

Proposed Circuit Merger

The Northampton District Synod and the Lincolnshire District Synod have voted in favour of a circuit merger which crosses a district boundary. It is proposed that the Stamford and Rutland Circuit and the South Lincolnshire Circuit join to form a new circuit which will be located in the Northampton District. Standing Order 401(2) requires the Council to consider changes to the Districts' composition, and to make recommendations to the Conference.

At the Representative Session of the Northampton District Synod on Saturday 23 April 2016, the following resolution was passed (F: 139, A: 1, P: 140):

The Synod of the Northampton District meeting in Representative Session on 23 April 2016, recommends that the Conference should make a direction (in accordance with Clause 38 of the deed of Union) that the Stamford & Rutland Circuit in this District and the South Lincolnshire Circuit in the Lincolnshire District become a single circuit in the Northampton District with effect from 1 September 2017.

At the Representative Session of the Lincolnshire District Synod on Saturday 17 September 2016, the following resolution was passed (F: 81, A: 1, P: 90)

The Lincolnshire Methodist District Synod meeting on 17 September 2016 recommends to the Methodist Council and Conference that the South Lincolnshire Circuit (17/17) merges with the Stamford & Rutland Circuit (23/22) from 1 September 2017 and that the newly created circuit is located with the Northampton Methodist District.

The respective Circuit Meetings have voted as follows:

- a. South Lincolnshire - 11 for, none against, none neutral
- b. Stamford and Rutland – 18 for, none against, none neutral.

The Council is therefore asked to recommend the circuit merger to the Conference, under the terms of SO 401(2).

*****RESOLUTIONS**

79/1. The Council receives the report.

79/2. The Council recommends to the Conference that the Stamford and Rutland Circuit and the South Lincolnshire Circuit merge to form a new Circuit within the Northampton District, with effect from 1 September 2017.