

## 49. Committee Appointments

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

#### **49/1. The Conference appoints the Strategy and Resources Committee of the Council in accordance with Standing Order 213:**

- (i) Dr Daleep S Mukarji (Chair)
- (iA) Ms Janet Arthur, Mrs Anne Bolton, Mr Nick Garrett, Professor David Matthews, Mrs Shelagh Morgan, the Revd Nicholas A Oborski, the Revd Marcus Torchon
- (ii) to be confirmed (Connexional Treasurer)
- (iii) deleted
- (iv) deleted
- (v) The Chair or Deputy Chair of the Ministries Committee: The Revd Gillian M Newton
- (vA) The Chair or Deputy Chair of the Mission Committee: The Revd Dr Calvin T Samuel
- (vi) District Chair: The Revd Kerry W Tankard
- (vii) The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice, Connexional Secretary (non-voting): the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, the Revd Michaela A Youngson, Mrs Joanne Anderton, Mr Doug Swanney.

#### **49/2. The Conference appoints the panel for the nomination of District Chairs:**

The Revds Richard J Byass, David P Easton, John Hellyer, Christine Jones, Marian J Jones, Nichola G Jones, Derrick R Lander, Charity D Madenyika, Paul Nzacahayo, Keith A Reed, Daniel P Reed, D Paul C Smith, Graham Thompson, Alison F Tomlin, Martin H Turner, Dr Martin Wellings.

Deacons Melanie Beaven, Josephine F A Critchley, David C Hunt, Suzie Viana.

Ms Jane Allin, Ms Janet Arthur, Mrs Sue Chastney, Ms Evelyn de Graft, Prof Peter D Howdle, Miss Marion Mear, Miss Elizabeth Ovey, Mr Malcolm Pearson, Mr Noel Rajaratnam, Mr David Ridley, Mrs Caroline Stead, Dr Malcolm Stevenson, Mrs Rosemary Wass, Mrs Ruth Wilton, Mrs Helen Woodall, Mr Rob Wylie with the Secretary of the Conference as convener.

#### **49/3. The Conference appoints the panel for Connexional Discipline, Pastoral and Appeal Committees and persons with associated functions:**

Connexional Complaints Officer: Professor Diane Rowland, Mr Joseph Anoom (deputy), the Revd James A Booth (deputy).

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Chairs: Mr Stephen Allinson, Mr Graham Danbury, Mr Robert Gaitskell, Ms Jane McIvor, Sir Alastair Norris, Miss Elizabeth Ovey.

Advocates: Mr Stephen Allinson, Mr Joseph Anoom, the Revd Jennifer M Dyer, Mr Adrian Turner, the Revd Stuart Wild.

Conveners: Discipline, Appeals and Pastoral: The Revd C Mary Austin, the Revd Andrew Cordy, Mr David Kendrew, Mrs Shelagh Morgan, the Revd Ian S Rutherford.

The Revds Derek A Aldridge, C Mary Austin, Peter E Barber, Inderjit S Bhogal, Neil A Bishop, Nick Blundell, Jill B Bowden, Kathleen M Bowe, Anne E Brown, Dr Stuart J Burgess, R Graham Carter, David Clowes, John A Cooke, K Hilary Cooke, Judy M Davies, Paul H Davis, Dr Valentin Dedji, Christine A Dybdahl, Jennifer M Dyer, Stuart Earl, Hazel M Forecast, Albert Gayle, Anne E Gibson, Dr Barbara C Glasson, Yvonne Haye, David A Haslam, John Hellyer, Sonia M Hicks, Brian R Hoare, Kenneth G Howcroft, Jimione Kaci, Jacob Kaiga, Prof Teddy Kalongo, Saidu Kanu, Ermal Kirby, John S Lampard, Christina Le Moignan, Julie A Lunn, Charity Madenyika, Paul Martin, Loraine N Mellor, William R Morrey, Siperire Mugadzaweta, Dr Paul Nzacahayo, Hayford Ofori-Attah, Lionel E Osborn, R Stephen Penrose, Dr David W Perry, Stephen J Poxon, Dr Kathleen M Richardson, Dr Neil G Richardson, J Roger Roberts, John D Robinson, Ian S Rutherford, Calvin T Samuel, D Paul C Smith, Ian Souter, Kenneth Stokes, Thomas J Stuckey, Richard J Teal, G Jeff Thomas, Graham Thompson, Alison Tomlin, Martin H Turner, Dr Mark H Wakelin, C Norman R Wallwork, Dr Roger L Walton, Peter Whittaker, Julia M Wiktorska, Sharon Willimott, Ian Yates.

