

**Driffield-Hornsea Methodist Circuit 29/35**

**Ex President of the Methodist Conference**

**Superintendent Minister**

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**Endorser for Ordination Credentials as a Ministry Deacon for Yvonne Lewis**

The question I have been asked to address is: ‘’Why do you think my walk, temperament, character, and calling show that I am called to be a ministry leader?’’

I am delighted to have been asked to answer this question. I have known Yvonne Lewis for a number of years particularly in her role as a Chaplain to two Methodist Homes for the Aged. Her empathy and understanding of that role shone from her ministry. As I observed her at work it was obvious this role was far more than a job. I can say with absolute honesty that Yvonne’s integrity in her role and calling in that area that she offered pastoral care at the highest level. Whilst offering this level of pastoral care to others she also understands its demands and realises that as a Chaplain she also needs to receive it herself. Yvonne realises she is not self sufficient and works in close collaboration with others.

Pastoral care is a serious business. It is not just about giving comfort, in hard times. It is about helping people to grow into maturity: to deal with the problems they face in such a way that they are equipped to move forward. If pastoral care is to be effective, it must take seriously the situations in which people are. Yvonne is not only aware of this; it is a hallmark of her ministry.

Offering the best care is important and I also witnessed this in another context with Yvonne. As a chaplain in a dementia unit, she kindly invited me to observe the first service she led using Biblical Yoga. I was overwhelmed at the response. Everyone participated which was amazing in itself to a familiar biblical story, through thought, movement and expression. The service lasted 50 minutes keeping people with dementia engaged for such a length of time was new to my experience, particularly people I had not seen speak or interact were immersed in the story. Yvonne produced a book to help others engage in this new form of worship for those with dementia. It can also be used in other settings. Its effects have been transformative.

In the time I have known Yvonne I have witnessed her grow, develop and mature and have no hesitation in commending her to you.

If I can be of further help, please do not hesitate to contact me

With the kindest of regards

