

PREPARED Urban Mission

PREPARED is a lay-leadership training programme for people living and worshipping in urban priority communities. It has been developed to offer a contextual learning pathway which operates through learning hubs across the Diocese of Bristol. Each hub holds a maximum of twelve participants, meeting weekly during term-time, to explore and develop leadership skills through the three modules of Personal Transformation, Mission and Evangelism, and Leadership.

At PREPARED our ultimate vision is to raise up **healthy leaders ministering in healthy churches in every community of poverty**. Following completion of the programme most of the PREPARED participants will be commissioned as **Urban Missioners** and ultimately minister in some area of **community engagement**. Effective community engagement is a vital component of urban ministry, as it enables leaders to understand and address the unique needs of each community collaboratively. Our participants are trained contextually in their own communities where they already understand the culture and speak the language of that community. The mission they engage in adapts its approaches to fit the specific, complex cultural, social, and economic context of that community, rather than using a one-size-fits-all strategy.

The role of **Urban Missioner** can be defined as: one who lives, works and serves within an urban community to build long-term relationships, providing social support whilst sharing the good news of the life transforming Gospel of Jesus.

Urban mission is a form of ministry that focuses on *serving people living in urban areas*, with the hope of seeing transformation. Urban mission combines ministry with social action, serving the marginalized and vulnerable, to address unique challenges of urban life such as poverty, inequality, and social justice.

At the heart of urban mission are a set of core values that guide those who are called to this work. These values include: Compassion, Justice, Empowerment, Community, Partnership.

By embracing these values, urban mission leaders can create lasting change that addresses the root causes of poverty and social injustice, rather than simply treating the symptoms.

We firmly believe that God's church is the true source of hope and transformation for those in need. It's through the church that we can develop the most effective compassion, justice, empowerment, and community, creating lasting change and building a better future for all.

Rev Michelle Taylor, PREPARED Programme Developer and Leader