

Minutes of a meeting of the Methodist Council held on 24 September 2021 via video conferencing

Present: The President and 42 voting members as follows:
Mrs Joanne Anderton, Mr Stephen Arnold, Mrs E Jill Baker (Chair), the Revd Karen Beecham, the Revd Paul H Booth, Mr Mark Braithwaite, Mr David Burton, the Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling, the Revd Simon C Edwards, Mr Carl Fairclough, Mr Bala Gnanapragasam, Mr Peter Gregson, Ms Charlotte Hambly, Ms Bet Holmes, the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, the Revd Ermal Kirby, the Revd Helen R Kirk, the Revd Angela Long, Professor David Matthews, Mrs Val Mayers, Dr Daleep Mukarji, the Revd Leslie M Newton, Mr Keith Norman, Mrs Helen Norton, the Revd Nicholas A Oborski, Dr Hellen Okello, the Revd Michael D Parker, the Revd Malcolm Peacock, Mr Graham Russell, the Revd S Mark Slaney, Ms Sandie Smith, the Revd Rebekah Stennett, the Revd Kate Strange, the Revd O Mark Street, Mr Doug Swanney, the Revd Timothy A Swindell, Mrs Jenny Taylor, the Revd Graham Thompson, the Revd Alison E Walker, Miss Margaret Webber, Ms Verity Wild, the Revd Michaela A Youngson.

Apologies: The Vice-President, Mr Anthony Boateng, the Revd Dr Adrian Burdon, the Revd Ruth G S Fry, the Revd Jeremy H A Hackett, Mr Andrew Lowe, Deacon Karen McBride, Mr Joseph Lambert, Mrs Carolyn J Lawrence, Mr Alister McClure, the Revd Richard J Teal, the Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle.

Substitutes: Mrs Christine Armstrong in place of Mr Andrew Lowe, Deacon Ruth Richey in place of Deacon Karen McBride

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)

In attendance: Ms Jane Bates (Minutes)

21.5.1 The Chair opened the meeting in prayer.

21.5.2 Membership of the Council – South East District [MC/21/62]

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/21/62.

62/1. *The Council appointed the Revd Nicholas A Oborski as a member of the Council for the connexional year 2021/2022.*

21.5.3 Methodist Church House [MC/21/63]

Alison Olugunna, Director of Strategic Property Development was welcomed to the Council for this item. The Connexional Secretary presented MC/21/63.

The Chair asked that the discussion and decision remain confidential for the time being.

21.5.4 Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Committee updates [MC/21/64]

The Revd Ermal Kirby presented MC/21/64.

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

64/2. *The Council approved the composition of the scrutiny committee required by Notice of Motion 2020/103 as set out in paragraph 1.3 of this report.*

64/3. *The Council directed that the new Justice, Dignity and Solidary Committee should be chaired by two joint chairs, as set out in section 2 of this report.*

21.5.5 Oversight and Trusteeship: Review of Districts [MC/21/65]

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/21/65.

65/A. *In accordance with Resolution 30/11 of the 2021 Conference, the Council confirmed the creation of a successor body to the District Review Monitoring Group, called the Task Group for Regional and District Structure Planning.*

The Council resolved that a vote on resolution 65/1 be not put at this time, and asked that there be further work and consultation on the proposed terms of reference before they are brought back to the Council for approval.

65/2. *The Council appointed the Revd Loraine Mellor as the Chair of the Task Group for Regional and District Structure Planning.*

65/3. *The Council agreed to appoint four lay members of the task group (two of whom should be Synod Secretaries) electronically before its meeting in October.*

21.5.6 Authorisations and Delegations [MC/21/66]

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/21/66.

66/1. *The Council approved the updated list of authorisations and delegations with effect from 25 September 2021.*

21.5.7 Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church [MC/21/67]

The Director of Finance and Resources presented MC/21/67.

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

67/2. *The Council approved that all members of the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church should be eligible to apply to become a Member Nominated Director.*

67/3. *The Council directed that, once appointed, a Member Nominated Director would only be required to stand down during their period of office if they transferred out of the Scheme.*

Resolution 67/4 was not required in the light of resolution 67/2 having been approved.

The President closed the meeting with prayer.