

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.

27 September 2019

Dear Friend

2019 Autumn Synod Together Meeting
Saturday 12 October 2019 10.30 am to 4.30 pm
at Reigate Park URC, Park Lane East, Reigate, Surrey RH2 8BD

Grace, mercy and peace to you.

Moderator Nicola and I look forward to welcoming you to the 2019 Autumn Synod Together Meeting at Reigate Park Church. Your gracious presence and stay throughout the day both enriches the work in the Synod and the time of discerning together what the Spirit will say and lead us to as we continue to 'Walk the Way'.

The theme for this Meeting is **Endings and Beginnings**.

This is the Revd Nicola Furley-Smith's last Synod as she moves on after 8½ years as Moderator. In the afternoon Session, from 2:30 pm, there will be a Service of Thanksgiving and Farewell to celebrate Nicola's ministry as our Southern Synod Moderator. You are cordially invited to stay through and join in the refreshment after the Service.

Here are some practical matters for your attention:

1. A map giving travel directions to Reigate Park Church is attached.
2. The church has car parks on either side of the main building with disabled spaces near the entrances. There are ramps for easy access and disabled toilet facilities. There is also a loop system. Cyclists are catered for, with parking rails right next to the main entrance.
3. You will be directed to the Registration points which will be done in Synod/United Areas for Ministers, Local Church Leaders and church representatives. All others should please check the allocated tables.
4. Voting cards will be given at the registration desk.
5. 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.
6. Alongside the Synod Together Meeting will be Youth Event themed **Unite: It matters to me!** This is free for young people aged 11-17. Participants will need to bring their own packed lunch and must arrange their own transport to and from Reigate Park Church. Details of this are included in the Papers sent to you.
7. There will be no Children's Event at this meeting. Also, there will be no facilities for looking after young children.
8. 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 members are voting members.

9. Retired Ministers, Students and Observers are welcome to speak but are not allowed to participate in decision-making.
10. 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 Opuene Charles on office@urcsouthern.org.uk
11. Finally, **don't forget to bring your lunch!!!** Soup, tea and coffee will be provided.

May I remind all attending that we rely on you to read the papers before coming and, whilst at the meeting to take note of information to relay back to your various areas, committees and local congregations, please.

We continue to look for new opportunities to be transformed by the Gospel in our Synod and this Meeting, with the theme **"Endings and Beginnings"** will, undoubtedly, assist us all develop further our Synod's vision and strategy as we keep "Walking the Way – Living the life of Jesus today."

Please pray for this meeting.

Yours in Christ



Revd Derrick Sena Dzandu-Hedidor
Synod Clerk