

Decisions made by the Council since its last meeting

MC/23/63

Decisions Made

- 1 The Council appointed a scrutiny group from among its membership to consider a reinvitation of a member of the Connexional Team in August 2023.
- 2 The Council appointed the interim Cliff College Committee for 2023-24 as follows:
The Revd Loraine Mellor (Chair), the Revd Mark Hammond (Vice Chair), the Revd Ashley Cooper (Principal), the Revd Dr Jonathan Dean, Ms Jude Levermore, the Revd Leslie Newton, the Revd Dr Janet Unsworth.
- 3 The Council appointed the Revd Stephen Ingrouille and Mr David James as members of the Council for the connexional year 2023/2024.
- 4 By the required majority, the Council agreed to the reinvitation of the Revd Dr Gary Hall as a Methodist Tutor at The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education for a further period of one year from 1 September 2024, under SO 315(2).
- 5 By the required majority, the Council agreed to the reinvitation of the Revd Dr Judith Rossall as a Methodist Tutor at The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education for a further period of five years from 1 September 2024, under SO 315(2).
- 6 By the required majority, the Council agreed to the reinvitation of the Revd Ashley Cooper as Principal of Cliff College for a further period of five years from 1 September 2024, under SO 315(2).
- 7 By the required majority, the Council agreed to the reinvitation of the Revd Dr Claire Potter as Ministerial Co-ordinator for Oversight of Ordained Ministries for a period of two years from 1 September 2024.
- 8 The Council gave permission for the sale of a small extra piece of land next to The Ridgeway from the Cliff College estate.
- 9 The Council appointed a scrutiny group to review the responses to the consultation process undertaken in the Manchester and Stockport District concerning whether it is to be part of the new North West England District. The scrutiny group comprises: David Matthews, Sandie Smith and the Revd Luke Smith.
- 10 The Council approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Methodist Church Nigeria.
- 11 Model Trust 20(1) applications to sell or lease Methodist property below best price
 - 11.1 Three Council members selected from the Council's Model Trust 20 Approval Group panel have met on three separate occasions to consider seven applications submitted to the Council under Model Trust 20(1). The decisions are reported below. The Group expects to meet again on 4 October 2023 to consider a further set of applications, and its decisions will be reported to the Council via the Additions and Corrections sheet before the Council meeting.
 - 11.2 On 9 June 2023 an application to sell a closed church building in the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit (7/2) at less than best price was approved, subject to appropriate overage provisions being included in the sale contract.
 - 11.3 On 15 August 2023 four applications to grant residential tenancies at less than market rent were approved: to Ukrainian refugees in the Durham and Deerness Valley (13/11), Orpington and Chislehurst (35/43) and South West Tyneside (20/15) Circuits respectively; and to Iranian refugees in the Farnworth and Worsley Circuit (6/3).

- 11.4 On 15 August 2023 an application to sell a closed church building in the Cheshire South Circuit (11/8) at less than best price was rejected on the grounds that the requirements of Model Trust 20(1) (that the letting must advance Methodist Church purposes) had not been met.
- 11.5 On 14 September 2023 an application to grant a 3-year lease of a property in the Vale of Stour Circuit (28/5) to another charity at less than market rent was approved.
- 12 Model Trust 14(2A) applications to grant leases for non-Methodist Christian worship
- 12.1 Paragraph 11c of the Council's policy recommendations for Model Trust 14(2A) applications [\[MC/22/9\]](#) states that:
"...applications for consent [to grant a lease under Model Trust 14(2A) to another Christian congregation for non-Methodist worship] should be made on a case-by-case basis, to be assessed and considered by a group of three Council members on behalf of the Council in a similar way to Model Trust 20(1) applications."
- 12.2 On 15 August 2023 a group of three Council members selected from the Council's Model Trust 20 Approval Group panel considered the proposed Heads of Terms for a 10-year lease to be granted to another Christian denomination at a full market rent under Model Trust 14(2A). The Group rejected the Heads of Terms as presented and requested more information to enable the Group to make an informed decision.

Documents Signed

- 13 Having taken legal advice, on 7 August 2023 the Connexional Secretary signed two Deeds of Indemnity on behalf of the Council (as managing trustees of the Methodist Mission in Britain Fund) relating to two farms held in trust by the executors of the Estate of Mary Elizabeth Annie Chown, deceased. The Methodist Mission in Britain Fund is a beneficiary under Mary Chown's will and is entitled to a share in the proceeds of sale of the farms as and when they are sold. The Deeds indemnify the executors from the costs arising from acting as trustees of the Estate.

Actions Taken

- 14 In accordance with the delegation approved by the Council, the Connexional Secretary has approved the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for 2023/2024 on the Council's behalf.

***RESOLUTION

- 63/1. The Council receives the report and ratifies the actions reported.**