

MISSION SUPPORT TEAM (MTS)

Membership...

A Mission Support Team consists of all those licensed by the bishop whether ordained for local ministry or stipended ministry and Licensed Lay Ministers. Members of the Mission Support Team (MST) may also serve on other church councils.

Role...

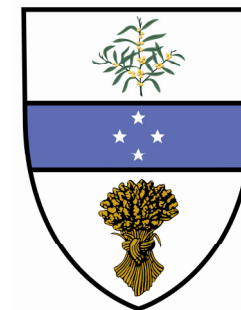
To share the joy of communicating Jesus to others – within and without the church, by

- ⇒ exercising the role of shared leadership in mission collaboratively
- ⇒ becoming a learning community (through Living & Learning Together), focussing its learning on developing and exercising the skill of theological reflection, deepening understanding of the scripture, developing practical ministry skills, deepening the understanding of how the church is to be, enabling worship that relates life with the holy, etc.
- ⇒ hold the mission up as the primary focus
- ⇒ take a mutual responsibility for the exercise of all roles within the MST (no individual is solely responsible for a role)
- ⇒ discerns collectively (along with the whole body-of-Christ) the mission to which God is calling the church
- ⇒ mutually support each other in the exercise of individuals roles
- ⇒ be mutually accountable to each other for the role that is exercised
- ⇒ pray together

Oversight...

The bishop while exercising overall oversight shares that role with the Ministry Development Officer and the Ministry District Priest, Priest in Charge or Parish Priest, depending on local circumstances.

Diocese of Willochra



Mission Support Teams

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BACKGROUND

We aspire to be a Diocese where...

Each congregation is a self-sustaining unit of the Church of God where the Sacraments are celebrated and the Word proclaimed, where each member's gifts are recognized and their ministries encouraged, and where the love and care within the congregation spread out to the community beyond so that Christ's love will be experienced and known by all.

Leadership...

The early church recognised that there were amongst them those especially gifted by God to carry out certain roles on behalf of the gathered community, the church. These roles included oversight, presiding at the Eucharist (Holy Communion), leadership, ministry to those in need, teaching and administration.

Leadership was exercised collaboratively according to the gifts that were given by God through the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Individuals fulfilled roles according to the anointing of God for that role discerned by the people of God, the church.

In the Diocese of Willochra Collaborative Leadership is exercised through Mission Support Teams. These Teams are an integral part of being Ministering Communities in Mission.

The pamphlets *Licensed Lay Ministers* and *Local Authorisation of Ministry* and the booklet *Called to Ministry: The Discernment Process in the Diocese of Willochra 2014* contain important information in relation to these matters.

LEADERSHIP IN MISSION

Whose mission...

Tim Dearborn wrote:

The Church of God does not have a mission in the world; the God of Mission has a Church in the world.

Recent theology has regained an understanding that the Church exists to fulfil God's purpose. The Church does not exist to meet its own internal needs but the needs of the whole of God's created order.

What mission?

Firstly, as God's Church in the world, we need to become aware of what it is that God is doing within our local context:

- ⇒ what human capacity do we have – what gifts do the people of God, in this part of the Church, have for ministry?
- ⇒ what are the local needs that are not being met?

