

## Association Discussion Meeting Report

We thank God for the association discussion meeting held on June 21<sup>st</sup> at Countesthorpe Baptist Church. 16 men representing 9 churches attended the meeting in order to discuss the establishment of a confessional association of Baptist churches. We desire an association of churches which fully subscribes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> London Baptist Confession of Faith and seek to live out our confession together as churches. We give thanks to God that there was a spirit of unity, and a great desire to see association come to fruition in coming days. The day began with exhortation from the Scriptures by Eddie Roberts, pastor of Stanley Park Church, to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. It was also a great blessing to enjoy communion together and to share what the Lord was doing among us and to seek these good and prosperity of all of our churches and her members.

The majority of the day was spent in extensive deliberations on the drafting of a constitution. The draft constitution is attached for your consideration. In it we agreed, that

“Churches of the same faith and gospel order, as they all have drunk of the one and same Spirit, are branches of the one and same body and hold to the one and same head, and have one Lord, one faith, and one baptism; may and ought to have and enjoy voluntary fellowship and friendly association together, as opportunity may arise. Therefore, in the discharge of those relative duties that may tend to the mutual benefit and edification of all of Christ’s churches (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:5; John 17:20-26), confessional Reformed Baptist churches in the United Kingdom have come together to form a national association of churches.”

We give thanks to God for the progress that has been made in these discussion meetings and we pray that our churches might formally “hold communion together” for the sake of our churches, the spread of the gospel and the glory of our God. We have already seen fruit from our efforts, and it is our hope that an association which upholds our confessional ecclesiology will all the more abound for the “peace, increase of love and mutual edification,” of our churches. We pray that Lord would give us the same desire and love for the cause of Christ as our forefathers in the faith had, so that we too could say that we have done all things according to our ability for the cause of Christ. In May 1692 a national association gathered in London for their general assembly in which they said,

“We can say through Grace, your Persons, and the most glorious cause you have espoused, lie very near our hearts; for which we can say, without Vain Glory, we are willing to spend and be spent and should rejoice in your out-doing any of us, in seeking the Things of Christ more than your own. Since our coming together, we have done according to our ability, that which we hope will tend to the lengthening of Sion’s cords, and strengthening her stakes, and be of the advantage of the next generation.”

Our next meeting will be held at Trinity Grace Church in Ramsbottom on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. We warmly invite all who would like to consider associating with us in the future. Our hope is to finalize the constitution so that we can take it to our churches for prayerful consideration. For more information you can contact Brett Shaw at [brett.andrew.shaw@gmail.com](mailto:brett.andrew.shaw@gmail.com).

**Churches Represented:**

Bradford-on-Avon Baptist Church – Robert Strivens  
Christ Church Loughborough – Jonny Woodrow  
Countesthorpe Baptist Church – Aubrey Vaughn  
Living Hope Bible Church – Nathan Tarrant  
North Church Leicester – Peter Petra  
Ridley Hall Church – Fabio Silva  
Trinity Baptist Church – Rob Stredder  
Trinity Grace Church – Oliver Allmand-Smith  
Stanley Park Church Liverpool – Eddie Roberts

*Soli Deo Gloria.*

Trinity Grace Church, Ramsbottom.  
August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.