

# Minutes

## Minutes of a meeting of the Methodist Council held on 2-4 April 2022 via video conferencing

**Present:** The President, the Vice-President and 50 voting members as follows:  
Mrs Joanne Anderton, Mr Stephen Arnold, Mrs E Jill Baker (Chair), the Revd Karen Beecham, Mr Anthony Boateng, the Revd Paul H Booth, the Revd Dr Adrian Burdon, Mr David Burton (except item 22.2.16), the Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling (except items 22.2.22-22.2.30), the Revd Dr Simon C Edwards, Mr Carl Fairclough, the Revd Ruth G S Fry, Mr Peter Gregson, the Revd Jeremy H A Hackett, Ms Charlotte Hambly, Ms Bet Holmes, the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, the Revd Helen R Kirk, Mr Joseph Lambert, Mrs Carolyn Lawrence (except items 22.2.1-22.2.15), the Revd Angela Long, Mr Andrew Lowe, Mrs Val Mayers, the Revd Samuel E McBratney, Deacon Karen McBride, Mr Alister McClure, Dr Daleep Mukarji, the Revd Leslie M Newton, Mr Keith Norman, Mrs Helen Norton, the Revd Charity Nzegwu, the Revd Nicholas A Oborski, Dr Hellen Okello (except items 22.2.10-22.2.15), the Revd Michael Parker, the Revd Malcolm Peacock, Mr Graham Russell, the Revd S Mark Slaney (except items 22.2.11-22.2.15), Ms Sandie Smith, the Revd Rebekah Stennett, the Revd Kate Strange, the Revd O Mark Street (except item 22.2.16), Mr Doug Swanney, the Revd Timothy A Swindell, Mrs Jenny Taylor, the Revd Graham Thompson (except items 22.2.11-22.2.15), the Revd Alison E Walker (except items 22.2.10-22.2.15), Miss Margaret Webber, Ms Verity Wild, the Revd Michaela A Youngson (except items 22.2.10-22.2.15), the Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle.

**Apologies:** Mr Mark Braithwaite, Professor David Matthews, the Revd Richard J Teal

**Observers:** Mr Daud Irfan (Youth President), Ms Jude Levermore (Head of Mission), the Revd Dr Nicola Price-Tebbutt (Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee), Mr Matthew Tattersall (Director of Finance and Resources), the Revd Dr Andrew D Wood (Head of Ministries), the Revd D Paul Wood (Director of the Ministries Team).

**In attendance:** Ms Jane Bates (Minutes), Ms Sharon Hassanali (Events Coordinator), Ms Jillian Moody (Director of Communications)

**Letters:** The Council sent a letter of greeting and concern to Mrs Mary Hicks, on the death of her husband, Mr John Hicks QC.

The Secretary of the Conference clarified the understanding of confidentiality with 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 applies to MC/22/33, MC/22/48 and MC/22/55.

During the meeting, the Council spent time in groups focusing on the work areas of Ministries, Mission and Resourcing.

### 22.2.1 Minutes

The Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 26-27 January 2022 as a correct record.

### 22.2.2 Report from the Strategy and Resources Committee [MC/22/33]

The Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee presented MC/22/33.

**33/1. The Council received the report.**

### 22.2.3 Nomination for the next Chair of the Council [MC/22/34]

The Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee, in his capacity as chair of the nomination panel, presented MC/22/34.

**34/1. The Council nominated the Revd Sonia Hicks to the Conference as Chair of the Council from 1 September 2022 for a four year term.**

In making this nomination, the Council noted that this did not preclude any subsequent decisions of the Conference in respect of the Council.

#### **22.2.4 Connexional Team update [MC/22/35]**

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/22/35, and the Head of Mission provided an update in respect of the response to the crisis in Ukraine.

**35/1. The Council received the report.**

#### **22.2.5 Impact Measurement [MC/22/36]**

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/22/36.

**36/1. The Council received the report.**

**36/2. The Council agreed that the issues listed in paragraph 8 be shared with the Conference.**

#### **22.2.6 Oversight and Trusteeship**

The Secretary of the Conference reminded the Council of the overarching vision of the Oversight and Trusteeship work and the background to the two reports which were brought to this meeting of the Council. It was noted that the detailed work on SO 426 is not ready to be brought this year.

