

Methodist Women in Britain

(incorporating Women's Network and the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women)
 Individual women, local church groups, circuit and district groups continue to be active in a whole variety of ways;
 familiar, tried & tested and new and experimental.

Each of the 31 Districts elects ONE REPRESENTATIVE to attend MWiB Forum (see below)

Methodist Women in Britain Forum

- Meets twice per year; one residential meeting & one day conference
- Attended by district reps + Executive (see below) + rep from WWDP
- Shares news, ideas, ways of working, prays and supports each other
- Sets the agenda for the movement
- Is the decision making body for the movement
- Appoints task groups as required
- Invites guests from other areas of church & public life as appropriate

Methodist Women in Britain - Executive (meets 4 times p.a.)

MWiB President

4 years in total
(see notes)

Spirituality &
direction of
movement

Seat at Conference

Vice-President

4 years in total
(see notes)

Works closely with
President

Spirituality

Communications Officer

5 years

Communication
to/from
districts/circuits
Publicity & Advocacy,
website etc.

Resources Officer

5 years

Oversight &
management of
financial & other
resources
Making budget

WFMUCW Area Officer

5 years

Maintains links with
WFMUCW & World
Church
Oversees EO

Administrator (non-executive)

Initially paid
Takes minutes,
writes letters

Oversees task
group for
organisation of
regional &
national events

SOME EXPLANATORY NOTES!

- Clearly more thinking will need to be done to put flesh on the bones of these structures. What we are seeking at this stage is initial feedback and reaction to these proposals so that we can continue working on them if it is felt that we are going in the right direction.
- We welcome comments and suggestions of things which may have been over-looked or which appear to be unworkable.
- In particular if any district feels it needs to know more about the WFMUCW, please contact the current officers who would be glad to explain further or to visit the district if that would be helpful.

GRASSROOTS: The new structures rely on the organisation being fuelled by the visions, dreams, prayers and ideas of Methodist Women across Britain. It is hoped that the movement will incorporate Women's Network and the British Unit of WFMUCW and also draw in women who do not consider themselves a member of either.

DISTRICTS: appoint one person (for 2 or 3 years*) to represent the district at the Methodist Women in Britain Forum. [*Odd-numbered districts to appoint for 3 years initially and then for 2; even-numbered districts for 2 to avoid the entire membership changing at the same time]. This woman needs to be someone with vision and energy, who is able to communicate ideas from the district to the Forum and from the Forum to the District.

AREAS: Area representatives will no longer be appointed under these proposals. However, where areas are functioning well and wish to continue to meet together and to be in relationship, there is nothing to prevent this from happening.

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN FORUM (MWiB Forum): This becomes the decision-making body of the movement, as described on the chart. It is envisaged that the first meeting of the Forum will take place in Spring 2011.

EXECUTIVE POSTS:

1. **PRESIDENT:** this one role combines the Women's Network President and the WFMUCW British Unit President. The post-holder will have responsibility for spirituality, general direction and momentum of the movement and holds the seat at the Methodist Conference. The President will serve as Vice-President for one year, then President for 2 years and then Vice-President for a further year, in a supportive role to the new President.
2. **VICE-PRESIDENT:** the Vice-President works closely with the President on spirituality, direction and momentum. The 4 year term means that she will learn from the President during the first year, before becoming President herself for 2 years and then supporting the new president for a fourth year. [Hence there is always one President and one Vice-President in office at any time – see attached table if this needs further clarification.]
3. **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER:** (similar to WFMUCW Unit Correspondent) Responsible for communications to and from the districts and other bodies, production and distribution of any newsletter/prayer diary/magazine, maintaining any database of contacts and overseeing the website and message boards. Works closely with the Administrator. In post for 5 years.
4. **RESOURCES:** Oversight of finances/budget-making. Oversight of any other saleable resources produced/marketed. In post for 5 years.

5. WFMUCW AREA OFFICER: *[The World Federation has 9 areas; we belong to the Europe: Britain and Ireland Area, which comprises 2 units; (i) Britain and (ii) Ireland. Each Area has a President and a Vice-president; in our area these two posts alternate between the British & Irish Units. In 2011-2016, the Area President will come from the British Unit and will be a member of the executive.]*

This post would be the main international link for the movement; linking with the World Federation and with the World Church Relationships team in the British Methodist Church. Will oversee the production of the Easter Offering service, in conjunction with others. In post for 5 years.

NON-EXECUTIVE POSTS:

- ADMINISTRATOR: Initially a paid post; responsible for taking minutes at meetings, writing letters, making arrangements for meetings, updating the website and other administration as required by the Executive. Also responsible for administering events (see below). Reviewed annually.

APPOINTMENT/ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The post of the first Vice-President (to be appointed in September 2010 and become President in September 2011) will be advertised nationally and applications will be welcomed from individuals or by nomination from districts. The application will include a supporting statement from the district and a c.v. This position will then be elected by the districts in a similar way as in the past.

Thereafter, the election of future Vice-Presidents (which will take place every two years) will again be by application, but the election will be held at the Methodist Women in Britain Forum.

All other posts will also be advertised nationally, and applications will be invited. Candidates will be interviewed and appointed by a task group of the MWiB Forum.

Job descriptions and application packs for all posts will be available by the end of January 2010 and appointments will be made by April 2010, allowing the Vice-President to take up office in September 2010 and the remaining new officers to shadow the current post-holders for one year.

It is envisaged that notice of the new movement will be given at the Methodist Conference 2010, with the new ways of working becoming fully operational in July/August 2011.

FINANCE: Finance for the new movement is being dealt with separately, but it should be noted that all expenses of these voluntary officers will need to be met by the movement, to ensure that no-one is prevented from applying for a post because they are not able to finance themselves.

TASK GROUPS: A variety of task groups will be needed at various times (as mentioned in the chart); specific mention is made here of one important task:

EVENTS TASK GROUP:

The Communications Officer and the Administrator will both be part of a task group to organise and administer national and regional residential and day events.