



Southern Synod
Autumn Synod Together Meeting, Saturday 8th October

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,

2022 Autumn Synod Together Meeting
Saturday 8th October 2022. 10.30 am to 4.00 pm
at Reigate Park URC, Park Lane East, Reigate, RH2 8BD

Grace, mercy and peace to you.

It gives me great joy to invite you to attend, in person, the meeting of Synod Together on Saturday 8th October 2022 at Reigate Park United Reformed Church.

Please be aware there is a train strike scheduled to take place on the day of the meeting. We appreciate this will make it difficult for many people to attend but we have decided, given the nature of this meeting, to go ahead in person. This will mean an increase in people traveling to the meeting by car. With the URC's commitment to reducing carbon emissions in mind, where possible, please car share with others from your area. The meeting will be streamed live on YouTube so that those unable to attend will at least be able to view proceedings. It won't be possible to be actively involved in the meeting online (viewers will not be able to address the meeting or vote) but we hope you will benefit from at least viewing it. To view the meeting on YouTube please use this link: <https://youtu.be/oyVhvrCoc6Y>. The link is repeated at the foot of the agenda.

We are extremely grateful to the Local Church Leader and Elders and others at Reigate Park for making this meeting possible.

When you arrive at the venue, 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.

Voting cards will be given at the registration desk.

A voluntary contribution of at least £2 will be welcomed to assist with the cost of pre-meeting coffee, lunchtime soup, and afternoon tea, bubbly and cakes at the close of Synod.

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. Others, including Retired Ministers, Students and Observers, are welcome and will be able to address the meeting but are not allowed to participate in decision-making.

Please let us know if you will not be able to attend by sending your apologies as soon as possible, indicating clearly whether you are a minister, church representative etc. and your church to Lauren King on modpa@urcsouthern.org.uk

Please, don't forget to bring your lunch. Soup, tea and coffee will be provided.

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A bookstall selling URC diaries, prayer handbooks and a selection of merchandise from the URC bookshop will be running on the day. Please bring cash for any purchases you may like to make.

The theme of the meeting is '50 Years of the United Reformed Church'. You will notice the agenda is different from usual Synod Together agendas. We have reduced the business portion as we want this meeting to be an opportunity for celebration and reflection. So as always, I urge you to read all the reports and papers before attending the meeting as well as taking notes of information to report back on to your various areas, committees and local congregations. If you have any detailed questions about any of the reports or paperwork, please can I urge you to address specific questions to those responsible for producing the reports prior to the meeting. There will only be limited time for discussion and questions regarding reports on the day.

In July, the Moderator sent a letter out to local churches asking three questions:

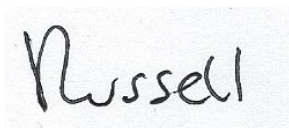
- 1) If you could make one change to your local church what would it be?
- 2) How could Synod help your church to grow in the next 10 years?
- 3) What hopes do you have for the future of the URC?

We hope you have had an opportunity to discuss these in your local churches and are prepared to feedback during the afternoon session as well as sharing any good news stories.

Enclosed with the papers are a sheet of pen portraits, please share them with any children aged between 0-12 in your church this Sunday and sent them back to Tom cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk by Wednesday 5th October.

I look forward to being with you as we celebrate the last 50 years of the United Reformed Church and pray that the continuing work of the United Reformed Church in Southern Synod will be blessed through our meeting together and we will, through our meeting, give God glory.

Yours in Christ,



Rev'd Russell Furley-Smith

Synod Clerk

29th September 2022