



To: All Ministers in a pastorate, Retired Ministers, Church representatives, Synod/United Area Leaders, Administrators & Treasurers, Local Church Leaders, Fury representatives, Synod Staff, Co-opted members, Students and Observers

22 February 2016

Dear Friends

Lenten seasonal greetings to you.

I look forward to your gracious presence at the Eighth Southern Synod Together Meeting on **Saturday 12 March 2016 from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm at East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon CR0 5LP.**

In this meeting, we hope to reflect and discern together Missional Discipleship and it is with much delight that we will have The Revd Richard Church, the URC Deputy General Secretary, Discipleship as the Guest Speaker.

A major paper will also be presented by our Synod's Ministries Committee after which we will break into small groups to discuss.

As has become our practice, the Agenda and other Papers will be sent to you electronically unless you do not have an email address. The Papers will also be on the Synod website www.urcsouthern.org.uk

With this calling letter is the Minutes of the meeting held at St Andrew's URC, Cheam in October 2015 and the text of the Revd John Proctor's presentation on the theme of that meeting **"What is the Spirit really saying to the Churches?"**

Please note the following:

- 1) As you are probably aware, East Croydon Church is very close to **East Croydon railway, tram and bus stations** to which there are very good services from many parts of the Synod. (As you exit the station you will come into the tram stop with the Bus station on your left, cross to the other side of the road, turn left and walk for about 150 metres; turn right into Addiscombe Grove and the Church is immediately on your left - just about 2 or so minutes' walk).
- 2) Car parking on the Church site is limited but reserved parking spaces will be available for those who are disabled or who really need it. If you wish to apply for one of these spaces, **please let me know by Friday, 4 March at the latest so that appropriate arrangements can be made.**
- 3) There will be no Children's and Youth Event at this meeting. Also, there will be no facilities for looking after young children.

- 4) Registration will be in the David Sweet Hall, which is at the back of the church. Tables will be set with names in alphabetical order for this purpose.
- 5) Voting cards will be given at the registration desk.
- 6) A voluntary contribution of £2 will be welcomed to assist with the cost of pre-meeting coffee, lunchtime soup and afternoon tea at the close of Synod. Please note that the pre-meeting coffee/tea will be served between 9.30 am and 10.15 am.
- 7) PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR SANDWICHES!!!

It is important I mention that your presence throughout the day is essential as we all strive as pilgrims in our discipleship to reflect and discern together what the Spirit says. "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another." (Hebrews 10 verse 25).

Finally, please send in your apology if you are unable to attend; this will assist in estimation of numbers for catering purposes.

I look forward to your attendance and active participation.

Please pray for our gathering.

Yours in Christ

Derrick

Revd Derrick Sena Dzandu-Hedidor
Synod Clerk

***** Please send your apology and car park space request or any other requests to Lauren Kane - office@urcsouthern.org.uk - as soon as possible. Thank you.**