

**Ecumenical County of Cumbria:
A Declaration of Intent by the Methodist, United Reformed and Anglican Churches**

With the whole Christian Church, we believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We share a life of faith which is the Spirit's gift, continually received through the Word, the Sacraments and our Christian life together.

We believe that we are being called by God to realise more deeply our common life and mission, to share and respect the distinctive contributions of our traditions, and to bring about closer collaboration in all areas of witness and service.

We commit ourselves and our churches:

- a. to seek out every possible opportunity for joint initiatives at Local and County Level in mission to all the people of Cumbria.
- b. to work together to equip both lay and ordained ministry whenever possible, and to share that ministry wherever appropriate.
- c. to continue the work of developing strategies whereby we optimise the use of our church buildings for the benefit of communities throughout the county.

We believe that God has given our three churches a particular opportunity to work together more closely.

We also affirm our intention to go on praying and working, with all our fellow Christians, for the visible unity of the Church in the way Christ chooses, so that people may be led to love and serve God more and more.

Rt. Rev. James Newcome
Anglican Bishop of Carlisle

Rev. Richard Teal
Methodist Chair of Cumbria

Rev. Richard Church
Moderator, North Western
Synod of the United Reformed Church

Ambleside, Advent Sunday, 27th November 2011