##### **(a) Report of the Task Group for Regional and District Structure Planning [MC/22/37]**

The Revd Loraine Mellor, chair of the Task Group, presented MC/22/37.

**37/1. The Council received the report.**

##### **(b) Constitution of the Conference [MC/22/38]**

The Assistant Secretary of the Conference presented MC/22/38.

**38/1. The Council received the report**

**38/2. The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference the proposed model for the Constitution of the Conference as set out in section 6 of this report.**

**38/3. The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference the changes in ways of working highlighted in section 9.i-iv of this report and directs the Law and Polity Committee to draft appropriate changes to Standing Orders to enact these changes.**

**38/4. The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference that from 2024 the Conference, in its Representative Session, run from a Saturday afternoon until the following Wednesday afternoon.**

**38/5. The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference Business Committees that they consider the suggestions in section 10 of this report, and implement or further develop these ways of working from the Conference of 2023.**

**38/6. The Council directed that the Conference Planning Executive undertake work regarding the roles of the Record Secretary, Convenor of the Memorials Committee, Journal Secretary and Chair of the Representative Session Business Committee, and bring recommendations to the Council's meeting in January 2023.**

#### **22.2.7 Wales Synod Cymru Implementation Group [MC/22/39]**

Margaret Webber, representative from the Wales Synod, presented MC/22/39.

**39/1. The Council received the report.**

**39/2. The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference the creation of Wales Synod Cymru as a District with a modified constitution (Section 48A) from 1 September 2022 and asked the Law and Polity Committee to draft the necessary changes to Section 49 of the Standing Orders.**

#### **22.2.8 Methodist Ministers' Housing Society [MC/22/68]**

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/22/68.

**68/1. The Council received the report.**

**68/2. The Council directed the task group reviewing the MMPS to consider the current level of provision for surviving partners.**

**68/3. The Council asked the Law and Polity Committee to review the proposed changes to Standing Orders 364 and 805 and to present a draft to the Conference.**

#### **22.2.9 Birmingham International Student Homes [MC/22/67]**

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/22/67.

**67/1. The Council received the report.**

**67/2. The Council approved the amendment to clause 4.1.2 and authorised the Connexional Secretary and the Secretary of the Conference to sign the Supplemental Agreement to give effect to this.**

#### **22.2.10 Ministries Committee [MC/22/41]**

The Deputy Chair of the Ministries Committee presented MC/22/41.

**41/1. The Council received the report.**

**41/2. The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference the amendment to Standing Order 563(2)(vi) as follows:**

563(2)(vi) if unable to fulfil an appointment, to arrange **if possible** for a suitable substitute, **whilst** informing the Superintendent and a church steward of the Local Church concerned, **or, where unable through illness or other significant reason to arrange a suitable substitute, to notify this to the Superintendent (or their delegate), who shall then arrange for a suitable substitute and inform a church steward of the Local Church concerned;**

**41/3. The Council directed that all Local Lay-Pastors and Pioneers working less than 0.5 fte should be in Supervision (proportional to the hours they work, as set out in the Supervision policy) by September 2023.**

**41/4. The Council directed the Strategy and Resources Committee to consider how Supervision training for supervisors of lay employees should be provided by our established training teams and funded by the employing churches, circuits or districts.**

**41/6. The Council directed the Ministries Committee in consultation with the Stationing Committee to conduct a thorough review of the stationing processes, and report to the Conference in 2023.**

**41/7. The Council approved the Terms of Reference paragraphs 1-9 of the Stationing Review Group.**

**41/9. The Council approved the Terms of Reference for the Connexional Panel on Deliverance Ministry.**

**41/10. The Council recognised the varied pieces of work being undertaken which are relevant to this matter (as set out in paragraph 44 of the report) and which have contributed to the delays but directs the Ministries Committee to bring a full report on a Discernment Process for Senior Posts to the Council at its meeting in March 2023.**

Resolution 41/8 was withdrawn.

#### **22.2.11 Candidating Review Group**

The Revd Dr Roger Walton, chair of the Review Group, presented the report of the Candidating Review Group.

