

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.

Dear Friend

2021 Spring Together Meeting
Saturday 13 March 2021 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
'Virtual Meeting' via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81379829210?pwd=bTkyQnJWZHJwY3BUVDMrExoZUZhdz09>

Meeting ID: 813 7982 9210
Passcode: 360768

Grace, mercy and peace to you.

It is a joy to invite you to attend the 2021 Spring Synod Together Meeting.

This time last year we had to make the difficult last-minute decision to cancel the Spring Synod Together meeting as a result of the growing threat from Covid-19. 12 months later it is still not possible for us to meet together in person. Fortunately, many of us have got used to coping with online meetings and are thankful that modern technology enables us to further the life of the Southern Synod during these challenging times. So, as with the Autumn 2020 meeting, the Synod Officers have arranged to hold a 'virtual' meeting of Synod Together via Zoom.

Please note that, in order to complete our necessary business in 2 sessions, ending the meeting at 1pm, we plan to start the meeting promptly with business beginning at 10.00am. We therefore need people to register for the meeting from 9.30am onwards. Please read the enclosed paper "Guide to Synod Together Meeting" as this gives details of the timetable for registration (ie. 9.30-9.45am registration of voting members; 9.45-10.00 registration of non-voting members). Also please follow the advice about entering your full name and the means of identifying yourself as a voting or non-voting member.

Please also read the paper "Guide to using Zoom for Synod Together Meeting" which offers practical advice on how best to use the features of Zoom to enable us to have as productive a meeting as possible.

It is also vital that you read the accompanying papers prior to the meeting. Most of the papers are provided for information rather than discussion. Therefore, please follow the request in "Guide to Synod Together Meeting" concerning asking questions of the person responsible for the paper prior to the meeting.

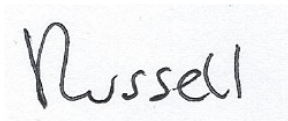
You will notice that the theme running through most of our business is 'Caring for...'. Last March we had hoped to take as our main theme 'One World, God's World', with a strong environmental emphasis. Aspects of that theme are being picked up in our meeting this Spring, along with other ways in which we seek to show God's care in action.

We are grateful for those with the necessary technical expertise who are making this meeting possible. Please be patient and gentle with all participants, including the Moderator and Synod Clerk, as we facilitate this important meeting.

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

Despite the limitations of meeting 'virtually', I pray that the continuing work of the United Reformed Church in Southern Synod will be blessed through our meeting together online and we will, through our meeting, give God glory.

Yours in Christ,



Rev'd Russell Furley-Smith, Synod Clerk

1st March 2021