

## **Notes of Synod Proceedings Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

Synod was held at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

Faith Nyota welcomed everyone to Synod which also celebrates 20 yrs since the inception of the London District.

Tony Miles welcomed everyone on behalf of Methodist Central Hall.

Opening Worship was led by Ian Worsfold & Paul Wood.

During a time of praise everyone was encouraged to help create a wall of celebration thinking of what we are thankful for in our churches, circuits and lives.

### **Introductory Business**

John Logan (Synod Secretary) introduced the business.

Synod members were reminded to collect the District Directory and encouraged to visit the Exchange Space at lunchtime if already done so.

The Exchange Space was highlighting the work of churches and circuits in various mission & Justice projects.

### **Appointment of Scrutineers**

The synod appointed the following scrutineers

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Nancy Acquah   | Racheal Dzumbira |
| Ade Benson     | Joana Idun       |
| Cynthia Bonds  | Ruth Imbo        |
| Evadne Cameron | Adrian Pickett   |

### **Notices**

Synod was reminded of the E-circuit baskets on the shared link and letters of greeting.

### **Justice & Mission Group**

Paul Timmis briefly described the work of the Justice and Mission Group and the initiatives they had supported in the district.

He reminded synod that members of the group were available for a chat in the Exchange Space over lunch.

### **Dispensations**

Dispensations were given to 13 Presbyters & Deacons.

Apologies were received from 8 supernumeraries and 6 lay representatives.

### **Welcome to new Members**

Synod formally welcomed new lay members of synod.

The following ministers were welcomed

|                                              |                            |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Revd Corrie Alexander-Willette</b>        | Richmond & Hounslow        |
| <b>Deacon Jess Dalton</b>                    | Widmore                    |
| <b>Revd Alison Facey (Hospital Chaplain)</b> | Harrow & Hillingdon        |
| <b>Revd Patrick Kandeh</b>                   | Croydon                    |
| <b>Revd Claude Kimpinde</b>                  | New River                  |
| <b>Revd Claudia Lupi</b>                     | Lambeth                    |
| <b>Deacon Lemia Nkwelah</b>                  | Southwark & Deptford       |
| <b>Revd Val Ogden</b>                        | Newham                     |
| <b>Revd Chris Sandy (Superintendent)</b>     | Barking, Dagenham & Ilford |
| <b>Deacon Melissa Wheeler</b>                | West London Mission        |

The following ministers have moved within London

|                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Revd Alana Lawrence</b> | Kingston upon Thames |
| <b>Revd Adam Nyawo</b>     | Islington & Camden   |

The following ministers are new Superintendents

|                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Revd Esther Akam</b> | London Mission<br>North West |
| <b>Revd Yangsun Yi</b>  | Hackney & Stoke Newington    |

New Members of the District Staff team were introduced.

## **Methodist Conference Highlights 2026**

the conference video was shown

### **Faith-Rooted and Justice speaking church**

Renee Nembhard-Andrade (District FRCO) introduced the theme.

**Hannah Fremont-Brown** (Justice Seeking Church Officer, Connexional Team) explained the practice of Faith Rooted community organising (FRCO) practice helps us to:

- Draw people together to listen deeply to each other and God
- Build meaningful relationships
- Act collectively for change

The framework has the 4 steps

- Connecting
- Gathering
- Acting
- Reflecting

Using Acts ch 6 vs 1-7 Hannah encouraged synod to reflect on the practice and framework demonstration that all 4 steps were taken in the biblical passage.

Hannah emphasised that this was not a new programme or initiative but a way of living as community and being which has been present in Christian communities since biblical time.

Hannah asked members of synod to be intentional in our practice and asked “what will God do with you? If we practice FRCO

**A Church called to act Justly video**– the work of Epsom Methodist church was shared

**Charnelle Barclay** (Co-Director, Organising for Growth Programme, Centre for Theology & Community) shared her experience of FRCO

Charnelle reminded us that the practice of FRCO aligns with “The Methodist Way of Life” and included quotes from John Wesley to illustrate the point.

FRCO proactive will often lead to Public Action in the Neighbourhood and Congregational Renewal.

**Missional Growth video** –Bermondsey Central Hall shared their work with those who are on the margins

**Community Fun Day video** – Debden Methodist Church shared their work in listening to the community and building relationship at a community funday

Synod broke for lunch.

## **20th Anniversary**

at the lunch the District Chairs cut a celebration cake for all to share

## **Faith-Rooted and Justice Seeking Church Locally- Renee Nembhard-Andrade** District FRCO

After lunch Renee guided synod to reflect on the mornings session and how the practice might influence our local context.

- Synod was asked to reflect and discuss the following questions:  
What was one key thing that stood out from the morning session?
- What did you hear that challenged you?
- Where do you notice this connecting with your church, circuit, community, or daily life?

For those interested in exploring this further Renee will be starting a monthly gathering to reflect further called rooted with Renee.

## **Synod Business**

Priya Rasanayagam (District Council Secretary) introduced the business

## **District Appointments**

Synod agreed the following resolutions:

- The Synod acknowledges the appointments listed in the District Directory for 2026-27
- The Synod delegates to the District Council any further appointments which need to be made before the Spring Synod 2027

## **Representatives to Conference 2027**

### **Lay**

Synod is asked to appoint four lay people (two for three years, and two for one year)  
Two nomination forms were received, each seeking three years.

Synod agreed the Resolution:

Synod are asked to appoint Ms Bola Nzekwe and Miss Liv Kaszewska for three years.

### **Ministerial**

Synod is asked to appoint five ministers (three for three years, and two for one year)  
Three nomination forms were received, two seeking three years, and one for one year.

Synod agreed the resolution:

Synod are asked to appoint Revd Dr Eleanor Jackson and Revd Jenny Impey for three years;  
and Deacon Kathy Johnson for one year.

## **Remaining Vacancies**

Synod agreed the resolution:

The Synod delegates to the District Council to fill the remaining vacancies for Methodist Conference representatives on behalf of the Synod.

District Annual report.

Jonathan Dean commended the district report which is available in the e-baskets and will be published on our website

### **Sabbaticals**

The SAG have approved the following Sabbaticals since the last Synod.

| <b>2026/27</b>         |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Revd Rohama Asif       | Revd Dr Paulo Bessa da Silva |
| Revd Peter Cornick     | Revd Geoffrey Farrar         |
| Revd Saidu Kanu        | Revd Julie King              |
| Revd Jennifer Matthews | Revd Tony Miles              |

| <b>2026/27</b>        |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Revd Francis M'Itiiri |  |

| <b>2027/28</b>          |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Revd Vindra Maraj-Ogden |  |

The Synod agreed the Resolution

The Synod to approve the recent decisions made by the District Sabbatical Group.

Jonathan Dean thanked the Sabbaticals advisory group for all their hard work.

**Letters of greeting**

Synod was asked to send six letters of greeting

**Act of Remembrance**

Synod held a period of silence for those who have died since the previous synod, both lay and ordained:

**Ministers who have died since the April Synod**

|                   |
|-------------------|
| Revd Paul Hulme   |
| Revd Eric Murray  |
| Revd Tony Windsor |

**Members of District who have served on District committees who have died**

Mrs Eve de Graft, Southwark & Deptford

Jonathan Dean & Faith Nyota led synod in an Act of Rededication during closing worship.

**Next Presbyteral Synod**

Thursday 11 March 2027, Venue TBC

**Next Representative Synod:**

Saturday 17 April 2027