

From every nation: Building an Inter-Ethnic Church – A YBA Conference

"...there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb." Rev 7.9 (NIVUK)

Many churches across our YBA family have been experiencing an increase in people and families from different ethnicities and nations becoming part of their worshipping community. This has brought with it, many positives: increased church attendance, newfound vibrancy in worship and spirituality and for some, the joy and excitement of re-starting their children and youth work. Yet, there is work to be done to seize this opportunity for us to grow an authentic expression of church through receiving the gifts God is bringing to us from our sisters and brothers from the global south and east, shaping our shared lives together imbued with this rich diversity of the people God, deeply committed in love, honouring one another's diversity, worshipping God together and serving His mission here in Yorkshire; grow from multi-ethnic churches into inter-ethnic churches.

If you would like to work towards this vision, you don't want to miss this conference.

Date: **Saturday 27th April 2024**

Time: **9.30am-4.30pm**

Venue: **Wakefield Baptist Church**, Belle Isle Christian Centre, Wakefield, WF1 5JY

Where we'll have the opportunity to explore, among other questions: -

- How can we help our sisters and brothers from other nations settle in well among us?
- How can we help our existing church members provide the welcome that makes us all one family?
- Is there a theological and biblical basis for this vision? If so, how can we grow together into it?
- What impact might this have on the outworking on our shared life together as followers of Jesus?
- What are some of the challenges we might experience and how might we work through them?
- Are there attitudes among us that need challenging, and if so, how?
- How can we become anti-racist churches?
- How could this energise our missional impact across Yorkshire?

Conference Contributors include: -

- **Revd. Dr David Wise** – Former minister at Greenford Baptist Church,
- **Laura Palmer** – Transformation Leeds
- **Revd. Joe Kapolyo** – Retired minister and former Principal All Nations Christian College.

This one-day conference will be a space to listen, reflect and learn from those further ahead on this journey, and also to share some of the encouraging stories from among our YBA family of churches.

Conference Objectives

By the end of the conference, delegates will be able to: -

- Demonstrate an understanding of the difference between a multi-ethnic and an inter-ethnic church.
- Apply this understanding to their contexts.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the progression through thinking, attitude, structure and leadership in growing an inter-ethnic church.
- Begin to work up and share emerging action plans to transition into an inter-ethnic church.

If you would like to be part of this timely and impactful conference, you are invited to come with a small ethnically diverse team of four or five people from your local church. They will be your conversation partners for group reflections and exercises at the conference; and afterwards, you will have the opportunity to continue working together to embed your take home from the conference into your worshipping community making it a place where each one feels welcomed and valued and is able to contribute to the community's worshipping and missional life.

Booking information

To book your place, at **£12** per person click [HERE](#). Refreshments and a delicious hot lunch will be provided.

Booking deadline is **Sunday 7th April** (or earlier if all available spaces are booked).

POST CONFERENCE LEARNING COMMUNITY

Following the conference, some churches might value support and accompanying and the opportunity to continue to learn and journey together with other churches over a period of time. If so, you can join a learning community and receive additional input and exploration of emerging issues from the conference. The learning communities will meet every 6 months over a period of two years: November 2024, May and November 2025 and May 2026 (dates and venues to be confirmed). These will be supported and facilitated by Nike Adebajo. Contact Nike nike.adebajo@yba.org.uk if you're interested.