

## Scotland District – Connexional Liaison Officer Review

### Basic Information

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<b>Status of Paper</b>	Final
<b>Action Required</b>	Decision
<b>Draft Resolution</b>	79/1. The Council receives the report.  79/2. The Council instructs the Connexional Secretary to proceed with the consultation.

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	To update the Council on work relating to the ending of the Connexional Liaison Officer post in Scotland.
<b>Main Points</b>	An update on work undertaken since Conference A plan for the consultation related to the Notice of Motion
<b>Consultations</b>	Connexional Liaison Officer for Scotland Incoming Chair of the Scotland District

### Summary of Impact

<b>Financial</b>	Cost of consultation will need to be accommodated within existing budgets
<b>Personnel</b>	Impacts on the current post holder as the role is brought to an end
<b>Wider Connexional</b>	Consultation needed in Scotland
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	Ecumenical partners to be consulted

## Scotland District – Connexional Liaison Officer Review

### 1. Background

Following the decision to make the post of Connexional Liaison Officer (Scotland) redundant the Conference accepted the following motion;

#### 2.1 **Notice of Motion 110 – The Methodist Church in Scotland**

*The Conference directs the Methodist Council:*

*(i) To consult with an appropriate range of stakeholders in order to reassess the work which has been undertaken by the Connexional Liaison Officer for Scotland (CLOfS), especially with the ecumenical partners (notably in active consultation through the EMU Partnership between the Scottish Episcopal, Methodist and United Reformed Churches);*

*(ii) To determine which tasks of the CLOfS role are of continuing significance and importance; and*

*(iii) To bring proposals to the Conference of 2014 as to how such tasks can be undertaken and resourced to make possible the effective future representation of Methodist in and from Scotland.*

2.2 Following the Conference a number of meetings were held with the current incumbent of the post to share initial thoughts about the future handling of work in Scotland.

2.3 As a result of those meetings a further meeting took place between the incoming Chair of the Scotland District, the Revd Dr David Easton, the Connexional Ecumenical Officer and the Connexional Secretary to discuss the approach for the next 12 months. The outcomes of those discussions are detailed below.

### 1. Moving forward

3.1 For a report to be devised, that will make Council recommendations to the Conference, some work has already happened. The main tasks for the CLOfS post were shared by the current post holder and although there are 46 individual areas they can be best summarised in the following way -

*To provide a Connexional Team presence in Scotland – to enable the Methodist Connexion to take an active part in the life of the Nation of Scotland alongside other denominations. The function covers liaison, coordination, support, resourcing and enabling in the following areas:*

1. *Ecumenical and interfaith relationships at a national and local level in Scotland.*
2. *Public, parliamentary and legislative affairs at a national level in Scotland.*
3. *World Church mission and development at a national level in Scotland.*
4. *Methodist participation in the civic life of Scotland.*
5. *The overall mission and inter- relationships of the different parts of Methodist Church in Scotland.*
6. *Representing the Connexional Team in Scotland as required.*

3.2 It is proposed that these six headings are used as the structure of the consultation which can then be used to inform a report for the March 2014 Council.

3.3 It has been identified that amongst those that need to be consulted as part of this process are:

Scotland District Ecumenical Stakeholder Group  
Scotland District Policy Committee  
Scotland District Synod  
Shetland District Policy Committee  
Shetland District Synod  
Connexional Leaders Forms (January 2014)  
Ecumenical Forum in Scotland  
The Scottish Episcopal Church  
The United Reformed Church in Scotland  
ACTS (Action of Churches Together in Scotland)  
The Church of Scotland

- 3.4 In order to ensure this work is completed as speedily as possible some of these consultations will need be undertaken by e-mail and phone, or arranged back to back.

**Recommendation**

- 3.5 To enable a thorough report to be undertaken the Council is asked therefore to request that 2 members of the Council work with the Connexional Secretary and the Chair of the Scotland District (or an agreed deputy) to take this work forward. It may be useful for one of those members to be the Wales Synod representative which would ensure the correct knowledge and experience.

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

**79/1. The Council receives the report.**

**79/2. The Council instructs the Connexional Secretary to proceed with the consultation.**