

Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the Methodist Council held on 17-18 October 2022 via video conferencing

- Present:** The President, the Vice-President and 47 voting members as follows:
Mrs Joanne Anderton, the Revd Richard M Andrew, Mr Stephen Arnold, 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, Ms Eleanor Dixon (from item 22.3.10), Mrs Barbara M Easton (for items 22.3.1-22.3.19), the Revd Simon C Edwards, Mr Carl Fairclough, the Revd Ruth G S Fry, Mr Peter Gregson, the Revd Jeremy H A Hackett (except for items 22.3.12-22.3.13), the Revd Sonia M Hicks, Ms Bet Holmes, the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, Mr Joseph Lambert, the Revd Helen R Kirk, the Revd Angela Long, Mr Andrew Lowe, Mrs Valerie Mayers, Deacon Karen McBride, Mr Alister McClure (except for items 22.3.3- 22.3.4), Dr Daleep S Mukarji, the Revd Gillian M Newton, the Revd Leslie M Newton, Ms Helen Norton, the Revd Charity Nzegwu, Dr Hellen Okello, Mrs Sheila Pollard, Miss Bridget Quint, the Revd Mark Roberts, Deacon Kerry Scarlett, the Revd S Mark Slaney, Ms Sandie Smith, the Revd Rebekah Stennett, Mr Doug Swanney (except for item 22.3.20), the Revd Timothy A Swindell (for items 22.3.20-22.3.27), Mrs Jenny Taylor, the Revd Marcus Torchon, Ms Verity Wild, the Revd Michaela A Youngson
- Apologies:** Professor David Matthews, the Revd Samuel E McBratney, Mr Keith Norman, the Revd Howard J Stringer
- Observers:** Mr James Carver (Youth President), the Revd Geoffrey Clarke (the United Reformed Church), the Revd Mark Rowland (Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee), Mr Matthew Tattersall (Director of Finance and Resources), the Revd Dr Andrew D Wood (Head of Ministries)
- In attendance:** Ms Jane Bates (Minutes), Ms Sharon Hassanali (Events Coordinator), Ms Anna McCrum (Senior Media Officer)
- Letters:** The Council sent a letter of greeting to the URC on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the URC.

The Secretary of the Conference clarified the understanding of confidentiality in respect of the Council's papers, confirming that those papers which are not on the website are to be understood as being confidential. For this meeting, that applied to MC/22/69, MC/22/80, MC/22/84, MC/22/86, MC/22/92 and MC/22/94. It was agreed after the relevant discussions that MC/22/86 and MC/22/92 could now be shared more widely where that was helpful.

22.3.1 Appointment of a member of the Council [MC/22/93]

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/22/93.

93/1. The Council appointed the Revd Howard J Stringer as a member of the Council for the connexional year 2022/2023.

22.3.2 Minutes

The Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 2-4 April 2022 as a correct record.

22.3.3 Report from the Strategy and Resources Committee [MC/22/69]

The Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee presented MC/22/69.

69/1. The Council received the report.

22.3.4 Report from the Connexional Allowances Committee [MC/22/92]

The Director of Finance and Resources presented MC/22/92.

92/1. The Council received the report.

- 92/2. *The Council urged all Methodist employing bodies to implement the current (September 2022) Living Wage, in line with the Conference decision of 2010, as soon as possible, and by no later than 1 December 2022.*
- 92/3. *The Council asked the President and Vice-President of the Conference to write a pastoral letter to supernumeraries reminding them that those in acute financial need can apply for benevolent grants.*
- 92/4. *The Council directed the Connexional Team to remind all circuits and ministers of the important work of the Connexional Allowances Committee and the need for ongoing donations to their funds.*
- 92/5. *In the light of the decision made in respect of additional payments to ministers, the Council urged all Methodist employing bodies to review their own response to the impact of cost of living issues on lay employees.*

22.3.5 Positive Working Together [MC/22/74]

The Director of Learning and Development presented MC/22/74.

