

Appointments

MC/24/22

Hope in God's Future Review Group

The Council is asked to appoint the following to form the *Hope in God's Future* Review Group:

David Clough is Professor of Theology and Applied Sciences at the University of Aberdeen. He was on the original writing group for *Hope in God's Future* and has published widely in the area of creation care and the climate emergency. He is a Local Preacher.

Jonathan Dean is Director of Learning for Ministry in the Connexional Team and represents the Ministries Team on the Action for Hope Task Force.

Andy Dye is Director of Global Relationships in the Connexional Team and has postgraduate research interests and qualifications in both science and missional theology.

Judith Lieu is the Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity Emerita at the University of Cambridge. She is a renowned biblical scholar, a former Chair of the Faith and Order Committee, and a Local Preacher.

Mark Rowland is the Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee. Along with theological qualifications, he has a degree in Chemical Engineering and has written on the relation between science and theology.

Simon Topping is Superintendent of the North East Somerset and Bath Circuit. He has researched in the field of science and theology, and has a long and deep interest in questions of the Christian response to climate change and the natural environment.

*****RESOLUTION**

24/1. The Council appoints the *Hope in God's Future* Review Group as set out in the report.

Authorisations Committee

*****RESOLUTION**

24/2. The Council appoints the Revd Matt Finch to the Authorisations Committee.

Reasoned Statement: The Revd Matt Finch is the Pioneering and Church Plant Officer in the Connexional Team. He works collaboratively to develop and implement a Church-wide strategy for 'new places for new people', developing leaders and pathways that promote experimentation, multiplication and growth. His previous appointment was as a Methodist minister in the St Neots and Huntingdon Circuit, where he established a café church, a contemplative community and new patterns of children and families ministry. He has substantial knowledge of missional and pioneering contexts, he has been consulted regarding all missional applications to the Authorisations Committee over the last few years and will be a valuable member of the committee which in future will focus on applications under the missional criteria.

Methodist Academies and Schools Trust

*****RESOLUTION**

24/3. The Council adopts the nomination by Methodist Academies and Schools Trust Trustees of the Revd Paul Martin as Co-opted Trustee for a period of one year concluding 31 August 2024.

Reasoned Statement

The Revd Paul Martin is a supernumerary minister in the Bolton Mission Circuit. He studied Religious Studies at Lancaster University and was a Pastoral Assistant in the Stretford and Urmston Circuit. He trained at Wesley College Bristol entering circuit ministry in 1984. He has served in the Bolton, Worsley, and Leigh and Hindley Circuits. Paul has served as a chaplain in hospitals, a hospice and the prison service and as a school governor in two Methodist Primary schools and a Community Primary school. Paul is a former Chair of the Bolton and Rochdale District.

Methodist Independent Schools Trust

***RESOLUTION

24/4. The Council adopts the nomination by Methodist Independent Schools Trust Trustees of Mr Stephen Holliday as Trustee for a period of two years concluding 31 August 2025.

Stephen Holliday was educated at Batley Grammar School and Jesus College, Cambridge where he read history. In 2000 he became Headmaster of Queen Elizabeth's Hospital in Bristol, retiring in 2020. He served as Treasurer of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) from 2013-2019 and as a Board member of the Independent Schools' Council during the same period. Stephen is currently a Reporting Inspector for the Independent Schools' Inspectorate. A local preacher, he is also Vice Chair of the Cliff College Committee.

Methodist International Centre Limited

***RESOLUTION

24/5. The Council appoints Sally Sudworth as a non-executive director of Methodist International Centre Limited.

Reasoned Statement:

Sally Sudworth is a Chartered Engineer and Chartered Environmentalist who retired from a leading consultancy firm in 2022. She has over 30 years' experience delivering key infrastructure through multi-disciplinary teams. She is an influencer, driving forward the sustainability and climate change agenda both in the UK and internationally and presented at COP 26 conferences. Sally is currently the Company Secretary and a trustee for the charity RedR, which provides international capacity building for engineers involved in disaster relief. She is a practising member of the Church of England and led the team in her parish church to achieve the Eco Church Bronze status. Sally would provide an important environmental skill set to the Board of MICL.

Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation

***RESOLUTION

24/6. The Council co-opts the following members to the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation under the terms of Standing Order 320(2A): Mark Carrick, Simon Edwards, Helen Hickson, Vivienne Smith, Eva Walker

Reasoned Statements:

Mark Carrick is a presbyter, currently serving in the Derbyshire North East Circuit. He brings experience in recruitment, development and mentoring of staff in senior management. Since becoming a presbyter, he has managed a number of people, undertaken supervision and line management training and journeyed alongside a number of potential candidates. He has a passion for developing disciples and for helping people to discover and use their gifts. He has excellent attention to detail and is good in team situations.

Simon Edwards is a presbyter, currently serving in the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit. In his previous roles as a youth worker and a family worker and now as a presbyter, he has found it fulfilling to encourage people in exploring their call and vocation. He has a PhD in practical theology with an emphasis on Methodist ecclesiology and Fresh Expressions. He is a Deputy Chair of District and brings listening skills, administrative efficiency and an instinct for collaboration.

Helen Hickson is a presbyter, currently serving in the Hull Centre and West Circuit. She brings experience of teaching RE, pioneer ministry, hospital chaplaincy and community outreach. She also has training in deep listening in counselling, and an ability to ask the right questions. She will engage in robust conversation to find the right way forward, and collaborates well.

Vivienne Smith is a presbyter, currently without appointment. She brings wide experience including as a lay worker and as a superintendent. She has previously coordinated the 'under 5's group' in the district. Her experience of working with many different colleagues has confirmed for her that God calls many very different people. She enjoys team work and knows the importance of prayer particularly in discernment.

Eva Walker is a presbyter, currently serving in the North Shields and Whitley Bay Circuit. She has served on the District Candidates' Committee and has shown good discernment in testing a call. She has an MA in consultancy, ministry and mission and previously trained students in mission at Cliff College. In the District Leadership Team she has demonstrated a good ability to work collaboratively. She brings a wide and personal understanding of cultural diversity.

Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Committee

*****RESOLUTION**

24/7. The Council appoints the following to the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Committee: the Revd Andrew Brazier, Deacon Jonathan Miller, the Revd Adrian Roux, the Revd Dr Karl Rutledge.

Reasoned Statements:

The Revd Andrew Brazier is a presbyter in the West Herts and Borders circuit. His personal experiences, advocacy for inclusivity, and varied experiences within the Methodist Church demonstrate a deep commitment to creating a consistently welcoming model across the Connexion. His background in drama, multifaith work, LGBTQ+ advocacy, and mission enablement align with the values and goals of the JDS strategy.

Deacon Jonathan Miller is a deacon serving in Wales Synod Cymru, Southwest Wales Circuit, and Cylchdaith Cymru. He has a robust background in youth work, local bilingual church community planting, and extensive involvement in disability theology studies. Jon brings a valuable lived experience of neurological disability and a deep understanding of disability theology. His frustration with the current handling of disability inclusion within the Church, coupled with his prior experience, positions him as an insightful and experienced contributor to the conversation.

The Revd Adrian Roux is a presbyter with over twenty years of experience serving in diverse communities in South Africa and England. He is currently serving in the South Kent Circuit. His personal experience includes a deep immersion in cross-cultural experiences, academic study, and significant contributions to theological and social justice work.

The Revd Dr Karl Rutledge is a presbyter in the Kingston-upon-Thames Circuit. He is a trustee of Kingston LGBT+ Forum and Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship. He actively engaged with and contributed to the 2021 JDS report and in shaping a truth and reconciliation process. His involvement as a member of the EDI Committee in the London District reflects his strong passion for Justice, Dignity, and Solidarity.

Safeguarding Policy

In March 2023, the Council directed the Safeguarding Committee to nominate for appointment by the Council a small group with responsibility on the Council's behalf to review and amend the Safeguarding Policy and to report through the Safeguarding Committee to the Council. The Safeguarding Committee brings the following names: Grahame Snelling, Gina Tagoe, Vivienne Almond, Nick Oborski and the Council is asked to appoint this group.

*****RESOLUTION**

24/8. The Council appoints the following group with responsibility on the Council's behalf to review and amend the Safeguarding Policy and to report through the Safeguarding Committee to the Council: Grahame Snelling, Gina Tagoe, Vivienne Almond, Nicholas Oborski.