Deacons Kate Barrett, Sue Culver, Jane Middleton, Myrtle Poxon, Rowland H Wilkinson.

Mrs Jane Allison, Mr Donald B Appleyard, Mrs E Jill Baker, Dr B Jill Barber, Mr John A Bell, Mr Simon Birks, Mrs Stella Bristow, Mrs Teresa Broadbent, Mr Dudley Coates, Mr John Connor, Mr Colin Cradock, Mr Andrew Cross, Ms Gillian M Dascombe, Mr Brian Davies, Mr Peter Dawe, Mrs Barbara Easton, Mr Balachandren M Gnanapragasam, Prof Peter Howdle, Mrs Judy Jarvis, Mr David Kendrew, Mr Michael P King, Mr Chris Kitchin, Mrs Sophie Kumi, Ms Rachel J Lampard, Mrs Carolyn J Lawrence, Mrs Helen R Letley, Prof Clive Marsh, Dr Edmund I Marshall, Dr Daleep S Mukarji, Mr Leon A Murray, Mrs Nwabueze Nwokolo, Mrs Sonia J O'Connor, Mrs Margaret Parker, Mrs Ruth Pickles, Mr Timothy Ratcliffe, Mrs Jean Schroeder, Mr Stephen Schroeder,

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Dr Alan Thomson, Mr Brian Thornton, Mrs Rosemary Wass, Mr Ivan Weekes, Sister Eluned Williams.

### 49/4. The Conference appoints the panel for Connexional Complaints Teams:

The Revds Timothy J Bradshaw, Hilary Cheng, Molly Chitokwindo, Edson Dube, David R Ellis, Jacquie P Evans, L E Maree Farrimond, Andrew F Goodhead, Oluyemisi Jaiyesimi, David Jebb, Christopher Jones, Saidu Kanu, Simon H Leigh, Charity Madenyika, Farai Mapamula, R Margaret K Mwalu, Nicholas A Oborski, Stephen Penrose, David M Shaw (A), Kate Strange, Paul S Weir, Ruth E Whittard, Stuart Wild, Linda M Woollacott, Mmasape Zihle.

Deacons Myrtle Poxon, Stephen F Roe.

Miss Maureen Anderson, Ms Trudie Awuku, Miss Joan Ball, Mr Malcolm Bell, Mr Peter Binks, Ms Charlotte Boaiter, Mr David M Chandler, Mr Leo Cheng, Mr Peter Dawe, Mrs Eve DeGraft, Mr Daniel Djaba, Mr David Kendrew, Mr Chris Kitchin, Miss Kathryn Larrad, Mr David Laycock, Ms Betty Maynard, Mrs Nwabueze Nwokolo, Mrs Jean Schroeder, Mr John Scott.

### 49/5. The Conference appoints the Ministerial Candidates' Selection Committee:

The Revds Dr Iain M Ballard, Nicola Briggs, Richard J Byass, Benjamin P Clowes, Ashley Cooper, Dr Jonathan Dean [SO 320(1)(i)], Dr Graham Edwards, David R Emison, Dr Jonathan K Gichaara, Mark P Hammond, Dr David Hinchliffe, Catherine Hutton, Philip J Jackson, David Jebb, Naomi Kaiga, Saidu Kanu, Dr Elizabeth A Kent, M Susan E Lawler, Farai Mapamula, Vindra Maraj-Ogden, Paul Mellor, Andrew C Moffoot, Anthony J D Morling, Charity Nzegwu, Dr Claire R Potter [SO 320(1)(i)], James Pritchard, Stephen E Robinson, Mary Sachikonye, Cleopas Sibanda, Tina F Swire, Stuart Wild,

Deacons Melanie Beaven, Dawn N Canham, Joy Everingham, David Keegan, Belinda S Letby, Pamela Luxton, Jonathan Miller, Suzanne Peat, Kerry R Scarlett, Sian M Street, Suzie Viana, Linda Watkin, Ruth Yorke,

Ms E Jane Allin, Ms Winnie Baffoe, Ms Charlotte Ballard Scott, Mr Geoffrey Best, Ms Anne Browse, Ms Jenny Cheung, Ms Sharon Clutterbuck, Ms Deborah Harrison, Ms Jo Henderson-Merrygold, Mr Paul Kybird, Mrs Jane Lloyd, Ms Victoria Loveday, Mrs Catherine Roots, Mrs Anne Vautrety, Mr Joshua Wilson

The Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order has the right to attend but not to vote.