**41/5. The Council recommended the final report of the Candidating Review Group to the 2022 Conference, subject to some further fine tuning.**

#### **22.2.12 Methodist Schools Committee [MC/22/40]**

The Revd Dr Roger Walton, chair of the Methodist Schools Committee, presented MC/22/40.

**40/1. The Council received the report.**

#### **22.2.13 Local Lay-Pastors [MC/22/42]**

The Director of the Ministries Team presented MC/22/42.

**42/1. The Council received the report.**

**42/2. The Council approved the general direction of travel adopted in the report.**

**42/3. The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference the Local Lay-Pastor competencies as set out in Appendix 1.**

#### **22.2.14 Cliff College [MC/22/48]**

The Head of Mission presented MC/22/48.

**48/1. The Council received the report.**

**48/2. The Council delegated to the Strategy and Resources Committee the authority to receive further specific recommendations arising from the Cliff College Review, and to agree any responses concerning both College staff structure and connexional support, at its meeting in April 2022.**

#### **22.2.15 Peake Trust [MC/22/66]**

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/22/66. The Council encouraged the trustees to work towards amending the Trust so that it can become self-supporting in the future.

**66/1. The Council received the report.**

**66/2. The Council agreed to recommend that the Conference appoints a new Trustee body for the A S Peake Memorial Trust as set out in paragraph 3.3 and that the new Trustees, when appointed, consider amending the current Regulations of the AS Peake Trust in the terms set out in Appendix Two.**

#### **22.2.16 Worship and reflections**

The Council shared in Sunday worship, during which the President and Vice-President offered some reflections on their year of office.

#### **22.2.17 The Covenant Relationship between the Church and its ministers [MC/22/43]**

The Revd Ken Howcroft, chair of the working group, presented MC/22/43.

**43/1. The Council agreed in principle to the presentation to the 2022 Conference of The Covenant Relationship between the Church and its Ministers: Commitments and Expectations as amended in the light of comments from the Faith & Order Committee, Law & Polity Committee and the Council.**

#### **22.2.18 The Methodist Diaconal Order Rule of Life**

The Warden and Deputy Warden presented MC/22/44, noting that the draft presented has been amended since printing. The Council engaged in discussion of the draft.

#### **22.2.19 Connexional Allowances Committee [MC/22/45]**

Ruby Beech, chair of the Committee, presented MC/22/45.

**45/1. The Council received the report.**

**45/2. The Council agreed to recommend the report to the Conference.**

#### **22.2.20 Connexional Central Services Budget [MC/22/46]**

The Director of Finance and Resources presented MC/22/46.

**46/1. The Council received the report.**

**46/2. The Council adopted the draft budget for 2022/23.**

**46/3. The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference the district allocations of the assessment to the Methodist Church Fund set out in the paper.**

#### **22.2.21 Pensions [MC/22/47]**

The Director of Finance and Resources presented MC/22/47. The Council expressed its thanks to all those parts of the Church which have contributed to the Pension Reserve Fund.

**47/1. The Council received the report.**

**47/2. The Council approved a contribution of £0.5m from the Methodist Church Fund to the Pension Reserve Fund.**

- 47/3. *The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference that the voluntary appeal for donations for the Pension Reserve Fund remains open through 2022/23.*
- 47/4. *The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference that the circuit contribution rate for MMPS is increased to 29.5% from 1 September 2022.*
- 47/5. *The Council delegated to the MMPS review task group the preparation of a report for the Conference of 2022 to highlight the work being undertaken to review the future of the MMPS.*

## 22.2.22 Nominations and Appointments [MC/22/58]

- 58/1. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 320(1)(ii), nominated to the Conference the following persons as members of the Ministerial Candidates' Selection Committee:* The Revds Dr Iain M Ballard, Richard J Byass, Molly Chitokwindo, Benjamin P Clowes, Ashley Cooper, Dr Jonathan Dean, Stephen Dunn, Dr Graham Edwards, David R Emison, Gyula Fiak, Dr Jonathan K Gichaara, Mark P Hammond, Rachel Hextall, Dr David Hinchliffe, Catherine Hutton, Philip J Jackson, Prof Teddy Kalongo, Dr Elizabeth A Kent, M Susan E Lawler, Andrew Letby, Jonathan E Mead, Farai Mapamula, Vindra Maraj-Ogden, Paul Mellor, Andrew C Moffoot, Anthony J D Morling, Paul Nzacahayo, Charity Nzegwu, Dr Claire R Potter [SO 320(1)(i)], James Pritchard, Stephen E Robinson, Tina F Swire, Susan J Wigham, D Paul Wood [SO 320(1)(i)], Dr Timothy R Woolley

