What does being a Conference representative involve?
The main responsibility of being a representative is to be yourself, and to represent the West Midlands District.

Being a Conference rep also involves reading the agenda and papers which will be sent to you in advance, contributing to the debates and conversations at the Conference, voting on resolutions, and feeding back about your experience and the Conference itself to the District and your own context as appropriate.

What will it cost me?
Just your time and commitment!

It is a residential conference, and all accommodation costs are covered by the Methodist Church. Breakfast is included, and lunch is provided at the conference venue. You will be able to claim back the cost of an evening meal (up to a set amount).

The Methodist Church will also pay your travel expenses to and from the conference, and there is also a 'loss of earnings' amount that can be claimed if you need to take unpaid leave from work.

Expenses are reimbursed via the District after the Conference. If you would have difficulty in meeting the cost of travel and evening meals yourself, please get in touch with the District office. Cost should not be a barrier to participation.

Apart from the time at the Conference itself, there will be a requirement to read the papers that will be sent to you in advance. We will meet as District Representatives online before the Conference so we will at least recognise each other when we arrive at the Conference.

What will it be like?
Being a representative to the Conference will give you an experience like no other in the Methodist Church. You'll get an overview of all that the Church is and does, an opportunity to learn new things and the chance to worship with others from around the Connexion.

The Representative Session of the Conference begins on Saturday 26th June with the induction of the next President and Vice-President of the Conference. This happens in the context of worship, and both will give an address to the Conference.

Sunday 27th June is Ordination Sunday: Ordinands (both Presbyters and Deacons) are 'Received into Full Connexion with the Methodist Church' in the morning worship, which is a formal act

of commitment between those to be ordained and the Methodist Church. In the afternoon Ordination services will take place at other venues nearby.

The main business and decision-making of the Conference then takes place in the remaining time (Monday-Wednesday). During this part of the Conference we sit together as a District, but this doesn't mean that we must vote in a particular way or the same way. We are representatives from the District, not delegates.

It's not all business! Worship and Bible study is woven through the time, and there are opportunities to network with others, make new friends, attend fringe events, visit the exhibition area, and generally hang out with other Methodists – including those from partner Methodist Churches overseas. You never know who you may be sharing space with at the coffee break or sitting with at lunch time!

If you would like us to put you in touch of one of our representatives to the last conference to get their perspective, drop us an email at info@wmmethodists.org.uk and we'll put you in touch. Or if you have any questions that have not been answered here send us a message to the same address.

You can also look at the information from the 2026 Conference on the Methodist Church website, where you can also 'watch again' some of the Conference and get a feel of what goes on! (use the link below)
https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2026/

What do I need to do next?
Complete the nomination form that needs to be signed by two members of the District Synod - the Ministers in your circuit are all members of the Synod and will know who the other members are.

Then send the completed form to info@wmmethodists.org.uk by **12 noon on Monday 16th November.** We will be electing the representatives at the meeting of the District Policy Committee on Wednesday 25th November, and will let you know the outcome after that.

We look forward to hearing from you!