

# Methodist Women in Britain

## 1. Aims of Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB):

- To know Christ and make him known, encouraging, enabling and equipping women to participate fully in the life of the Church and in society
- To support the Church in its mission to become truly the whole people of God.

## 2. Objectives:

MWiB encourages women to develop creative Christian spirituality and practical social action in a global context:

- Praying for the life of the Church and the world
- Organizing, facilitating and resourcing social action projects
- Raising money for the Methodist World Mission Fund

We achieve this through:

- prayer, meditation and study
- strengthening relationships
- sharing experiences, and
- building one another up in faith

We enable growth by

- offering a challenging vision
- fostering personal gifts, and
- providing information and resources.

Our activities in Britain are informed by belonging to God's people world-wide. We see ourselves as part of an international movement of faith, compassion and hope; growing in love for God, our neighbours and ourselves as we connect with the concerns of Christian women overseas. In this way, we equip women for mission, recognizing and linking gifts and needs.

We aim to operate in a manner that is flexible, vibrant, transparent, collaborative, creative and participative; using technology, where possible, to make best use of time and financial resources.

MWiB is a self-supporting movement, including and incorporating the Women's Network in the Methodist Church (WN) and the British Unit of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (British Unit, WFMUCW). We continue to use our existing logos to symbolize our presence and our work. There is no official membership of the movement. We aim to communicate our ideas and activities as widely as possible, and individuals can join our mailing list at no cost.

### **3. Role, Responsibilities and Tasks of the Methodist Women in Britain Forum**

The MWiB Forum is the decision-making body of the movement, demonstrating its ethos of inclusive, collaborative, non-hierarchical ways of working. Meeting at least once per year, the Forum encourages women to participate, take responsibility and take action on the issues that concern them in the Church and in society.

The Forum consists of

- one representative from each District of the Methodist Church in Britain, elected or appointed for three years<sup>1</sup>
- members of the Methodist Women in Britain Executive
- the Methodist representative to the Women's World Day of Prayer movement

The Forum has the power to invite guests from Church or public life to assist with its work, as appropriate.

The Forum remains mindful of the need to:

- reflect the diversity of women's experience within British Methodism
- relate to other women's organizations for joint action on social issues
- work ecumenically wherever possible
- adapt its ways of working, as necessary, to remain inclusive and relevant to the changing shape of the Methodist Church in Britain.

By means of Executive Officers, task groups, a part-time Administrator and other ways of working, the Forum:

- Prepares material for, and assists in the administration of, the Easter Offering Service
- Organizes & facilitates Connexional residential and Regional day conferences
- Organizes & facilitates WFMUCW Area Seminars, as required
- Holds a seat at the Methodist Conference (MWiB President)
- Administers social and community action grants, and empowerment grants
- Undertakes project work at the request of the Methodist Conference or Connexional Team
- Contributes to, distributes and promotes "The Tree of Life" (newsletter of the WFMUCW)
- Prepares and distributes mailings to the British Districts and individuals
- Maintains and develops the MWiB website
- Develops, publishes and distributes resource material

#### **A Forum member must:**

- Have the support of women in her District and her District Synod
- Attend the Forum and participate in its work

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<sup>1</sup> Initially, some will be elected or appointed for different periods, to avoid all the representatives changing at once

- Connect with women of her own District, both within the MWiB structure and beyond it
- Convey the vision of MWiB, and present information clearly
- Extend her understanding and skills through training and personal development
- Be willing to use technology, where possible, to make best use of time and financial resources

The contribution of individual Forum members includes:

- listening to, and learning from, the stories of women from around the world
- learning to see their own experience in a global context
- listening to Methodist women in their own Districts, of all ages and backgrounds
- taking their concerns to the Forum
- meeting, praying, receiving training and reflecting together
- discussing the concerns of women at home and overseas
- taking action to discern and decide the priorities of the movement

#### **4. Role, Responsibilities & Tasks of the Methodist Women in Britain Executive**

The Methodist Women in Britain Executive facilitates the Forum so that the work of MWiB goes forward in every respect. Executive Officers provide information, spiritual stimulus and leadership as necessary, but in a way which releases the resources the Forum members bring to the table, so that they are encouraged, equipped and enabled to act on what is discussed.

