

United Reformed Church ~ Synod of Scotland

Intentional church ~ bulletin # 8

This Autumn: in three movements

Using the autumn:

Yes, Advent is the beginning of the Christian year, but in the life of most congregations 'things' get going again towards the end of August! *Now* is the time to pick up the conversations about our intentions over the next 5 or 10 years; exploring with one another within and outwith our congregations how God is imagining tomorrow's world and our part in it. We need to delve deeply and explore openly what God is like, so that we move on to imagine how God calls us to be. We're not called to be remnants of a bygone age, but of this age looking towards tomorrow.

Using the Synod meeting:

We have a meeting of Synod coming up. This twice a year event is the gathering of us to be the United Reformed Church in Scotland together. Each congregation will be represented by at least one person and all our serving ministers should also be with us. There is business to do, but there is more! Integral to the being together will be elements to help us on our intentional journey:

- There will be plenty of opportunity to talk to folk from other congregations, to share notes and experience

- There is a major contribution coming from Lawrence Moore (Director of the Windermere Centre, and leader of Bible Studies at General Assembly in July) on 'being church differently' both in presentation and in workshop form to stimulate our imagination.

- There will be stories from different congregations presenting how they are tackling intentionality

- We will begin to look forward to the Synod Day on 23 June next year for as many people from our congregations to gather as possible at the Perth Race course!

- There are other work shops and discussion opportunities to help equip us be followers of Jesus today and tomorrow.

Make sure you hear about these and more when your representatives come home!

Using the gatherings around Scotland:

From 24 October to the end of November there will be a series of gatherings from Annan to Kirkwall, each within no more than 30 minutes of each congregation to further explore being an intentional church. Each will be lead by two from our Synod Team: Jan Adamson (our Field Officer for Local Mission and Development), Mary Buchanan (our Ecumenical Officer), Steward Cutler (our Youth and Children's Work Development Officer), Jack Dyce (our Education Secretary) and me. Details will be available at the Synod meeting. The first round of roadshows had about over 200 people, the second round over 400, let's **go for gold** this time around and really involve as many as possible in exploring the future. Let's get excited about what we are called

to be, a light for the God who is inclusive, just and gracious in character!

John Ll Humphreys 30 August 2006