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### **49/6. The Conference appoints oversight tutors [in accordance with Standing Order 321(5)(b)]:**

*Where more than one oversight tutor is appointed for the same institution one shall be identified as having oversight responsibility. In the following list, that person is identified by an asterisk.*

Queen's Foundation, Birmingham: \* The Revd Dr Jane Craske, Deacon Melanie Beaven, the Revd Dr Christine Dutton, the Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, the Revd Dr Catrin Harland-Davies, the Revd Dr Gary P Hall, Deacon Julie Hudson, the Revd Dr Paul Nzacahayo, the Revd Dr Judith Rossall

### **49/7. The Conference appoints the Faith and Order Committee:**

A senior member of the Connexional Team representing the Secretary of the Conference: The Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler.

The Secretary of the Committee: The Revd Mark Rowland.

The Revd Moses Agyam, Deacon Angela Allport, the Revd Dr George P Bailey, the Revd Yanyan Case, the Revd Dr David M Chapman, Mr Dudley Coates, the Revd Dr Graham M Edwards, the Revd Dr Catrin L Harland-Davies, the Revd Dr Eleanor Jackson, the Revd Lionel E Osborn, Mr Craig Price, the Revd Dr Judith A Rossall, the Revd Neil A Stubbens, the Revd Simon C Sutcliffe, the Revd Kerry W Tankard, the Revd Dr Martin Wellings (Chair), the Revd Dr Caroline Wickens, the Revd G Ian Yates.

### **49/8. The Conference appoints the Stationing Committee under Standing Order 322:**

- (i) Lay Chair: to be confirmed
- (ii) The Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Conference: The Revds Dr Jonathan R Hustler and Michaela A Youngson
- (iii) Seven district Chairs and seven district Lay Stationing Representatives:

South-East	The Revd Nigel Cowgill Mr Keith Norman
South-West	The Revd Dr Jonathan H Pye Mrs Mary McNaughton
Wales/Midlands:	The Revd Rachel Parkinson Mrs Val Mayers
Yorkshire:	<u>The Revd Leslie Newton</u> Mrs Gill Daly
East Midlands	The Revd Julian Pursehouse Mrs Sue P Walters

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| North West     | The Revd Philip Gough<br>Mr Malcolm Aspey |
| North/Scotland | The Revd S Mark Slaney<br>Mr Bill Offler  |
- (iv) No more than two Team members with responsibility for presbyteral and diaconal selection; and for the stationing of probationers: The Revd Dr Claire Potter
- (v) *deleted*
- (vi) *deleted*
- (vii) The chair of the Stationing Advisory Committee: The Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle
- (viii) The Warden or deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order: Deacon Karen McBride
- (ix) The chair and a lay member of the Diaconal Stationing Sub-committee: The Revd Dr David Hinchliffe; to be confirmed
- (x) The chair of the group responsible on behalf of the Stationing Committee for overseeing the matching of particular presbyters to appointments: The Revd Jennifer A Impey
- (xi) The convener of the Stationing Action Group: The Revd Dr Stephen J Lindridge

### **49/9. The Conference appoints representatives to ecumenical bodies as follows:**

- (a) *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI): Annual General Meeting:* Mr Bala Gnanapragasam.
- (b) *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland: Senior Representatives' Forum:* Mr Bala Gnanapragasam; the Revd Michaela A Youngson.
- (c) *Churches Together in England (CTE): Enabling Group* The Revd Dr Jonathan H Pye, the Revd Michaela A Youngson.
- (d) *Scottish Christian Forum (formerly Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS)): Members' Meeting:* The Revd S Mark Slaney; the Revd A James Patron Bell
- (e) *Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales): Enabling Group* The Revd Dr Jennifer A Hurd.  
Proxies: The Revds Dr Ian D Morris, Philip A Poynor.

