

47. Designations for Appointment of District Chairs

*****RESOLUTIONS**

- 47/1. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Andrew Charlesworth as Chair for Wales Synod Cymru for a period of six years from 1 September 2023.**
- 47/2. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Philip Gough as Chair for the Lancashire District for a period of two years from 1 September 2022.**
- 47/3. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Loraine Mellor as Chair for the Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly District for a period of two years from 1 September 2022.**
- 47/4. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr Andrew Lunn as Chair for the Bolton and Rochdale District for a period of two years from 1 September 2022.**
- 47/5. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Helen D Cameron as Chair for the Nottingham and Derby District for a period of two years from 1 September 2022.**

The following resolutions require a majority of 75%.

- 47/6. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Leslie Newton as Chair for the Yorkshire North and East District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2023.**
- 47/7. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle as Chair for the London District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2023.**
- 47/8. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson as Chair for the Liverpool District for a further period of one year from 1 September 2023.**
- 47/9. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Helen D Cameron as Chair for the Northampton District for a further period of one year from 1 September 2023.**

Reasoned Statements:

The Revd Andrew Charlesworth

Andrew Charlesworth is currently in his fourteenth year of ministry and serves as Superintendent of the Nottingham North-East Circuit and Deputy Chair of the Nottingham and Derby District.

His pastoral experience and leadership abilities are matched by a passion for the Gospel and a clear recognition of the challenges and opportunities which the new Synod will face from September.

The nomination committee was impressed by his collegial approach to leadership, which has been forged in his present Circuit and District and through his managerial experience in clinical research prior to candidating. Mr Charlesworth offers to the Synod a fully-rounded understanding of ministry and a willingness to learn which will contribute well to the present and evolving Synod leadership.

The Synods recommend to the Conference that the Revd Andrew Charlesworth is appointed to serve as Chair for Wales Synod Cymru for a period of six years from 1 September 2023.

The Revd Philip Gough

Philip Gough is currently the Superintendent of the Chorley and Leyland Circuit. His 25 years of presbyteral ministry within appointments in the Lancashire District brings a wealth and breadth of experience. Having been brought up in the Liverpool area, and graduated from Manchester, he has a broader knowledge of the region and can offer insight and vision into the regional review process. As Deputy Chair for the past three years including sabbatical cover for the Chair, he has experienced the challenges and opportunities of the Chair's role. He is known and respected across the District.

Mr Gough has a pastoral heart and is driven by compassion and empathy to support individuals and communities at a local and global level, seeking justice for the marginalised, challenging inequalities, and demonstrating concern for environmental issues. As a team-builder, ministering collaboratively and with individuals, he is committed to lay-leadership, releasing people to minister according to their gifts. He is naturally creative, using music, drama and visual imagery to share the gospel in many varied contexts. He has an established involvement across a range of communication channels including local radio, digital and social media, and seeks opportunities for missional outreach beyond the church. With a passion for schools and youth work, he champions the sharing of the gospel among young people, critical in a District with the largest number of Methodist Schools in the Connexion. He is a visionary thinker and strategic planner willing to take risks to enable God's people to fulfil their calling and discipleship. In leading into new places, he instils confidence that God will continue to support and guide through the changes following the regional review.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Philip J Gough is appointed to serve as Chair for the Lancashire District for a period of two years from 1 September 2022.

The Revd Loraine Mellor

Loraine Mellor is a past President of the Conference and Chair of the Nottingham and Derby District. She brings vast experience of leadership in Circuit, District and the Connexion. She has a clear understanding of the nature of leadership in mission and of the importance of good relationships with colleagues. She is committed to working in partnership with others and has a clear vision of the contribution of Methodism ecumenically. Although she has not lived in the District, she is a frequent visitor to Cornwall and loves and understands the county. This local knowledge, combined with wide experience, will be invaluable in such a short appointment. She has demonstrated her skills in change management and will be well placed both to lead the District and to advocate for its needs through times of change and restructuring.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Loraine N Mellor is appointed to serve as Chair for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District for a period of two years from 1 September 2022.