Deacons Guy Austin-Bride, Melanie Beaven, Dawn N Canham, Elizabeth J Day, Joy Everingham, Claire E Gill, David Keegan, Belinda S Letby, Jonathan Miller, Ian Murray, Suzanne Peat, Kerry R Scarlett, Sian M Street, Linda Watkin

Ms E Jane Allin, Ms Charlotte Ballard Scott, Mr Geoffrey Best, Ms Anne Browse, Ms Sharon Clutterbuck, Mr Peter Dawe, Ms Sarah Dixon, Mrs Elaine M Grout, Ms Jo Henderson-Merrygold, Mr Paul Kybird, Mrs Jane Lloyd, Ms Kate Paterson, Mrs Catherine Roots, Mrs Anne Vautrey, Mr Joshua Wilson

The Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order has the right to attend but not to vote.

- 58/2. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 213(2), nominated to the Conference the following persons as members of the Strategy and Resources Committee of the Council:*
- (i) Dr Daleep S Mukarji (Chair)
- (iA) Ms Janet Arthur, Mrs Anne Bolton, Professor David Matthews, Mrs Shelagh Morgan, the Revd Marcus Torchon, two vacancies
- (ii) The Revd Timothy A Swindell (Connexional Treasurer)
- (iii) *deleted*
- (iv) *deleted*
- (v) The Chair or Deputy Chair of the Ministries Committee: The Revd Gillian M Newton
- (vi) District Chair: the Revd Kerry Tankard
- (vii) The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice, Connexional Secretary (non-voting): the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, the Revd Michaela A Youngson, Mrs Joanne Anderton, Mr Doug Swanney.
- The Council heard that interviews have taken place in respect of the two vacancies, and that the SRC will consider the outcome of those at its meeting on 28 April. The Council indicated that it was content to receive nominations electronically following the meeting of the SRC.*

- 58/3. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 321(5)(b), nominated to the Conference the following persons as Oversight Tutors:*
- Where more than one oversight tutor is appointed for the same institution one shall be identified as having oversight responsibility. In the following list, that person is identified by an asterisk.*
- Queen's Foundation, Birmingham:** \* The Revd Dr Jane Craske, Deacon Melanie Beaven, the Revd Dr Christine Dutton, the Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, the Revd Dr Catrin Harland-Davies, the Revd Dr Gary P Hall, Deacon Julie Hudson, the Revd Dr Paul Nzacahayo, the Revd Dr Judith Rossall

- 58/4. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 322, nominated to the Conference the following persons as members of the Stationing Committee:*
- (i) Lay Chair: Mrs Pamela Lavender

(ii) The Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Conference: The Revds Dr Jonathan R Hustler and Michaela A Youngson

(iii) Seven district Chairs and seven district Lay Stationing Representatives:

South-East	The Revd Nigel Cowgill Mr Keith Norman
South-West	The Revd Dr Jonathan H Pye Mrs Mary McNaughton
Wales/Midlands	The Revd Rachel Parkinson Mrs Val Mayers
Yorkshire	The Revd Gillian M Newton Mrs Gill Daly
East Midlands	The Revd Julian Pursehouse Mrs Sue P Walters
North-West	The Revd Philip Gough Mr Malcolm Aspey
North/Scotland	The Revd S Mark Slaney Mr Bill Offler

(iv) No more than two Team members with responsibility for presbyteral and diaconal selection; and for the stationing of probationers: The Revd Dr Claire Potter

(v) *deleted*

(vi) *deleted*

(vii) The chair of the Stationing Advisory Committee: The Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle

(viii) The Warden or deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order: Deacon Karen McBride

