

55. Designations for Appointment of District Chairs

*****RESOLUTIONS**

- 55/1. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Leslie M Newton as Chair for the York and Hull District for a period of six years from 1 September 2017.**
- 55/2. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle as Chair for the London District for a period of six years from 1 September 2017.**
- 55/3. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Helen D Cameron as Chair for the Northampton District for a period of six years from 1 September 2017.**

The following resolutions require a majority of 75%.

- 55/4. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr Stephen D Wigley as Chair for the Wales Synod for a further period of two years from 1 September 2018.**
- 55/5. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Richard Hall as Chair for the Isle of Man District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2018.**
- 55/6. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Michaela A Youngson as Chair for the London District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2018.**

Reasoned Statements

The Revd Helen D Cameron

Helen Cameron has served in the Birmingham South-West Circuit and the Birmingham Elmdon Circuit. From 1996-99 and from 2006-15 she was Oversight Tutor at the Queen's Foundation and from 2007-15 she was also Director of the Centre for Ministerial Formation at Queen's, additionally serving as the Director of Methodist Formation within the Foundation from 2012-15. In 2015 she was appointed as Assistant Secretary of the Conference.

Through her circuit ministry, her work in theological education and her time in the Conference Office, Helen has wide and detailed experience of the variety and breadth of Methodism and partner churches. During her time both in theological education and the Conference Office she has worked to maintain and develop relationships with Circuits, consistently making herself available to preach and teach in Circuits and Local Churches, revelling in opportunities to assist people in the development of faithful witness. In particular Helen has devoted much time and energy to the development of appropriate patterns of supervision for lay and ordained ministry, seeing supervision as an essential element of robust oversight and care.

Helen has served on a number of connexional committees and working parties and in each case has offered to the wider Church honesty and rigour. She is always well prepared for meetings and her breadth of understanding of both historical and contemporary Methodism as well as trends in pastoral theology ensures that she brings to any discussion a theological narrative that is vital to detailed consideration of any issues. She is well versed in the procedures of the Conference and her role as Assistant Secretary has given her a detailed knowledge of the processes relating to stationing.

She brings to the post enthusiasm, attention to detail, an expectation of rigorous thinking, and above all an understanding that the people called Methodist are at their most effective when they have a discipline that releases energy for proclamation.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Helen D Cameron is appointed to serve as Chair for the Northampton District for a period of six years from 1 September 2017.

The Revd Richard Hall

Richard Hall has been Chair of the Isle of Man District since 2012. He has good leadership skills and is an effective communicator. He is approachable and listens well. He is an effective, focused chair of meetings. He shows generous pastoral concern for all people. He has a wealth of experience and background knowledge. He is aware of the unique cultural context of Methodist Church in the Isle of Man, and is committed to the church as a missionary church in that context. He is good at managing change and is an effective advocate for the island, having helped the island to engage more effectively with the wider Connexion. He embodies honesty and integrity. His leadership of worship and his preaching are appreciated. He adapts his style to the context and preaches in an engaging and accessible way. He has a heart for mission, encourages and supports outreach and is involved in a range of aspects of island life. He is now well-established in his role, and has developed a good knowledge of the island community and its churches. The District has expressed its belief that it will benefit from his ongoing leadership.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Richard Hall is appointed to serve as Chair for the Isle of Man District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2018.

The Revd Leslie M Newton

Leslie Newton is a very able and inspiring spiritual leader and strategic thinker. He currently serves as superintendent of the York Circuit and has been a presbyter for 20 years, having previously served in the Barnsley, Bramhall, and Bramhall and Wythenshawe Circuits.

Leslie brings to the role of District Chair a wealth of ministerial experience, deep passion for the work of God in the District and a creative vision for what Methodism can still be and do with renewed confidence and imagination. He is also realistic about the challenges the Circuits of the District face and is committed to supporting rural mission and ministry and further developing youth ministry and leadership.

Leslie is an excellent communicator, a thoughtful and articulate preacher, and an organised and effective administrator. He listens sensitively to those with pastoral concerns. He is supportive and open with colleagues and, when necessary, can challenge thoughtfully. Leslie is looking forward to sharing in and further developing the District's vision for the future. He is excited about, and committed to, enabling lay and ordained partnership in ministry. Leslie brings a profound spirituality to the role of District Chair and a capacity to enable others to grow deeper in their relationship with God and to seek the kingdom growing among them in their community and neighbourhood.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Leslie Newton is appointed to serve as Chair for the York and Hull District for a period of six years from 1 September 2017.

The Revd Dr Stephen D Wigley

Stephen Wigley has served as Chair of the Wales Synod since 2007. Stephen 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. 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 as Chair of the Wales Synod for a further period of two years from 1 September 2018.

The Revd Michaela A Youngson

Michaela Youngson has served as Chair of the London District since 2012. She is regarded as a strong, collaborative, challenging but supportive leader with a relaxed, gentle authority. She is approachable, insightful and empathetic, and is considered to be a good, reflective listener with a real pastoral concern at every level within the District. She is considered to have the ability to articulate the gospel and the work of Methodism in London, and to convey the strengths, concerns and needs of London Methodism to the rest of the Connexion. She is regarded as an excellent, thought-provoking preacher whose leadership of worship and provision of worship resources is widely admired. The way in which she has raised the profile of social responsibility issues in her role as link Chair to the Social Responsibility Commission and her initiative in inaugurating a District 'focus' on migration is much valued. She displays a passion for, and a theological understanding of social issues. She has built up significant interfaith and ecumenical relationships and links through her personal commitment in this area and is highly regarded by colleagues in other faiths and our ecumenical partners.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Michaela A Youngson is appointed as Chair for the London District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2018.

The Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle

Jongikaya Zihle was born and grew up under the apartheid regime in the Republic of South Africa. After initially pursuing a legal career, working with those without a voice, he trained and ministered for seven years in two Circuits of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa during a period of dramatic change there. He originally served as part of the World Church in Britain Programme, and has since been stationed in two Circuits (Harrow & Hillingdon and Forest) in the London District. He is currently Secretary of the Presbyteral Session of the Synod and is a member of the District Candidates Committee.

Jongi is recognised as a gifted and eloquent speaker who combines experience, academic strength and passion with humour, as witnessed in his public speaking, teaching and preaching. His background fostered the development of his leadership, conflict resolution, peace-making and pastoral skills. He is a good listener with exceptional empathy: unsurprisingly he is a key member of the District Reconciliation Group. He is a pastoral and missional leader, who in many ways and contexts has sought to equip others for works of service and to bring out the best in people and communities. He has the ability to grasp complex issues and to respond to them creatively, sensitively and humbly but with authority.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle is appointed as Chair of the London District for a period of six years from September 2017.