**Local Ecumenical Enabler: Full Time Role** DRAFTROLE DESCRIPTION (December 2023)

The role requires sensitivity to and enthusiasm for fostering ecumenical relationships for the furthering of God’s mission in our communities. Whilst it could be, there is no requirement for this role to be filled by an ordained minister.

There is excellent potential for this role to be funded in partnership with ecumenical partners, where we anticipate one of the participating denominations will take responsibility for the employment of the post holder and the other denominations will agree their contribution to the financing and managing of the post.

It is important that appropriate line-management is put in place. This will vary according to which denomination is involved but it would be essential to have an ecumenical reference group.

**Job Summary:** To undertake specific timed pieces of missional work in ecumenical situations, as directed by the ecumenical reference group in close consultation with ecumenical partners, and encourage the ecumenical partners in their ecumenical mission in a defined local area.

1. Developing targeted and time-limited (≤ 2 years) missional work in ecumenical situations:
   1. To work in a specific local context which would benefit from focused ecumenical work.
   2. Develop this missional context and build positive relationships between key partners.
   3. Using the Churches Together in England (CTE) Flexible Framework, and in partnership, develop both a missional vision and an approach to establish appropriate oversight of the ecumenical mission project(s) as required.
   4. Nurture and progress the new relationships and activities.
   5. Develop an end-of-term handover strategy to ensure sustainability.
2. Advancing ecumenical activity within the defined local area:
   1. To provide leadership, advice, information and training in ecumenical possibilities and to encourage the partner denominations to act, speak and pray ecumenically.
   2. Foster and support Local Ecumenical Partnerships in specific and identified ecumenical settings.
   3. Offer guidance within the defined local area to churches, congregations and ministers on ecumenical matters, working in conjunction with County and Denominational Ecumenical Officers.
   4. Embedding new ways of ecumenical co-operation, with particular reference to the CTE Flexible Framework document, the associated Toolkit, LEPs, and formal statements of ecumenical welcome.
   5. Encourage involvement in local Churches Together groups, local councils of churches or local missional unity groups.
3. Developing existing partnership relationships:

To develop and nurture existing working relationships between ecumenical partners, particularly those in formal LEPs, working towards greater understanding and co-operation.

1. Local ecumenical facilitation:
   1. Actively encourage engagement with ecumenical partners to build positive relationships between partner denominations/churches.
   2. Where relevant to specific and time-limited areas of work, the ecumenical enabler would develop and support local leadership in the defined area.
   3. Identify new areas of co-operation in mission.
2. Relating to regional level, e.g. URC Synod or Methodist District:
   1. Report to relevant regional bodies and committees as directed and agreed by line manager and ecumenical reference group.
   2. Attend and regularly report to relevant Synod/District and equivalent meetings as agreed.
   3. Communicate relevant information to local churches, sharing good news and opportunities.
3. Training and development:
   1. To stay up to date with contemporary ecumenical practice and developments by attending relevant CTE training and network meetings.
   2. To attend relevant training provided by other churches and agencies as appropriate.
   3. To undertake training required by the employing denomination including safeguarding.
4. Undertaking other appropriate duties as required by the line manager and ecumenical reference group.

**An Ecumenical Enabler: notes**

* This draft role description was drafted by the National Ecumenical Officers of the United Reformed Church, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union, the Salvation Army and the Church of England, and Churches Together in England’s Principal Officer for Ecumenical Development and Relations.
* It is offered as a potentially helpful tool, as local ecumenical partners work towards unity in mission
* This is not intended to be a prescriptive role description.
* Local ecumenical partners would be best-placed to identify which parts of the role are needed, and others may be added.
* Pay and expenses, contracts and policies would be organised locally (NEOs may in some cases be willing to offer advice / guidance).
* CTE’s Flexible Framework for Local Unity in Mission offers a Partnership Agreement that may be a helpful structure for this sort of ecumenical appointment (<https://cte.org.uk/working-together/local/a-flexible-framework-for-local-unity-in-mission/>).