(ix) The chair and a lay member of the Diaconal Stationing Sub-committee: The Revd Dr David Hinchliffe; Mrs Gill Daly

(x) The chair of the group responsible on behalf of the Stationing Committee for overseeing the matching of particular presbyters to appointments: The Revd Jennifer A Impey

(xi) The convener of the Stationing Action Group: The Revd Stephen J Lindridge

**58/5. The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 213A, nominated to the Conference the following persons as members of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee:**

Mrs Sarah Atwell-King, Mr Adrian Burton, Mr Alan Kershaw (Chair), Mrs Susan M Mortimer, Mr Michael Rickard

**58/6. Pursuant to SO 212(7), the Methodist Council nominated to the Conference the following representatives.**

(a) *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI): Annual General Meeting*  
Mr Bala Gnanapragasam

(b) *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland: Senior Representatives' Forum:*  
Mr Bala Gnanapragasam; the Revd Michaela A Youngson

(c) *Churches Together in England (CTE): Enabling Group*  
The Revd Dr Jonathan H Pye, the Revd Michaela A Youngson

(d) *Scottish Christian Forum (formerly Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS)): Members' Meeting:* The Revd S Mark Slaney; a vacancy

(e) *Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales): Enabling Group*  
The Revd Dr Jennifer A Hurd

*Proxies:* The Revds Dr Ian D Morris, Philip A Poynor

**58/7. The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 116B, appointed the Revd Alan J Bolton to be the letter-writer for the Presbyteral and Representative Sessions of the 2022 Conference.**

**58/8. The Methodist Council, acting under Deed of Union Clause 14(4)(d) and Standing Order 107(3), appointed the following two associate members of the Conference as (full, voting) members of the 2022 Conference:**

Bishop Everald Galbraith – Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas  
Bishop Dr Gordon Wong – Methodist Church Singapore

**58/9. The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 138(1), appointed the Memorials Committee for the 2022 Conference as follows:**

- (i) a former President or Vice-President appointed for three years who shall chair the committee; **The Revd Kenneth G Howcroft**
- (ii) **the Secretary of the Conference and the Assistant Secretary of the Conference;**
- (iii) **the Connexional Secretary;**
- (iv) **the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice;**
- (v) **the Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee;**
- (vi) a member of the Ministries Committee; **Mr Peter Baffoe**
- (vii) a member of the Strategy and Resources Committee; **Mrs Shelagh Morgan**
- (viii) one district Chair, **the Revd Dr Andrew Lunn**  
two presbyters, **the Revds Jill Pullan and Georgina Bondzi-Simpson**  
one deacon, **Deacon Ruth Yorke**  
one synod secretary **Mrs Susan Smith**  
and two lay persons, **Ms Katharine Crew and Mr Michael Pryke** each nominated by a district Policy Committee from a different stationing region, according to a rota.

**58/10. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 136A, appointed the Financial Committee for the 2022 Conference as follows:***

The Revd Timothy A Swindell, Mr Doug Swanney, the Revd Karen Beecham, the Revd Nicholas A Oborski, Ms Verity Wild

**58/11. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 139, appointed the Revd Philip Jackson as Chief Scrutineer for the Representative Session of the 2022 Conference.***

**58/12. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 107, directed that the following twenty other autonomous conferences, other Methodist churches and united churches in which Methodists have joined be invited to appoint a representative to be an associate member of the 2023 Conference:***

**Europe:**

UMC Northern Conference  
UMC Central/Southern Conference  
OPCEMI  
Igreja Evangelica Metodista Portuguesa  
Iglesia Evangelica Española

**Asia-Pacific:**

Church of North India  
Methodist Church Hong Kong  
Gereja Methodist Indonesia  
United Church of Christ in Japan  
Methodist Church of New Zealand

**Africa:**

Methodist Church Kenya  
Eglise Protestante Méthodiste du Bénin  
Iglesia Metodista de Guinea Ecuatorial  
Methodist Church Ghana  
Methodist Church Zimbabwe

**Latin America and the Caribbean:**

Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas  
Comunidad Cristiana Metodista de Venezuela  
Iglesia Metodista en Cuba  
Iglesia Evangelica Metodista de Nicaragua  
Iglesia Evangelica Metodista Argentina