- 74/1. *The Council received the report.*
- 74/2. *The Council directed the Director of Learning and Development, working with others, to take the work forward as described within the report.*

22.3.6 JDS Committee [MC/22/73]

The Revd Charity Nzegwu, co-Chair of the JDS Committee, presented MC/22/73.

- 73/1. *The Council received the report.*
- 73/2. *The Council adopted the “EDI Officers: Connexional Guidance” to be issued to districts (Appendix A).*
- 73/3. *The Council agreed to the formation of an EDI Training Group.*
- 73/4. *The Council directed the Secretary of the Conference to work with the JDS Committee to identify which parts of the Council’s work need to be subject to an EIA and to report to the January Council.*

22.3.7 Council objectives [MC/22/71]

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/22/71. The Council noted that a glossary of terms, to assist with documents such as this, is in production.

- 71/1. *The Council received the report.*

22.3.8 Report from the Connexional Team [MC/22/70]

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/22/70, and also updated the Council on the recent meeting of the European Methodist Council.

- 70/1. *The Council received the report.*

22.3.9 Update on work from the Conference [MC/22/72]

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/22/72, in particular noting the removal of resolution 11/2 from the workplan. The removal of that resolution will be reported to the Conference.

- 72/1. *The Council received the report.*

22.3.10 Special Resolution [MC/22/75]

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/22/75.

- 75/1. *The Council received the report.*
- 75/2. *In accordance with Standing Order 126(1)(c), the Council approved the Special Resolution amending the Model Trusts as set out in paragraphs 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 of this report.*

22.3.11 Oversight and Trusteeship report at the Conference [MC/22/76]

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/22/76 and identified four questions, listed below, which the Council discussed in groups.

1. Is the Council content not to initiate any reconfiguration but to leave it for Districts to bring proposals as and when they wish?
2. Given the uncertainty over the future of District reconfiguration, how might the resources of the Connexional Team be appropriately deployed to support Districts?
3. Given the savings that cannot now be made, what areas might be cut or should the Conference be asked to reconsider the policy of reducing the District assessment?
4. Given the failure to achieve consensus in 2021-22, how might we find a better way to move forward on this area of work?

22.3.12 Composition of the Conference [MC/22/77]

The Assistant Secretary of the Conference presented MC/22/77.

77/1. The Council received the report.

77/2. The Council directed that a small group be brought together, consisting of five persons, to consider and recommend how the ex-officio proportion of the membership of the Methodist Conference be constituted from 2024 onwards. The group to report back to the spring meeting of the Council.

The group will comprise:

The Assistant Secretary of the Conference (Convenor)

The Revd Jenny Dyer (Conference Record Secretary)

A person nominated by the JDS Committee

Two members of the Methodist Council: The Revd Steven R M Cooper, Ms Verity Wild

22.3.13 Interim Nominations Committee [MC/22/78]

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/22/78.

78/1. The Council received the report.

22.3.14 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE

22.3.15 Requirement for Supervisors to be trained in Safeguarding MC/22/81

The Chair of the Ministries Committee, the Revd Gill Newton, presented MC/22/81.

81/1. The Council received the report.

81/2. The Council directed the addition of Supervisors (either training or trained and accredited under the Methodist Church Reflective Supervision Policy 2021-26) to the list of participants who must attend Safeguarding training at the advanced level.

22.3.16 Review of Safeguarding Contracts [MC/22/79]

The Director of Safeguarding was welcomed to the meeting to present MC/22/79.

79/1. The Council received the report.

22.3.17 Authorisations and Delegations [MC/22/83]

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/22/83.

83/1. The Council received the report.

83/2. The Council approved the list of authorisations and delegations with effect from 18 October 2022

83/3. The Council authorised any one or more of the Secretary of the Conference, the Chair of the Council and the Connexional Secretary to act as the appropriate connexional authority under SO 909 or as the appointed Team member under SO 331(1) in cases of emergency or where the nominated person(s) to whom a particular appointment, authority or delegation has been assigned is/are not available.

