

# Minutes

## Minutes of a meeting of the Methodist Council held online on 11 May 2023

- Present:** 30 voting members as follows:  
Mrs Joanne M Anderton, The Revd Richard M Andrew, the Revd Karen Beecham, the Revd Paul H Booth, Mr Mark Braithwaite, the Revd Dr Adrian Burdon, Mr David Burton, the Revd Deborah L Caulk, the Revd Steven R M Cooper, the Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling, Mrs Barbara Easton, the Revd Simon C Edwards, Mr Peter Gregson, the Revd Sonia M Hicks (Chair), the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, Mr Joseph Lambert, the Revd Angela J Long, Mr Andrew Lowe, Mrs Val Mayers, Dr Daleep S Mukarji, Mrs Helen Norton, the Revd Charity Nzegwu, Mrs Sheila Pollard, Miss Bridget Quint, Deacon Kerry R Scarlett, the Revd S Mark Slaney, Ms Sandie Smith, the Revd Howard J Stringer, Mr Doug Swanney, Mrs Jenny Taylor.
- Apologies:** The President, Mr Stephen Arnold, the Revd Ruth G S Fry, the Revd Jeremy H A Hackett, the Revd Helen Kirk, the Revd Gillian M Newton, the Revd Leslie M Newton, Dr Hellen Okello, the Revd Mark Roberts, the Revd Dr Calvin T Samuel, the Revd Timothy A Swindell, the Revd Marcus Torchon, the Revd Michaela A Youngson.
- Substitutes:** The Revd Dr Moira Biggins, Mrs Carolyn Hothersall.
- Observers:** Ms Jude Levermore (Head of Mission)
- In attendance:** Ms Jane Bates (Minutes)

### 23.3.1 Report of the Consultation with the Districts and Circuits in the North West of England [MC/23/59]

Jenny Taylor presented MC/23/59, on behalf of the scrutiny group which the Council had appointed to consider the feedback from the Circuit Meetings and the District Synods concerning the consultation which had taken place.

**59/1. The Council received the report.**

**59/2. The Council recommended to the Conference that following a full consultation of the Circuits concerned and voting in the District Synods required by SO 401(2), with effect from 1 September 2024, a new District is established entitled the North West England District, comprising the present Cumbria, Bolton and Rochdale, Lancashire, and Liverpool Districts.**

### 23.3.2 Request from the Manchester and Stockport District [MC/23/60]

Peter Gregson, on behalf of the Regional Review Group, presented MC/23/60. Adrian Burdon, as the representative from the Manchester and Stockport District, provided further feedback from the Synod.

**60/1. The Council received the report.**

**60/2. Under Standing Order 401, the Council directed that:**

- a) **the Manchester and Stockport District be consulted on whether to become part of the North West England District from September 2024, and that the consultation be in a form similar to that previously undertaken in the Bolton and Rochdale, Cumbria, Lancashire and Liverpool Districts ("the four Districts");**
- b) **the four Districts be consulted on whether the North West England District may comprise the five Districts referred to in a) above, and that the Circuit Meetings and Synods of the four Districts consider the matter fully with a formal record of the votes cast, unless any meeting chooses to indicate their consent by a simple show of hands; and that**
- c) **the outcome of the consultations be reported to the Council no later than January 2024.**

**23.3.3 Proposals from the Plymouth and Exeter and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Districts [MC/23/61]**  
Paul Booth, representative of the Plymouth and Exeter District, presented MC/23/61.

**61/1. *The Council received the report.***

**61/2. *The Council noted the proposed amalgamation of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly and Plymouth and Exeter Methodist Districts to form a single District from 1 September 2024, and, in accordance with Standing Order 401, directed that a formal consultation with the Circuit Meetings and Synods of the participating Districts take place by the end of the spring representative Synods, to enable the Council to consider submitting a proposal to the Conference of 2024.***

**23.3.4 Appointment of Committee to consider appeal against recommendation of the Authorisations Committee**

The Council heard that an appeal has been submitted against a recommendation of the Authorisations Committee, and therefore needed to appoint an panel to hear the appeal.

***Under the terms of SO 011(3), the Council appointed the Revd Stephen Lindridge, Mr Martin Harker, with the Revd Michaela Youngson as convener, to consider appeals made against the recommendations of the Authorisations Committee.***