The Executive “holds” the work and concerns of the Forum between meetings of the Forum itself so that the life of the movement is sustained, its priorities pursued and its goals achieved. All the Officers share the responsibility to communicate effectively, advocate the aims of the movement, and represent Methodist women.

The Executive works as a team, building mutual trust and contributing their varied skills and talents to the common task. They may not all have the same capacity for travel, but will nevertheless inform themselves about the work of the MWiB and WFMUCW and issues which affect women in Britain and around the world.

They share the following responsibilities:

- preparing for & facilitating the Forum
- implementing the decisions of the Forum
- keeping Methodist women informed
- acting on the Forum’s behalf in a manner in keeping with the goals and ethos of the movement and the policy laid down by the Forum
- encouraging, equipping and enabling members of the Forum and Methodist women in general

The work of the Executive Officers may include any or all of the following:

- attending Executive meetings, the MWiB Forum, the WFMUCW Assembly and other events as required
- undertaking speaking engagements and visits to develop local work
- travelling throughout the British Connexion and overseas
- writing articles and making reports
- helping to prepare material on spiritual and social action themes
- facilitating the work of small groups
- helping to organize, facilitate and lead consultations, conferences and training events
- networking with other groups, committees and organizations

Personal qualities needed include:

- ability to manage personal time, expense claims and administration
- ability to communicate well face to face, by telephone, by email, in writing and in public meetings
- ability to adapt personal talents and specialized skills to achieve team goals
- ability to think creatively in working through difficulties

## **5. Specific Roles of Executive Officers**

### **President of MWiB/British Unit WFMUCW:**

Oversees the spirituality, strategy and direction of the movement

Chairs/Leads the Forum so that it can achieve the aims of MWiB and function effectively as the British Unit of the WFMUCW<sup>2</sup>

Chairs Executive meetings so that the team can facilitate the priorities, work and life of the Forum

Represents MWiB at the Methodist Conference

Is Line Manager of the MWiB Administrator

Represents MWiB as required, e.g. at Area meetings and Seminars, at the World Assembly

Advocates the Easter Offering

Elected to serve 4 year term with years 2 and 3 as President

### **Vice-President of MWiB/British Unit WFMUCW:**

Assists and supports the President in fulfilling her remit, with particular attention to:

Year 1: the spirituality, direction and momentum of the movement

Year 4: supporting the new President at the Methodist conference, and in preparing and advocating the Easter Offering

Deputizes for the President on request

Assists and supports other members of the team as required

Elected to serve 4 year term with years 1 and 4 as Vice-President

### **Communications Officer:**

Oversees the communications of the movement

Corresponds with WFMUCW Officers and other WFMUCW units, as required

Receives "The Tree of Life" and other communications from overseas on behalf of MWiB/British Unit

Facilitates the preparation of mailings, newsletters, articles, leaflets and website material

Oversees the work of the Administrator on publications, website, mailings and database.

Works closely with the Administrator to achieve these tasks.

Appointed to serve 5 year term

### **World Federation Area Officer:**

Travels to represent MWiB (functioning as the British Unit of the WFMUCW) overseas, attending WFMUCW meetings and events as required

Represents MWiB/British Unit at the Connexional World Mission Forum; on the World

Methodist Council committee of the British Methodist Church; and, as necessary, represents the British Methodist Church on the World Methodist Council Executive.

Reports back to the Executive Officers and the MWiB Forum, so as to enable them to fulfill the aims and aspirations of the WFMUCW in Britain

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<sup>2</sup> This includes facilitating the reporting, objectives, guidelines and financial dues of the World Federation, as set out in the British Unit/World Federation Constitution

- In some quinquennia<sup>3</sup>, the World Federation Area Officer will act as President of the WFMUCW Area (Britain and Ireland). In others<sup>4</sup>, the World Federation Area Officer will act as Vice-President of the WFMUCW Area (Britain and Ireland). The responsibilities and tasks associated with these roles are set out in the WFMUCW constitution and handbook.

Appointed to serve 5 year term

**Finance & Resources Officer:**

Manages the finances of the movement, including the preparation of budgets, using data and services supplied by the Administrator and by Financial services (MCH)

Presents accounts of the movement to the Executive and Forum at least once per year

Manages stocks of resources held and dispatched by the Administrator

Appointed to serve 5 year term

13<sup>th</sup> February 2010

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<sup>3</sup> E.g. 2011-2016

<sup>4</sup> E.g. 2016-2021