### **49/10. The Conference appoints the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee:**

Mrs Sarah Atwell-King, Mr Adrian Burton, Mr Alan Kershaw (Chair), Mrs Susan M Mortimer, Mr Michael Rickard

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### 49/11. The Conference appoints the Methodist Council of 2023:

The ex officio members specified in Standing Order 201, and:

- (i) The chair of the Council: The Revd Sonia M Hicks;
- (iA) The Assistant Secretary of the Conference: The Revd Michaela A Youngson;
- (iB) The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice: Mrs Joanne Anderton;
- (ii) The Connexional Treasurer: *to be confirmed*
- (iii) Four District Chairs: The Revds Richard M Andrew, Helen R Kirk, S Mark Slaney; *a vacancy*
- (iv) Twenty-nine District representatives: Mr Stephen Arnold, Mrs Marianne Barrett Rogers, the Revd Dr Moira Biggins, Mr Mark Braithwaite, the Revd Deborah L Caulk, the Revd Steven R M Cooper, the Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling, Mrs Gill Dascombe, the Revd Simon C Edwards, the Revd Ann Fox, the Revd Jennifer M Gill, Mr Peter Gregson, Ms Beti W T Holmes, Mrs Carolyn Hothersall, the Revd Marie-Anne Kent, Mr Joseph Lambert, Mrs Val Mayers, Dr Hellen Okello, the Revd Romeo R Pedro, Mrs Sheila Pollard, Miss Bridget Quint, the Revd Luke G S Smith, Ms Sandra A Smith, the Revd Rebekah Stennett, the Revd Howard J Stringer, Mrs Jenny Taylor, Mrs Elizabeth Ward, vacancies (Isle of Man, Manchester and Stockport).
- (v) The Connexional Secretary: Mr Doug Swanney;
- (vi) The Chair and two members of the SRC: Dr Daleep Mukarji, Professor David Matthews, the Revd Marcus Torchon;
- (viA) The Chair or Deputy Chair of the Ministries Committee: Mr Keith Norman;
- (vii) A representative of the Diaconal Order: Deacon Karen McBride;
- (viii) Two representatives of the Youth Assembly: Ms Eleanor Dixon, Mr Matt Hayes;
- (ix) Two representatives of concerns of equality, diversity and inclusion: The Revd Charity Nzegwu, a vacancy
- (x) Up to four Conference-appointed persons.

### 49/12. The Conference directs that in accordance with Standing Order 210(2)(a) the Districts shall be represented on the Methodist Council of 2024 as follows:

By a presbyter or deacon:

Wales Synod Cymru, Birmingham, Bristol, Cumbria, Chester and Stoke-on-Trent, Isle of Man, Lincolnshire, Liverpool, Newcastle upon-Tyne, Lancashire, Sheffield, Yorkshire West, Yorkshire North and East, Scotland, London.

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By a lay person:

Bolton and Rochdale, Channel Islands, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Darlington, East Anglia, Manchester and Stockport, Nottingham and Derby, Northampton, Plymouth and Exeter, Southampton, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury, Shetland, Bedfordshire Essex Hertfordshire, South East.

### **49/13. The Conference appoints the following officers of the 2024 Conference:**

#### **Representative Session**

Journal Secretary:	The Revd Jennifer M Dyer
Record Secretary:	Mr Martin Harker
Convener of the Memorials Committee:	The Revd Catherine Dixon

#### **Presbyteral Session**

Record Secretary:	The Revd Jennifer M Dyer
Assistant Record Secretary:	The Revd Rosemarie E G Clarke

### **49/14. The Conference appoints the following officers of the Conference Diaconal Committee:**

Recording Officers: to be confirmed  
Reporting Officer: to be confirmed

### **49/15. The Conference appoints the Ministries Committee:**

Mrs Caroline E L Dobinson, Mr Iain A S Henderson, Ms Angharad Herriman, the Revd Dr Andrew J Lunn, Mr Andrew Maisey, the Revd Gillian M Newton (Chair), Deacon Lemia Nkwelah, Mr Keith Norman (Deputy Chair), Deacon Andrew C Packer, Mrs Karen Stefanyshyn, the Revd Caroline A Weaver, the Revd Michaela A Youngson (Convener).