**58/13. *The Council recommended to the Conference that the following churches and Christian bodies be invited to appoint associate members of the 2023 Conference (SO 107(1)(i)):***

Church of England, Church in Wales, Roman Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, Baptist Union of Great Britain, United Reformed Church, Church of Scotland

**58/14. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 105(1A), approved the following rota for diaconal representation at the Conference of 2023:***

Wales Synod Cymru, Birmingham, East Anglia, Manchester and Stockport, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham and Derby, Northampton, Southampton, Yorkshire West, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury, Bedfordshire Essex and Hertfordshire, London.  
*Reserves: Bristol, Chester and Stoke*

**58/15. The Council appointed the Revd Angela Long to the shadow Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Committee.**

**58/16. The Council appointed Ms Laura Carnall to the Methodist/URC Liaison Group.**

**58/17. The Council appointed the Revd Dr Reynaldo F Leao-Neto as representative to the United Reformed Church General Assembly, to be held in July 2022 at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick.**

**58/18. The Council appointed Mr Daud Irfan and the Revd Conrad Hicks to accompany the President and the Vice-President to the Irish Conference.**

**22.2.23 Matters arising [MC/22/56]**

**56/1. The Council received the report.**

**22.2.24 Decisions made and actions taken since the last meeting of the Council [MC/22/57]**

**57/1. The Council received the report.**

**22.2.25 Methodist Schools – Appointments for Methodist Academies and Schools Trust [MC/22/59]**

**59/1. The Council adopted the nomination by Methodist Academies and Schools Trustees of the Revd Wilfred Robinson for a period of three years to 31 August 2025.**

**22.2.26 Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee membership [MC/22/60]**

**60/1. The Council appointed the following as members of the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee from 1 September 2022:  
The Revd Jackie Bellfield, Deacon Jenny Jones, Mr Dave Kitchen, The Revd Leigh A Maydew, Mrs Carol Reeves**

**22.2.27 City Centre report [MC/22/61]**

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

**22.2.28 General delegated authority [MC/22/62]**

**62/1. The Council resolved that any of the following members of the Methodist Council be authorised to approve, sign and execute any document to which the Methodist Council is from time to time required to be a party with the intention that any document executed under this authority will have the same effect as if executed by all of the members of the Methodist Council:**

- a. The Chair of the Council**
- b. The Connexional Secretary**
- c. The Secretary of the Conference**

**62/2. The Council resolved that either of the following personnel be authorised to approve, sign and execute any document to which the Methodist Council is from time to time required to be a party in its capacity as employer of the members of the Connexional Team under Standing Order 212(12), with the intention that any document executed under this authority will have the same effect as if executed by all of the members of the Methodist Council:**

- a. The Connexional Secretary**
- b. The Director of HR in the Connexional Team**

**62/3. The Council confirmed that, for property transactions involving the members of the Council as managing trustees, where it is not practicable to convene an emergency meeting of the Council to pass specific resolutions conferring authority on named individuals to sign all documents necessary to effect the transaction, the general delegated authority in Resolution 62/1 may be relied upon in emergency and such action reported back to the Council for retrospective ratification at its next meeting.**

**22.2.29 Sale of 240 Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield [MC/22/63]**



- 63/1. *The Council received the report.*
- 63/2. *The Council agreed to share the £5,500 cost of roof repairs at 240 Abbeyfield Road, Pitsmoor, Sheffield, S4 7AZ, equally with the Urban Theology Unit.*
- 63/3. *The Council directed that its share of the final net proceeds of sale of 240 Abbeyfield Road be invested in the Connexional Priority Fund.*

**22.2.30 Ecumenical partnerships and sharing agreements [MC/22/64]**

- 64/1. *The Council received the report.*
- 64/2. *The Council received the report.*

**22.2.31 Report from the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Shadow Committee [MC/22/49]**

The EDI Adviser and the Inclusive Church Implementation Officer were present for this item. The Revd Charity Nzegwu, Co-Chair of the Shadow JDS Committee presented MC/22/49.

