

Dear Church Council members,

Firstly, a very big thank you to everyone who was able to attend (in person or via Zoom) the meeting held at Emmanuel on January 15th, when the CLT presented to all Northampton Methodist Church Councils the proposal to rationalise Governance by the formation of one church, Northampton Methodist Church, made up of Worshipping Communities on many sites. Hopefully, you found it a useful and informative meeting as you seek to engage with the issues facing your church and the Northampton Circuit.

You will find attached with this letter a range of documents to assist you in making a decision about whether you wish your church to become a Worshipping Community within Northampton Methodist Church. The Property and Resources Audit (PRAG) report is included, as it provides the benchmark information which is behind the many discussions we have had over the last two years. Although now slightly out of date, it bears re-reading, as a reminder of where your church was in late 2019, and how the situation may have changed.

Also included is the presentation which began the January 15th meeting, which outlines the rationale behind the Governance proposal and provides some basic information.

The questions you asked and the answers given are also included. We have endeavoured to give an answer to all of the questions asked, and in many cases have provided additional detail. However, this is a work in progress, an evolving process; the proposed Northampton Methodist Church Council may choose to move forward a little differently; and some questions cannot be answered with any certainty at this stage.

In addition, you will find a new document, containing a number of resolutions concerning the establishment of Northampton Methodist Church – a Multi-Site church. These must be considered by each Church Council and should be voted for en-bloc.

Hopefully, all of these documents will help you when you meet as individual Church Councils to decide whether or not you wish to be part of Northampton Methodist Church. It would be helpful if you could read them before your meeting.

As was stated at the meeting, the proposal to create Northampton Methodist Church is for Governance purposes, a pragmatic proposal to enable us to make the best use of scarce resources (including our time, our energy, our skills) and free us to focus these on Mission, especially with reference to 'Our Calling'. As we move on in our journey to Reimagine the Circuit, the rationalisation of Governance is one of three aspects which will help us to do

this; the other two being Mission Planning and the use of Property & Financial Resources All are equally important to ensure a distinctly Methodist voice is still heard in this area.

We recognise the challenges faced by many churches in this circuit, and for some the Reimagine process is yet one more challenge. But the fact remains that, like it or not, we cannot continue as we are, especially post Covid. A number of churches may face difficult decisions in the near future. The need to Cast the Net on the Other Side remains an imperative. We believe the formation of Northampton Methodist Church is one step on the journey, enabling us to work together more effectively, pooling our resources and expertise, supporting one another and enabling us to better focus on making disciples and growing as disciples.

We are encouraging Church Councils to meet by the end of February, if at all possible, to vote on the resolutions described above in order to enable the formation of Northampton Methodist Church – a Multi-Site Church. In order to ensure at least two of Rev Speirs, Keith Brooks or Pam Kirkland are present at the meeting, please copy them in when setting the date and time of this meeting.

Do get in touch if you have any further questions.

Best wishes,

Circuit Leadership Team

Acts 2 v 44 - 47

1 Corinthians 12 v 5 – 7, 12, 25 -27

Rev Speirs: david.speirs@methodist.org.uk

Keith Brooks: w.keith.brooks@ntlworld.com

Pam Kirkland: chelsea14458@gmail.com