83/4. The Council authorised the Chair of the Council to appoint a group of between eight and twelve Council members, of whom any three may be called upon at any time to convene and consider applications made under Model Trust 20(1).

The following were appointed in fulfilment of this resolution: the Revd Paul H Booth, Mr Mark Braithwaite, the Revd Dr Adrian Burdon, Mr David Burton, the Revd Deborah L Caulk, Mr Peter Gregson, Mr Joseph Lambert, Mr Andrew Lowe, Mr Alister McClure, Ms Sandie Smith, the Revd Rebekah Stennett

22.3.18 Model Trust Fund levy [MC/22/85]

The Director of Finance and Resources presented MC/22/85.

85/1. The Council received the report.

85/2. The Council commended the report to the Conference as a further reply to Memorial M4 from the 2019 Conference.

22.3.19 Reinvitation of the Deputy Warden [MC/22/94]

The Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order presented MC/22/94.

94/1. Under Standing Order 315(2), the Council recommended the extension of Deacon Ruth M Richey's appointment as Deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order for a further period of one year from 1 September 2023.

The Council adopted the resolution by the required majority.

22.3.20 Walking with Micah update [MC/22/82]

Rachel Lampard was welcomed to the meeting to present MC/22/82. The Council discussed the questions articulated in paragraph 18 in small groups and fed back to the whole Council.

82/1. The Council received the report.

22.3.21 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE

22.3.22 Letting residential property to Ukrainian refugees [MC/22/86]

Ella Sibley-Ryan, Project Officer in the Mission Team, updated the Council on the Methodist Church's partnership with Citizens UK's Communities for Ukraine scheme.

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/22/86. Amendments were made to the policy as follows:

Paragraph 21, line 3, *for* the terms must *read* the terms should

Paragraph 22 c, *delete* can show their intention to settle more permanently in the UK and

86/1. The Council received the report.

86/2. The Council adopted the policy criteria in this report for which Ukrainian refugees entering the UK under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme or the Ukraine Family Scheme may be permitted to occupy Methodist residential property.

86/3. The Council authorised the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice in consultation with other officers to adapt the policy within this framework as the legal situation changes.

22.3.23 Matters arising [MC/22/87]

87/1. The Council received the report.

22.3.24 Decisions made and actions taken since the last meeting of the Council [MC/22/88]

88/1. The Council received the report.

22.3.25 Nominations and appointments [MC/22/89]

89/1. The Council appointed the committees, trustees, governors, management bodies and representatives as set out.

89/2. Pursuant to SO 232(1)(i) the Council appointed Judith Davey-Cole as Chair of the Safeguarding Committee for four years with immediate effect.

89/3. Acting on behalf of the Conference, the Council appointed the Revd Dr Calvin T Samuel as Deputy Chair of the Mission Committee, and thereby appoints him to the Council in that capacity.

89/4. The Council appoints the Oversight and Trusteeship Task Group as follows:

The Secretary of the Conference (convener):

The Revd Jonathan R Hustler

The Connexional Secretary:	Mr Doug Swanney
Two representatives of the SRC:	Dr Daleep Mukarji
	Mrs Anne Bolton
Two representatives of the Law and Polity Committee:	The Revd Dr James N Tebbutt
	Mrs Susan Howdle
Two representatives of the Faith and Order Committee:	The Revd Mark Rowland
	The Revd Dr David M Chapman
A District Chair:	The Revd Leslie M Newton
Two lay people who are members of their DPC:	Mr David Pickles
	Ms Sandie Smith

22.3.26 Modern Slavery Policy [MC/22/90]

90/1. *The Council adopted the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for 2022/23, as set out in the report.*

902. *The Council delegated the approval of future Modern Slavery Transparency Statements to the Connexional Secretary, acting on behalf of the Council.*

22.3.27 Pension Fund valuation completion [MC/22/91]

91/1. *The Council received the report and ratified the completed actions.*