- 49/1. *The Council received the report.*
- 49/2. *The Council noted the progress on the implementation of the Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity to date, and also noted the planned future work, as we aim to embed the strategy into the life of the Methodist Church.*
- 49/3. *The Council recommended that a service of repentance, re-commitment, thanksgiving and celebration be held at Conference 2022, with the same liturgy then offered to the Connexion for use locally, in districts and/or circuits, during the later part of 2022.*
- 49/4a. *In the light of Recommendation 1 of the Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity (R1. "The Conference commits itself to systemic, structural and cultural change" p. 768) the Council re-affirmed its commitment to JDS issues and to consultation with the JDS committee and will honour this commitment in all areas of the Council's work.*
- 49/4b. *The Council noted the Equality Impact Assessment provided for the use of the Connexion and, in order to ensure good practice, will use this in relation to its own work*
- 49/5. *The Council noted the plans for the pilot of the Discrimination and Abuse Response Service and requests that DARS team bring the findings of the pilot to the Autumn Council.*
- 49/6. *The Council agreed the plans for Phase 1 of the mandatory EDI training as laid out by the Learning Network staff with responsibility for this recommendation of the Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity.*
- 49/8. *The Council agreed the Terms of Reference and constitution for the JDS Committee and directed that the necessary Standing Orders be drafted and brought to the 2022 Conference.*
- 49/9. *The Council noted that the important work on the issues around Reparations for the Trans-Atlantic Slavery is continuing, including assessment of the ways in which the Methodist Church has benefited from the enslavement of people.*

Resolution 49/7 was withdrawn, pending further conversation about how the matter of collecting data is to be taken forward and will be brought back to a future meeting of the Council.

With respect to the terms of reference of the Committee, it was felt that some of the wording needed refinement, and it was noted that the Law and Polity Committee will be reviewing the Standing Orders.

**22.2.32 Conversion Therapy [MC/22/50]**

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/25/50.

- 50/1. *The Council received the report.*

**22.2.33 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE**

**22.2.34 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE**

**22.2.34 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE**

**22.2.35 Action for Hope [MC/22/51]**

The Head of Mission presented MC/22/51.

- 51/1. *The Council received the report.*

- 51/2. The Council affirmed that every entity under the control of the Methodist Council (and consequently included in the consolidated accounts as part of the registered charity) is required to work towards net-zero. The Council further directed that consultation with each entity should take place as part of the Council's existing governance scrutiny process to determine how each entity will report progress.**
- 51/4. The Council directed that annual carbon footprint report for travel should not include churches, circuits and districts.**
- 51/6. The Council directed that annual carbon footprint report for gas and electricity should not include churches, circuits and districts.**
- 51/7. The Council adopted the Action for Hope plan and directs the task group to follow this plan and report back to the Council annually.**
- 51/8. The Council adopted the revised travel policy and associated expenses claim form in Appendix 2.**

#### **22.2.36 Faith and Order Committee [MC/22/54]**

The Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee presented MC/22/54.

- 54/1. The Council received the report.**

#### **22.2.37 Audit of Safeguarding Practice [MC/22/52]**

Tim Carter and Jane Stacey presented MC/22/52.

- 52/1. The Council received the report.**
- 52/2. The Council approved the implementation of the audit framework.**

#### **22.2.38 Guidance for Deliverance Ministry [MC/22/53]**

The Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee presented MC/22/53, on behalf of the group appointed by the Council to prepare the guidance.

- 53/1. The Council received the report.**
- 53/2. The Council recommended to the Conference that it adopts the contents of section 2 as guidance for deliverance ministry, and invites feedback to be sent to [guidancefeedback@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:guidancefeedback@methodistchurch.org.uk) by 31 January 2024.**
- 53/3. The Council recommended to the Conference that it direct the Ministries and Faith and Order Committees to bring further revised guidance for deliverance ministry to the 2024 Conference**

#### **22.2.39 Mission Committee Standing Orders and Nominations Process [MC/22/65]**

The Assistant Secretary of the Conference presented MC/22/65.

- 65/1. The Council received the report.**
- 65/2. The Council authorised a process of nomination for the first members of the Mission Committee as outlined in this report.**

Thanks were expressed to those completing their term on the Council at the end of this connexional year, with particular thanks being given to the Chair of the Council.