



The  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

**Yorkshire Synod**  
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**To All Members of Synod**

September 2021

Dear Member of Synod,

**Meeting of Synod on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 6.30pm and on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 10.00am.**

Attached (or enclosed if you have requested physical papers) are your invitation to and literature for the next meeting of the Yorkshire Synod which will be chaired by the Moderator, The Rev Jamie Kissack. The invitation to Synod is extended to anyone from our churches who wishes to attend so please pass on this to those who would be interested.

This meeting is different, as I explained in the earlier communication, in that this Synod meeting will be a two-fold one. As we emerge from the past year and a half from the restrictions caused by the on-going Covid-19 pandemic the means by which we have met as Synod have been fluid to say the least. From having to cancel the March 2020 meeting, to the wholly digital meetings of October 2020 and March 2021, this autumn's meeting will be another step into the unknown. Therefore, in a similar way to the Synod in March 2021 we are splitting the meeting; one part online using the "Zoom" digital conferencing platform, the other part being a physical meeting to be held at Longcauseway church in Dewsbury. I am extremely grateful to the Elders and Members of Longcauseway for allowing Synod to use their premises. Following the success of digital literature being sent out to a selected group of Synod members this means of sending out information and literature for these meetings has now become the default, so if you require hard copy please contact the office at the number above, or e-mail [office@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:office@urcyorkshire.org.uk).

The first part Synod will go live on Zoom from 6.00pm on Thursday 7th October on this link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83789751572?pwd=S1p5ZTVwa3hXcFhSaE1tV1hTRDhudz09>  
Meeting ID: 837 8975 1572, Passcode: 308041.

The meeting is due to start at 6.30pm and I hope we will be able to conclude no later than 9.00pm. Items for the agenda include Legacies of Slavery/Anti-racist church being presented by the URC's equalities team, the Synod's response to the Ministers' Pensions challenge and the challenges presented by the URC's Jubilee 2022 programme. I invite those full members of Synod to amend their names on Zoom prior to the meeting by placing a V in front of it, and this will also be used to discern those eligible to vote as well as aiding the collation of the attendance roll.

The second part is at Longcauseway church, Dewsbury, will commence at 10.00am and finish by 1.15pm or thereabouts, and will be very much worship orientated. It will allow our "new" Moderator to lead worship in person (at last) and it will allow members of Synod the opportunity to renew and to make new friendships in a real setting rather than in a digital one. The agenda will include a follow-up to Thursday's Jubilee 2022 challenge discussion, we will be invited to adopt a formal Synod Environmental policy, we will be kept abreast of the Synod's IT strategy and we will have the opportunity to receive all our committees' reports, the 2022 budget and all the other regular items

which makes Synod what it is. The day is a shorter one than usual as catering at present is an area yet to return to the same levels as 2019. However, refreshments will be available at the start and at the end of the meeting. In your literature you will find a directions letter to help you on your journey to Longcauseway, an expenses form which you can either return digitally or fill in and leave in the designated boxes at Longcauseway, and all expenses will be paid by BACS. One thing that is slightly different is that Synod Representatives will be issued with a coloured voting card on arrival at Longcauseway. For those unable to attend and would like to watch the proceedings live, this will be available on this YouTube link: <https://bit.ly/urcyorkshireyoutube>

As you will see from the accompanying agenda the format may look like we haven't changed much in the way we do things, but there are some subtle changes. Although there are two sessions, the emphasis this time has been placed firmly on worship, so the business sessions this autumn are being kept to a minimum. The Synod Council report will expand on this and will introduce those areas that do attract resolutions. Key areas are the Synod's response to the Ministers' Pension Fund challenge, the adoption of a Synod Environmental Policy and the creation of two joint committees with Northern Synod.

We would welcome any feedback after the events to see how you have fared with this hybrid version of Synod. Suggestions on how we may improve in the future would be useful; whether a split meeting is to Synod's taste, or whether we return to a whole day format (public health status permitting). Whatever the case I am already planning where we may look to meet in March 2022.

Finally, please pray for those preparing for the meeting as well as the Moderator and others who will present reports and resolutions during the day. I look forward to seeing you on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October.

*Tim Crossley*

Synod Clerk