

30/07/2026

Dear friends,

As an Association, we find ourselves in a season of reflection- asking together what God is calling SCBA to be and to do in the years ahead. Both the national [Financial Model Review](#) and Hayley's recent departure mean that we have been presented with this opportunity to consider what SCBA looks like going forward. We've found the image of the tabernacle helpful for this season - not a temple built once the destination is known, but a structure designed to move. With the national Financial Model Review not due to be resolved for another two years, we don't yet know the final shape SCBA will take. That makes this a particularly complex season to navigate.

We want this discernment to be shared, and so we will be embarking on a listening process. Over September, we'll be hosting a series of listening circles across the region; these will be small, facilitated conversations that create space for storytelling, reflection and honest sharing. We're inviting one representative (minister, church secretary or another trustee) per church into these spaces, and we hope that these are something your church might be able to participate in.

Each listening circle will last around an hour and a half and will be carefully facilitated to encourage listening rather than debate. It's not about right answers- just an invitation to share what you're noticing, what you're hoping for, and what you believe God might be saying to us as an Association.

To help people come prepared, we're sharing the questions in advance. You don't need to prepare a formal response, but we understand that some people would prefer time to sit with them before we meet.

Questions to reflect on ahead of time:

1. What are our hopes and aspirations for our churches and communities in SCBA?
2. What challenges are we currently navigating?
3. What do you value most about belonging to the SCBA?
4. What might collaborative working look like for SCBA going forward?

The listening circles are the first stage of a wider process. What we hear will help shape a short survey in the second stage later in the autumn. That feedback will then come to our Leaders' Day on 9th November – the third stage – for further discernment.

The listening circles are at ten venues across the region, plus two online spaces and some more targeted circles, so there should be an option that works for you wherever you are. You will have found the full list of dates, times and locations in the email. Simply choose the one that suits you best and book your place using the link provided.

We'd love to hear from your church, so please do sign up, and if you have any questions in the meantime, don't hesitate to get in touch.

With warm regards,



Clare Hooper
Co-Team leader at SCBA

c.hooper@scba.org.uk



Chris Brockway
Moderator of SCBA

moderator@scba.org.uk