

## Review of the post of Secretary of the Conference/General Secretary of the Methodist Church

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<b>Status of Paper</b>	Final
<b>Action Required</b>	Decision
<b>Draft Resolution</b>	61/1. The Council establishes a working party to review the post of the Secretary of the Conference/General Secretary of the Methodist Church..., and to report to the Council in April 2014.  61/2. The Council appoints the following members of the working party: <i>Names to be tabled at the Council.</i>

1. In 2002 the Council reported to the Conference on the conclusions of the Leadership Task Group. It recommended that the leadership of the Conference Office, the then Co-ordinating Secretaries and the District Chairs should be brought together in a unified management and leadership team, with one member being designated the executive leader. The preference was for the Secretary of the Conference to be given the responsibility for leading the unified team, being designated General Secretary. The Conference resolved to make an appointment to the office of the Secretary of the Conference in 2003, the person to be appointed also to be the General Secretary of the Methodist Church.
2. Thus one person was to be given responsibility for the work not only of the Conference Office but also of the Connexional Team and for coordinating that with the work of the District Chairs. This person would therefore lead a unified team.
3. In 2007 a Review Group on the role of the General Secretary reported its findings to the Council since the first holder of the office was standing down in 2008. It felt that the post had had positive benefits overall and the Council therefore recommended that the post be continued for a further five years, particularly since the Team Focus process was underway and stability in leadership would enable the further development of the leadership structures of the Church. A further review of senior leadership in the Methodist Church was suggested to be brought to the Conference of 2011.
4. Since 2007, the Presidency has been reviewed (2010 and 2011) and the senior leadership of the Connexional Team in 2012. However the post of Secretary of the Conference/General Secretary has not been reviewed (it being excluded from the 2012 review). It is now 10 years since the post was established and it has been held by two different people.
5. Informal discussion and feedback leads to the view that a review of the post would be beneficial at this time. This view is endorsed by the current office-holder and by the Chair of the SRC to whom he is accountable. It is suggested that the Council appoint a small working group to review the post and report to the Council in April 2014, so that if there are any changes to be recommended, the Council could bring these to the Conference of 2014 before there is the need for any new appointment to the post to be made.

6. It is suggested that the working party should consider the current roles and responsibilities of the post; the relationships between Governance Support (ie the Conference Office), the rest of the Connexional Team and the District Chairs; and the relationship between the post and the positions of the Assistant Secretary of the Conference and the Connexional Secretary. The working party should take cognisance of the past reviews of the senior leadership but is not expected to undertake another major review. It is expected that the working party will seek feedback from current leaders in the Connexion, relevant post holders and others it feels it should consult.

**\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS:**

**61/1. The Council establishes a working party to review the post of the Secretary of the Conference/General Secretary of the Methodist Church, as outlined in the report , and directs the working party to report to the Council in April 2014.**

**61/2. The Council appoints the following members of the working party:**

*Names to be tabled at the Council.*