

## **39. Designations for Appointment of District Chairs**

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

- 39/1. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr David Hinchliffe as Chair for the South East District for a period of six years from 1 September 2019.**
- 39/2. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr James N Tebbutt as Chair for the Cumbria District for a period of six years from 1 September 2019.**

*The following resolutions require a majority of 75%.*

- 39/3. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr Sheryl M Anderson as Chair for the Liverpool District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2020.**
- 39/4. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Gillian M Newton as Chair for the Sheffield District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2020.**
- 39/5. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr Stephen D Wigley as Chair for the Wales Synod for a further period of three years from 1 September 2020.**

### **Reasoned Statements**

#### **The Revd Dr David Hinchliffe**

David Hinchliffe currently serves as non-separated Chair of the Channel Islands District since being appointed by the Conference in 2010. This appointment includes being Superintendent of the Bailiwick of Guernsey Circuit. Prior to this he was stationed in the Petersfield, Liphook and Haslemere Circuit (1997-2005) and the Woking and Walton-on-Thames Circuit (2005-2010), when he also served the South East District as Assistant Chair (Eastern Area) from 2009 to 2010. David brings not only a considerable wealth of senior leadership experience but also a commitment and energy to provide sensitive leadership working with lay and ordained colleagues in all aspects of district life. He has assisted communities and congregations to discover new hopes and seize opportunities in mission and patterns of ministry. He has the ability to speak to the heart of difficult situations which might elude others, to provide the opportunity to work towards achieving effective resolution. He is an excellent communicator and has wide experience gained through both ministry and his doctoral studies, and frequently represents the Methodist Church by working with the media (through print, radio and television). David's current appointment involves engaging with political jurisdictions outside the UK and EU whilst being at the heart of leadership within our British Connexion. This will prove invaluable in the post-Brexit world when our Malta and Gibraltar Circuits will undoubtedly face many challenges. David has worked in partnership with other denominations supporting and developing mission opportunities and sees this as 'central to the hope we have in God who seeks to reconcile the world'.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Dr David Hinchliffe is appointed to serve as Chair for the South East District for a period of six years from 1 September 2019.

#### **The Revd Dr James N Tebbutt**

James Tebbutt serves as Superintendent of the Gloucestershire Circuit and so offers experience of strategic and collaborative leadership over a county-wide area, working with a large number of presbyters, deacons and lay people. James candidated in 1999 and was ordained in 2003. He has served in the Medway, Hillingdon, Sheffield West, and Manchester Circuits, working in a variety of

urban and rural appointments. James will come to the District with considerable ecumenical experience.

Prior to candidating, James was a partner in a firm of solicitors. As a lawyer, he has an excellent grasp of detail and an affinity with governance processes, and as a member of the Law and Polity Committee has a familiarity with work at connexional level. James has academic qualifications in theology and his fluent communication skills will equip him well to represent Methodism in Cumbria.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Dr James N Tebbutt is appointed to serve as Chair for the Cumbria District for a period of six years from 1 September 2019.

### **The Revd Dr Sheryl M Anderson**

Sheryl Anderson has served as Chair of the Liverpool District since September 2014. Her leading of worship is much appreciated and she is regarded as an excellent and thought-provoking preacher. She brings to every discussion a depth of theology that underpins her understanding of the Church's mission and ministry, but which is accessible to all. She has good leadership and facilitation skills which are valued in local church, circuit and district contexts, enabling all voices to be heard. She is able to create safe space for difficult conversations, has the ability to open up discussion to explore possible ways forward and gently challenge the District to be 'holy risk takers'. She is a much respected and valued member of the ecumenical and multi-faith conversations in Liverpool. The Liverpool District has been part of the pilot project for the implementation of Pastoral Supervision. The way this has become embedded in the life of the District is testament to Sheryl's personal commitment to the process, modelling best practice as it has evolved. Her passion for the District is valued, and this has enabled her to lead us to think more strategically through the development of the District Mission Plan. The implementation of this is key to the District's vision and her continuing ministry would better enable its delivery. The District has expressed its belief that it will benefit from her ongoing leadership and commitment to rigorous thinking as it moves forward.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Dr Sheryl M Anderson is appointed to serve as Chair for the Liverpool District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2020.

### **The Revd Gillian M Newton**

Gill Newton has been Chair of the Sheffield District since 2014. She is widely recognised and valued for her management of meetings and leading of worship. She has a deep knowledge of the District and has an immense knowledge and understanding of Methodism and the wider Connexion, which has been very helpful to the District. Her ministry arises out of a clear commitment to Christ and the Church.

Her gifts and skills, her approach to ministry, and her role as District Chair are consistently appreciated and her presence is highly visible across the District. Gill is very much aware of what happens at circuit and at local church level. Her involvement with ecumenical partnerships is valued by our ecumenical partners and she seeks to foster even deeper and more authentic relationships with ecumenical colleagues and the wider community including interfaith relationships.

Gill is a people person, with excellent listening skills which makes people feel they are in safe hands with her. She has a real pastoral heart, which is highly appreciated; she is trustworthy, approachable, focused and passionate in her ministry. She is multi-competent and communicates well at all levels, giving wise and appropriate advice, including clear guidance and direction. Gill was instrumental in the formation, implementation and subsequent monitoring of the District Mission Policy.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Gillian M Newton is appointed to serve as Chair for the Sheffield District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2020.

### **The Revd Dr Stephen D Wigley**

Stephen Wigley has served as Chair for the Wales Synod since 2007. He is a strong and respected ambassador for the Synod at connexional level and in ecumenical contexts. He brings a breadth of understanding about Methodism in Wales, and his continued presence will better enable the further development of a closer working relationship with Synod Cymru at this significant stage in the life of both Synods.

Stephen is intellectually engaged, pastorally sensitive and caring, and always approachable. His application of these gifts in helping to develop and uphold the vision of the Wales Synod is evident. These qualities alongside his energy and commitment are recognised and valued by the Synod.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Dr Stephen D Wigley is appointed to serve as Chair for the Wales Synod for a further period of three years from 1 September 2020.