Dear Friends, August 2024

We look forward to welcoming you to the autumn Representative Session of the Yorkshire North and East District Synod on Saturday 7th September.

This Synod is going to be in a hybrid format: on-site at **Huntington Methodist Church, York**, and online via Zoom. ***Please be aware of the venue change.***

Parking at this venue is limited. There is space for 6 cars outside of the church, and 13 assigned spaces in the car park at the Memorial Hall which will be prioritised for those who have limited mobility. Please email the District Office (admin@yorkshirenemethodist.org) with the registration plate of your car if you will be needing these spots. Otherwise please park sensibly on the street and lift share if possible.

Representatives are invited to choose whether to be on-site at Huntington or online. We invite those not coming to Huntington to consider the possibility of meeting together with others locally.

For those attending at Huntington, please sign up here so we know numbers: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/september-synod-in-person-attendence-tickets-1001096074307?aff=oddtdtcreator>

For those attending on zoom, here is the link: <https://zoom.us/j/91252941851?pwd=Oama1RkzZY01yY2bd9AVXducPemzDB.1>

The Synod will begin at 9.30am and we aim to conclude by 12.30pm. A draft agenda is attached. Refreshments will be available at Huntington from 9am and through the morning. Representatives are welcome to stay afterwards to eat a packed lunch. Please bring a mug with you.

Synod papers will be available on the District website at: [www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/district/synods](http://www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/district/synods) or can be requested to be emailed directly, or printed and posted, by contacting the District Office at admin@yorkshirenemethodist.org or by phoning/texting 07539 027151.

The Synod needs to appoint three ministerial and one lay representative to the 2025 Conference.

A nomination paper is attached with further details. The nomination form can be found by clicking here. Please return completed nomination forms by Monday 2nd September.

We are delighted to be welcoming Katie Bradley from ‘Place for Hope’ (www.placeforhope.org.uk) who, with the Revd Graham Jones, will lead a session entitled: ‘How can we flourish in times of tension and conflict?’ Katie is Manager of the ‘Way of Peace’ programme (www.placeforhope.org.uk/support/methodist-church-way-of-peace) which is being run in partnership with our Learning Network. Our District is part of the first phase of introducing this Reconciliation and Mediation programme across the Connexion. Katie will share more about how this can help us in our life together and, with Graham, will enable us to reflect on how conflict

can be used positively in ways that help to develop strong, growing and missional communities.

In calling you to Synod, it is also our responsibility to remind you, as required by Conference, that *“every presbyter and every deacon who is not a supernumerary, and every presbyteral and diaconal probationer, unless, in any case, excused by dispensation of the Chair, is required to attend the Synod of which he or she is a member and to remain throughout its sessions. A dispensation of absence is to be given only on compelling grounds.”* This also applies to Recognised and Regarded ministers.

Supernumerary Ministers and Ministers Authorised to Serve are welcome to attend the Representative Synod, but do not need a dispensation of absence if unable to attend. Lay members of Synod who are unable to attend are asked to notify the Synod Secretary via the District Office and to let their Circuit-meeting elected substitute have their Synod Papers.

We look forward to worshipping and reflecting together.

With best wishes,

*Leslie Newton*  *Emma Crippen*

Chair of District Synod Secretary