

October 2021

Greetings, fellow members of NW Synod.

At the Synod meeting of 14th November 2020, the Facilitation Group was set up to listen to the views of everyone involved in the individual churches that make up our Synod, to find how the Synod can better serve you.

The Facilitation Group is made up of a representative (of mostly lay people) from each Missional Partnership Steering Group - so this group is already more local and representative than you are used to. We hope to discover how the Synod committee structures might better serve the local church and how the Synod, its officers, staff and committees can better serve you.

Our first attempts at the end of 2020 were frustrated for a number of reasons and, after consultation with colleagues, I decided to put the work on hold. Things have changed, and we have now been told that we have as much time as it takes to discover what you really think about the future. We would like to ask you two basic questions (see overleaf), and we hope that as many groups as possible within your local church, youth group, Junior Church, Bible Study Group, Missional Partnership etc will be involved and will honestly tell us what you really think.

You can either send in a response personally, or you might like to send a summary of what you have discussed together in your group. Feel very welcome to ask any group in your church, projects associated with your church or groups associated with your church to answer the questions for themselves. Please share the two questions overleaf via a card available from the synod office, or simply printed out from this letter to share. Then please let us know what kind of group answered the two questions (eg Elders Meeting at xx Church in yy Missional Partnership). We don't need your individual names, as that will make sure that you are anonymous, but the kind of group you are lets the research group discover trends throughout the Synod. We will not publish your name or the name of your group anywhere; telling us the group simply helps us understand.

When we have some results, we will share summaries regularly on the Synod web page. We'll also hold a range of consultation events for anybody who wishes to come to discuss results and to discern direction. This is YOUR project.

We will be very grateful for anything that you would like to share,
Lesley Husselbee
Convener, Facilitation Group, NW Synod URC.

The questions and address to send responses are overleaf.

The two questions are:

- 1 What has your church or community or Missional Partnership done differently during the pandemic of which you are proud?**
- 2 Of all of your church related activity for as long as you remember, what single thing to you want to treasure and renew in your future activities with your church, community or Missional Partnership?**

Please send your responses to the email address: Facilitation@nwsynod.org.uk

Or post to

The Facilitation Group,
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Unit 20, Waters Edge Business Park
Modwen Road, Salford, M5 3EZ