### **49/16. The Conference appoints the Mission Committee:**

Miss Rebecca Ainsworth, the Revd Richard M Andrew, Mr Paul Bridges, the Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling (Chair), Mr Matthew Forsyth, the Revd Dr Laurence Graham, the Revd Elaine M Lindridge, the Revd Ian S Rutherford, the Revd Dr Calvin T Samuel (Deputy Chair), the Revd Jennifer A Spouge, Mr Paul Spray

### **49/17. The Conference appoints the Trustees of Epworth Old Rectory:**

Mrs Sarah Friswell (Chair), Mr John Purdy (Secretary), the Revd Stuart Gunson (Treasurer), Mr Barry Clarke, Professor William Gibson, the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, the Revd Angela Long, Mrs Ruth Parrott, the Revd Paul Wilson.

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### **World Methodist Council Trustees:**

Bishop Ivan Abrahams, the Revd Dr John Beyers, Dr Ashley Boggan Dreff, Mr Kirby Hickey, Archbishop Michael Kehinde Stephen.

### **49/18. The Conference appoints the Methodist Diaconal Order Leadership Group:**

Ms Nancy Acquaah, Ms Rachel J Lampard (Chair), the Revd Andrew Letby, the Revd Dr Claire R Potter; Deacon Dawn Canham, Deacon Claire Gill; Mr Peter Baffoe.

### **49/19. The Conference appoints the Revd Sir Ralph Waller as a member and Chair of the Board of Westminster College Oxford Trust for a period of three years from 1 September 2022.**

### **49/20. The Conference appoints Mrs Mary Lines as a director of Westminster College Oxford Trust Ltd for a further three years from 1 September 2023.**

### **Details of New Nominations (underlined above):**

Winnie Baffoe	A member of Bermondsey Central Hall, Winnie has skills in strategic development and experience of a range of church communities in Britain and Western Africa. Her academic training gives her insights into the development of people and its impact in communities.
Marianne Barrett Rogers	Nominated to the Council by the Plymouth and Exeter District
Moira Biggins	Nominated to the Council by the Nottingham and Derby District.
Nicola Briggs	A presbyter ordained in 2019, currently serving in the Nottingham and Derby District, Nicola brings recent experience of her own vocational journey. She has been a member and co-secretary of the District Candidates Committee in the Nottingham and Derby District, has supported a candidate, serves as Synod Secretary and as a member of the District Chair Nomination Committee. She brings first hand experience of living with a disability which makes her aware of some of the challenges people can face in offering for ministry, and the support needed.



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Yanyan Case	A recently-ordained presbyter stationed in the Nottingham North East Circuit. From mainland China, she grew up with an atheist background, alongside a strong Buddhist and Daoist presence. She is bilingual and is currently studying biblical Hebrew. She has previously studied missiology and has particular interests in 'reverse mission' and in evangelism.
Jenny Cheung	A member of Loughborough Chinese Methodist Church, Jenny has served on the District Candidates Committee of the Northampton District. She is a trustee of Methodist World Mission. She is a civil servant working with revenue. She feels that she brings an understanding of differences in culture to the discernment process.
Gill Dascombe	Nominated to the Council by the Bolton and Rochdale District
Barbara Easton	Vice-President of the Conference 2021/2022
Ann Fox	Nominated to the Council by the Yorkshire North and East District
Jennifer Gill	Nominated to the Council by the Newcastle upon Tyne District
Deborah Harrison	A member of St Johns Church. Gloucester and a local preacher and youth worker, Deborah is trained in clinical theology and is not afraid to ask searching questions. She is involved in chaplaincy at a Bristol Cathedral Choir School and has experience in listening and counselling.
Matt Hayes	Nominated to the Council by 3Generate
Sonia Hicks	President of the Conference 2021/2022
Carolyn Hothersall	Nominated to the Council by the Lancashire District
David Jebb	A presbyter ordained in 1990, currently serving in the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District, David brings a long and wide experience of ministry having served in diverse communities in Sri Lanka, America and different parts of Britain. He has supported 11 ministerial candidates during his ministry. He has served on a District Candidates' Committee and is currently a member of the World Methodist Council Christian Education Committee.

