

General authority to sign documents on behalf of the Methodist Council

MC/22/62

Date of meeting	2-4 April 2022
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From time to time, the members of the Methodist Council are required to sign documents on behalf of the Council acting in its various capacities, commonly:

1. On behalf of the Methodist Conference (as trustees of the Methodist Church in Great Britain) between meetings of the Conference under Standing Order 211(1);
2. As managing trustees of certain connexional properties held on the Model Trusts or other specific trusts in accordance with the terms of those trusts;
3. To act generally as the 'appropriate connexional authority' on behalf of the Methodist Conference in property affairs and to discharge the responsibilities of the former Property Division under Standing Order 212(10); and
4. As the employer of all members of the Connexional Team under Standing Order 212(12).

The 'appropriate connexional authority' delegations are confirmed annually by the Council at its first meeting of the new connexional year.

However, questions have arisen recently as to the general authority of Council members and Connexional Team personnel to sign legal documents which are regularly required to be signed on the Council's behalf, for example: suppliers' terms and conditions, standard commercial contracts, employment contracts, supplemental agreements and memoranda. Therefore, to ensure the efficient and effective running of the general business of the Council it is recommended that the Council confers a general delegated authority on specific personnel to sign such documents.

For property transactions involving the Council as managing trustees, it is usual for the Council to pass a specific resolution under the Charities Act 2011 conferring specific authority on named Council members to sign all documents necessary to effect that transaction. Nevertheless, there may be situations where such a specific resolution cannot be passed in time, in which case the Council is asked to confirm that, in emergency, the general delegated authority proposed in this paper may be relied upon for property transactions and actions taken under it reported to the Council for retrospective ratification as managing trustees.

***RESOLUTIONS

- 62/1. The Council resolves 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 resolves 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 confirms 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.