

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

1st March 2018

Dear Friend

**2018 Spring Synod Together Meeting
Saturday 10 March 2018 10.30 am to 4.30 pm
at East Croydon URC, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon CR0 5LP**

Lenten seasonal greetings to you; I hope your journey through Lent, thus far, is going well. Also, I hope the freezing weather since the past week has not had any bad effect on you. Grace, mercy and peace to you.

As has been announced throughout your Synod/United Area, the 2018 Spring Synod Together Meeting is upon us as detailed above. In Hebrews 10 verse 25 it is written: "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...". I, therefore, look forward to your gracious presence and stay throughout the day as we reflect and discern together what the Spirit is saying to us in Southern Synod Together.

I now write to you about several practical matters:

1. East Croydon URC 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 under 5 minutes' walk).
2. Car parking on the Church site is limited but reserved parking spaces will be available for those who are "Blue Badge" holders or who really need it. If you wish to apply for one of these spaces, **please let my PA Lauren Kane know by Wednesday, 7 March at the latest on office@urcsouthern.org.uk** 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. All Ministers in active service, church representatives, Synod/United Area Leaders, Administrators and Treasurers, Local Church Leaders, Children and Youth representatives, Synod Staff, and co-opted Synod Together members are voting members. Retired Ministers, Students and Observers are not allowed to participate in decision-making but are welcome to speak.
5. Registration will be in the David Sweet Hall, which is at the back of the church and will be done in Synod/United Areas for Ministers and church representatives. All others should please check the allocated tables.
6. Voting cards will be given at the registration desk.
7. A voluntary contribution of at least £2 will be welcomed to assist with the cost of pre-meeting coffee, lunchtime soup and afternoon tea, biscuits and cakes at the close of Synod.
8. **Please don't forget to bring your lunch!!!** Soup, tea and coffee will be provided.
9. The theme for this meeting is '**Children Save the World**'. Miss Hannah Jones, Moderator of the URC Youth Assembly, who is also a member of our Synod, will present this in the afternoon session.

Synod Moderator	The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith	020 8688 3730	moderator@urcsouthern.org.uk
Synod Clerk	The Revd Derrick Dzandu-Hedidor	020 8688 3730	synodclerk@urcsouthern.org.uk
Synod Treasurer	Mr John Denison	01737 554 260	treasurer@urcsouthern.org.uk

10. Finally, please let us know if you will not be able to attend by sending your **apologies** indicating clearly whether you are a minister, church representative etc. and your church to Lauren Kane on office@urcsouthern.org.uk

I need to remind all Ministers, church representatives and Area officers that we rely on you to read the papers and take note of information to relay back to your various areas, please. We all must ensure appropriate flow of information from Synod Together to local churches and committees.

Please keep praying for this meeting.

Yours in Christ

Derrick

Revd Derrick Sena Dzandu-Hedidor
Synod Clerk

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