

Would YOU like to represent the Birmingham District at the Methodist Conference?

What is the Methodist Conference?

Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church, comprising representatives from all corners of Great Britain and the various national groups and committees.

Conference meets at the end of June each year to install the new president and vice-president, welcome new ministers into the connexion and discuss reports and business which are presented.

When and where does this happen?

Conference 2021 will take place in from June 24th to July 1st. Lay representatives meet from Saturday 26th June to Thursday lunchtime – presbyters gather two days before then on Thursday 24th.

Who decides who goes?

Elections are held at September Synod the year before ie this September we will be electing folk to go in 2021. The Birmingham District sends nine representatives, some lay and some ordained.

Do I have to be a member of synod?

NO! The only qualification required is to be a member of the Methodist Church. And to want to be involved and find out more.

Conference aims to be representative of the whole church, in terms of gender, race and age – in recent years Birmingham District has tended to be biased towards certain groups. It would be good to become more diverse in the future, but we would not want to discourage anyone.

What will it cost?

Nothing! Travelling expenses are paid and full board is provided.

What does it entail?

Being away from home for a week if you are a presbyteral representative or six days if you are a lay representative – see dates above.

There is reading to do beforehand – agendas and memorials to conference are distributed, usually in good time.

A preconference meeting for those from the Birmingham District to get together which takes place in June.

Being part of Synod before going and part of the report back in the September synod.

Most of all, a desire to gather with others and help to confer and make decisions which will affect us all.

For more information or if you have any questions at all please contact

Jean Hamilton – Synod secretary

jeanhamilton22@hotmail.com