



The Methodist Church

Lincolnshire District

Serving locally, connecting the county

Marriage & Relationships Consultation

*This is not about changing beliefs
but hearing one another in love*

It is strongly recommended that before engaging in discussions participants look at the resources relating to the Report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group 2019 which are now available to download from the Methodist Church website, www.methodist.org.uk/MandR19.

These include:

- The full report
- The study guide
- The film of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group members reflecting on the process of working on the report to give context for your discussions

The following resources will follow soon:

- Individual prayerful reflection
- Managing group discussions
- The leading of worship around those topics covered in the report.

Churches and Circuits may wish to hold conversations at house groups etc leading up to the District Consultations which will enable exploration of the report through the study guide referred to above. There is no need to take a vote on any of these occasions.

There will be three District consultations in Lincolnshire:

- Brigg Tuesday 21st January 2.30 – 4.00pm,
- Sleaford Thursday 13th February 7.30 – 9.00pm
- Horncastle Saturday 21st March 10.30 – 12 noon.

People can attend more than one consultation but will not be permitted to speak at more than one.

Aims of the Consultation:

- To enable a range of views to be expressed and stories to be shared in a Spirit of love and respect.
- To provide a safe space in which to be heard.
- To raise awareness of the diversity present within the Body of Christ.
- To inform representatives of Synod which would enable them to consider how they might vote at Synod.
- It is not about changing beliefs.
- It is not an open debate.
- It is not about decision.
- It is not about promoting a particular perspective.

Young people will be welcome at any or all of the consultations but there will be an additional consultation for young people themselves.

Each consultation will begin with worship and prayer.

Several elements of the report will be considered at each consultation, one of which will be the possibility of same sex marriage services in churches.

- In order to help time the consultation, if participants could indicate their wish to speak beforehand that would be helpful; but attendees may on the occasion itself feel moved to share their story or perspectives.
- Participants will be invited to speak for a limited period of time (likely to be 2 or 3 minutes) once on each element if they wish.
- Speakers will address the consultation from the front, introduce themselves and state which church they attend. (Only those attending Methodist Churches in the District will be allowed to speak)
- Speakers will be expected to use appropriate language and respect other speakers of a different view/belief.
- It would be helpful to not repeat what others may have said earlier in the consultation.
- Notes will be taken but will not be attributable and speakers will be invited to capture their presentation in a few sentences if they wish. This will form the basis of a report to Synod reps.

Booking is essential – through Alison Godfrey on 01522 370126 or pa@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk

A debate and vote on the recommendations of the report will be held at the Spring Session of the Representative Synod.