a meeting  
in Aldersgate Street,  
John Wesley encountered  
the power of the Holy  
Spirit and had a new  
experience of God's love.*

*He described this  
experience saying,  
"I felt my heart  
strangely warmed".*

*Wesley welcomed the  
ongoing work of the Spirit  
in the world, the church  
and in the life of  
Christians.*



*Further resources to support you as you take up the challenge of  
'living wholeheartedly' will be available throughout the year at:*

[IRISHMETHODIST.ORG/LIVING-WHOLEHEARTEDLY](https://IRISHMETHODIST.ORG/LIVING-WHOLEHEARTEDLY)