The Revd Dr Andrew Lunn

Andrew Lunn has been Chair of the Manchester and Stockport District since 2015. The Synod recognised that it is in a transition period and that Andrew's leadership of two Districts with support will ensure good communication within the District and with the region and the Connexion. The Synod recommended to the Conference that the Revd Dr Andrew Lunn be appointed as Chair for the Bolton and Rochdale District for a period of two years from 1 September 2022.

The Revd Helen Cameron

Helen Cameron has served as Chair of the Northampton District since 2017.

Comments such as positive, encouraging, affirming, are used to describe relationships between Helen and both individuals and groups of various kinds within the District. She is seen as approachable, as someone who takes the time to listen and who provides clear leadership. Her support to the World Church and her encouragement to the ministers to express and develop their gifts and graces were also remarked upon. Aspects of her ministry that are especially valued include her commitment to preaching, ecumenism and pastoral care. Her commitment to safeguarding is well known. She has extensive knowledge and understanding of the Methodist Connexion.

The Northampton Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Helen D Cameron is appointed as Chair for the Northampton District for a further period of one year from 1 September 2023.

Helen Cameron has been instrumental in regional conversations. Helen therefore brings to the Nottingham and Derby District a considerable wealth of leadership experience at all levels of the Church and beyond. Helen's abilities for strategic planning, administration and care of colleagues is crucial as the Nottingham and Derby District moves forward in regional and district restructuring.

The Nottingham and Derby District believes Helen is well placed to support Andy Fyall as the Deputy Chair and to develop their District Policy to Love God, Love Others and Make Disciples.

The Nottingham and Derby Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Helen D Cameron is appointed to serve as Chair for the Nottingham and Derby District for a period of two years from 1 September 2022.

The Revd Leslie Newton

Leslie Newton has been Chair of the Yorkshire North and East District since 2017. His spiritual, strategic and pastoral skills are centred on Jesus. His clear focus is on developing flourishing, missional communities whilst recognising the work needed on governance. He has a vision and determination to initiate new ways of working. Across the District Leslie has created on-going opportunities for joint lay and ordained leadership. He is realistic about the fact that there are challenges ahead, especially where churches are struggling for leadership. He enthuses others with wisdom, sensitivity, and a sense of humour. He challenges, thoughtfully, at connexional level consideration of issues and topics that address how the Methodist Church can develop its mission. Leslie has a commitment to looking after the ministers and his care and pastoral support is appreciated by both ordained and lay people. He balances strategic thinking and strong leadership with his colleagues with great empathy. Leslie is an excellent communicator. He advises and encourages the finding of new ways of communication, as evidenced throughout the pandemic. He is committed to answering emails as promptly as possible and values being connected to local churches. Leslie has much still to contribute to the vision in the District.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Leslie Newton is appointed as Chair for the Yorkshire North and East District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2023.

The Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle

Jongikaya Zihle has been Chair of the London District since 2017. His passionate commitment to the mission of the District and his strong conviction of his calling to use his gifts and graces are highly valued. He has great skills as a preacher, solidly underpinned by his theological ability, which has enabled him to share his faith journey in an inspirational way. He has warm interpersonal skills, being described as approachable, friendly and caring, and as having a good sense of humour. His background and range of experience provide a distinctive perspective, with an underlying insight and wisdom. He is able to articulate issues and move others to consensus, especially when matters are contentious. There is a significant appreciation of his personal contribution to shared work from ecumenical and connexional colleagues. The creative work which he has undertaken has ensured the full use of the District's resources for a wide range of projects.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle is appointed as Chair for the London District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2023.

The Revd Dr Sheryl 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 at local church, circuit and district level, 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. 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 continuing implementation of this is key to the District's vision and her continuing ministry for a further year would provide stability across the District pending the planned regional reorganisation in 2024.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson is appointed as Chair for the Liverpool District for a further period of one year from 1 September 2023.