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Naomi Kaiga	A presbyter ordained in 2000, currently serving in the Yorkshire West District, Naomi has served on the District Candidates' Committee and the Chairs' Nomination Committee. She has gifts of spiritual discernment, and her cultural background gives her a new perspective with regard to the diversity of the church.
Saidu Kanu	A presbyter ordained in 2014, currently serving in the London District, Saidu is keen to offer to others the nurture he has received in the church. He has previously served on the District Candidates' Committee in the Northampton District and has supported individual candidates. He has experience in healthcare chaplaincy and group therapies.
Marie-Anne Kent Chris Kitchin	Nominated to the Council by the Liverpool District Significant experience as Lead Member of Connexional Complaints Teams, disciplinary, employment, magisterial hearings and police appeals tribunals. Former Chair of the Bench and NHS Chief Executive, church and circuit steward.
Mary Lines	Retired teacher who trained at Westminster College in the 1970s and returned to the college to complete a part time, modular degree in the 1990s. Since retiring she has served as Foundation Governor in a village Primary School with responsibility for Safeguarding, SEND and Early Years and remains committed to providing inclusive education for all. She is the Safeguarding Lead in her local Methodist Church in Oxford.
Pamela Luxton	A deacon ordained in 2016, currently serving in the Lincolnshire District, Pamela brings experience of two diaconal appointments, one focussed on a council estate and her current appointment in caravan chaplaincy. She describes herself as being a mature candidate from a working class background and wishes to demonstrate that it is possible for people from any background to candidate for ordained ministry.
Leslie Newton	Chair of the Yorkshire North and East District
James Patron Bell	Ecumenical Officer for the Scotland District
Romeo Pedro	Nominated to the Council by the Sheffield District

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Mary Sachikonye	A presbyter ordained in 2019, currently serving in the East Anglia District, Mary has assessment experience as a social worker. She is passionate about working with people in spiritual discernment. As a recently ordained minister she brings fresh memories of the processes. She brings experience of various cultural contexts and an understanding of how some cultural values and beliefs might impact expressions of calling.
Cleopas Sibanda	A presbyter ordained in 2003, currently serving in the Birmingham District, Cleopas brings skills gained from serving as a District Bishop and on Probationers' and Candidates' Committees in Zimbabwe. His experience of diversity and dynamism from an African context supported by 7 years of ministry in Britain brings a global perspective.
Luke Smith	Nominated to the Council by the Lincolnshire District
Simon Sutcliffe	A presbyter stationed as a Learning and Development Officer in the Connexional Team, with responsibility for designing and delivering Theological Literacy sessions for adults across the Connexion. He brings experience of working with circuits to help them think theologically about priorities, mission and ministry and is a skilled theologian, theological educator and communicator.
Graham Thompson	President of the Conference 2022/2023
Suzie Viana	A deacon ordained in 2016, currently serving in the Southampton District, Suzie has been a member of the District Candidates Committee. She brings experience of Christian faith in Brazil, a heart for creative pastoral care and prayer, as well as courage to ask the difficult questions with much compassion. She is able to discern what God is saying and then work through how to implement God's calling.
Ralph Waller	A Methodist presbyter, who has previously served in a number of circuit appointments and higher education chaplaincies, including as chaplain of Westminster College, Oxford. From 1988 until 2018 he was the Principal of Harris Manchester College in the University of Oxford, and was a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the university.
Elizabeth Ward	Nominated to the Council by the Southampton District

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- Stuart Wild                      A presbyter ordained in 1993, currently serving in the Lancashire District, Stuart brings experience of serving on the District Candidates' Committee in West Yorkshire and was secretary of the District Candidates' Committee in Bristol. He has an analytical approach to reading reports and is a good active listener and reflects theologically.
- Ruth Yorke                      A deacon ordained in 2007, currently serving in the Birmingham District, Ruth has been a member of the District Probationers' Committee and the Methodist Diaconal Order Religious Advisory Committee, as well as various other connexional roles. She brings an understanding of diaconal ministry and the religious order, an ability at being effective in a team, and abilities at discerning gifts and recognising vocations.