



The King's Cross Church, Hexthorpe

'Making Jesus Known'

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Dear Mick

This letter is the formal notification you advised Church Council last evening that you required. I believe the phrase you used was the need to give you formal notice 'to close'. This feels odd as we have intention only to stay open and under God, to keep growing, but fully accept your wording as advised.

TKCC has spent many months studying the changes to our doctrines, teachings and practices brought into the Connexion over the last years and especially by the Conference of 2021. To us, there is a clear pattern of change. We have had small study groups on the matter of marriage and relationships and considered the implications of the GILUU resolutions at three Church meetings over the last year as well as at various church council meetings.

You are already informed about the resolution passed unanimously at the Church Meeting of 10th May and subsequently accepted unanimously by the Church Council meeting on 23rd May. For the record, I place it here again:

" We have been deeply troubled and saddened by recent changes within the British Methodist Church that have come from rejecting the full authority of scripture. These changes have damaged our doctrine (teaching), practice and discipline especially in the matters of salvation and holiness. To us, these are critical matters never to be compromised.

We have always maintained that we cannot accept any such changes. It is clear that British Methodism has moved away from its historical understanding to which we remain faithful. This understanding underpins all we are and do.

We now conclude that we should ask the Church Council to begin a process that will lead to us leaving the Connexion, at a date yet undecided, and open respectful and gracious discussions with the authorities to that end."

I know that you recognise that we have not acted without much thought and prayer and that breaking our relationship with the circuit, and indeed the Connexion, will be an enormous emotional wrench for many of us. This church has been in

Hexthorpe for over 150 years and some of us have roots in it almost to that starting date.

We are now committed to negotiating our future with the circuit. Last evening you stated that you wanted the process to be, 'gracious and careful.' That is our earnest desire too as is clear in the resolution quoted above. We have so many deep relationships with our brothers and sisters in the circuit that we truly desire to make our transition free from any acrimony – indeed with a real show of love and grace. We have agreed this because that is the right way to treat fellow believers. Should our transition become public news we would want outsiders to comment, 'See how those Christians love one another.'

We recognise that the circuit is soon to enter the stationing process for September 2023. It is the decision of TKCC Church Council that we would like to complete negotiations as soon as possible and give you the assurance that they will be over by September 2023. We hope we can reach a proper agreement well before that date.

I trust this letter will help your work on these difficult matters.

Every blessing

Richard Iball