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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Probably like us, you are wondering how best to lead church congregations and communities through the uncertainty of Brexit. We know that there are many diverse views held even within a single family, and this diversity is reflected across the people we represent and serve. As a result there are high levels of confusion, frustration and anger.

The indications are that the coming months may be difficult to navigate. No option for the Brexit process is without pitfalls. Hurt, disappointment and anger will affect supporters of at least one side of the debate. The impact on our public life and that of the nations will take months and years to work through.

We cannot give you answers as to a best way forward, but know that you hold much wisdom from your own experience.

Alongside other Church leaders we have asked the government about the consequences of leaving the EU without a deal. While the government has yet to respond, our view from the evidence we have seen is that families on low income, those needing personal care and people with long term health conditions will face particular difficulties.

In response to the current situation, we simply want to encourage you to be active in peace-building and reconciliation. To that end, some practical things you could consider might be:

- Writing a letter to your local MP, assuring them of your prayers even if you disagree with their politics.
 - Supporting your local food bank and offering positive action in practical ways.
 - Offering support to EU citizens whose sense of home and belonging may be shaken.
 - Being attentive to the spiritual and physical needs of children and young people for whom these are confusing times.
 - Providing and enabling safe space for difficult conversations on your church premises.
 - Whether or not we leave the EU on 31 October, planning to join together, with ecumenical and interfaith partners, for an day or evening of prayer, and/or issue an invitation to fast at around that time.
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The Joint Public Issues Team is bringing together some resources and information for you to use at this time. You can find them here www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/brexit

As Methodists we are called to love prophetically, live graciously, even with contradictory convictions, and to be agents for justice and reconciliation. It is not easy, but we all know that it is the way of Jesus,

In the words of the Corrymeela community prayerbook: 'We pray for the torn and the burdened that they may be held together by guts and goodness, because we are held together by guts and goodness'!

As ever, we offer you our prayers and support,

Yours sincerely,



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