

# WHAT IS A SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE?



## A Synod Rep is like a bridge – you'll be connecting your local church to URC Mersey Synod.

You'll discover important Synod information which you'll want to share with your fellowship. You can also feedback your church news to the wider Synod body... which will inspire other churches too. Attending Synod gives you the opportunity of learning about the wider church and what other communities are involved with.

### WHAT DOES BEING A SYNOD REP INVOLVE?

You'll be expected to attend Synod around three times a year – the main two Synods in March and October and a more informal Summer Synod. At Synod meetings you'll be chatting with other Reps, along with church ministers and staff. There's worship and food too! All good!

### WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF IT?

Along with the companionship of others, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing you're serving God in this vital communications role.

### PRACTICALITIES

Travel expenses will be paid for attending Synod meetings, though we encourage Synod representatives / Ministers to car-share whenever possible. If you have access to the internet, we'd love to add you to our e-newsletter, as well as other relevant emails.

A broad range of ages, gender, and experience is encouraged.

# SYNOD MEETINGS



At Synod meetings you will:

- share the aspirations and needs of your church
- act as a link between your church and Synod
- consider and discuss opportunities and challenges facing the church as a whole
- reflect, pray and vote on matters raised by Synod committees and by local churches.

## PREPARATION

We'll send you information about the Synod meeting well before the day so you can read and consider the issues in advance. Where appropriate it might be helpful to **discuss, in person or via email, these at your elders' or church meetings beforehand**, so you can bring any concerns, ideas and views of your church to the Synod meeting. You'll also want to ensure that the needs of your church are made known to the Synod, so chatting with others before is a good idea.

## AFTER SYNOD

Equally crucial will be **gathering important information, resources and news at Synod** to share with your church via church and elders' meetings, the church newsletter and in general conversation. Don't worry, we send out summary notes after Synod to help you.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more contact Rita on [synodclerk@urcmerseysynod.org.uk](mailto:synodclerk@urcmerseysynod.org.uk) or to become a Synod Rep, speak to your church Minister or Secretary as soon as possible.

## YOUR INVOLVEMENT AT SYNOD MEETINGS

You'll listen and reflect on the business in hand, offer insights, and discern the leading of the Holy Spirit in the Synod meeting. You'll be representing your church, so where proposals are put forward by Synod committees for decision, we ask that you:

- listen to the pros and cons of the discussion/issue
- contribute to the discussion
- pray for the Spirit's guidance
- then vote (having heard the views of your church before attending and then listening to the debate on the day.)

Praying before voting would be good as you will be a representative not a delegate. That means you aren't bound by the views of your church or elders' meeting but, having taken those into account AND listened to the debate, you will vote as you feel the Holy Spirit is guiding you.

*If you are unable to attend a meeting please send a representative in your place.*