

OUR WORLD CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS: FUTURE STRATEGY

Purpose

1 Immediately before the 2010 Conference, we look forward to welcoming leaders of all our Partner Churches around the globe to an All Partners Consultation. This will mark the centenary of the seminal 1910 Edinburgh Missionary Conference but also provide an opportunity for fresh thinking about the way our partnerships should work in the contemporary world.

2 In preparing for this event, the British Methodist Church needs to consider what input it wishes to make to this fresh thinking. The Council is invited to have a major discussion to help shape this input.

Resources

To assist this discussion, a series of papers are provided to provide background and stimulus. The authors recognise that some members of Council have enormous expertise in the areas summarised in these papers but hope that they will be particularly useful to Council members with less familiarity with this aspect of the Connexion's commitments.

MC/10/08 Background Paper: All Partners Consultation gives a summary of the likely shape of the June event.

MC/10/09 Background Paper: Grant Making provides a reflection on our experience of grant-making as a dimension of partnership.

MC/10/10 Background Paper: Financial Trends summarises the resources currently available to support partnerships, noting that the total sums available will fall markedly over the next few years.

MC/10/11 Background Paper: Personnel describes the main personnel-based elements of partnership and their recent reviews.

MC/10/12 Mission Personnel Review is the Executive Summary of a report prepared for the Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies (SOCMS) Advisory Council with the Methodist Church as one audience. ***This paper should be treated as confidential.***

Discussion

The Mission Personnel Review for SOCMS in fact prompts many of the key questions the Methodist Church has to address as it seeks excellence in its partnership but within limited resources. Therefore the final paper is **MC/10/13 Issues for the Council** which sets out some of the background to the SOCMS report, gives an initial Connexional Team response to it and then highlights some areas for Council debate.

At the Council these papers will be introduced briefly and then the Council will have the opportunity to divide into facilitated groups to address particularly the issues in the final paper. The feedback from the groups will indicate what the Council wishes to say as a contribution into the All Partners Consultation.

John Ellis
Secretary for Team Operations

8 January 2010