

Chair of the Council

Contact Name and Details	The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Conference soc@methodistchurch.org.uk
Resolutions	78/1. The Council receives the report. 78/2. The Council directs that a nomination panel be established with the responsibility of bringing a nomination of the next Chair of the Council to the Council in April 2022.

1. Mrs E Jill Baker finishes her four year term as Chair of the Council at the end of this connexional year, and the Council is required to take a nomination to the Conference for appointment for 2022-2026. Under SO 210(2)(d) eligibility to serve in this role lies with the Presidents and Vice-Presidents from the last five Conferences (who are not members of the Connexional Team), prior to the year of appointment. The appointment is for four years and cannot be extended.
2. Before Mrs Baker's appointment, the Council revised the process by which a nomination was brought to the Conference. There has been no indication that there is any reason to revise the process again, so the Council is asked to agree a process similar to that used in 2017-18.
3. This is a significant, representative role, which includes many responsibilities between meetings and, crucially, the presentation of a very wide range of material to the Conference. The process should begin with prayerful discernment by those who are eligible and the Secretary will therefore write to each of them with the role description (below) once the Council has approved the process. Those eligible would be asked to notify the Secretary whether or not they wished to be considered for this role.
4. Those willing would be asked to meet a nomination panel drawn from the Council and including those with the knowledge and understanding of the role. The task of the panel would be to seek to discern which of them is best suited to the role at this time. The panel would present the nomination to the Council who would, at that point, vote on a single nomination.
5. The nomination panel needs to be made up of people who have a thorough understanding of the requirements of the role and the business of the Council. It is therefore proposed that it comprise:
 - The Chair of the SRC (who shall chair the panel)
 - A past President of the Conference
 - Two members of the Council
 - The Secretary (or Assistant Secretary) of the Conference (who shall act as Convenor)

***RESOLUTIONS

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The Chair of the Council

Appointed by the Conference for a four year term, and is not eligible for reappointment

Main responsibilities

Chairing the meetings of the Council (a minimum of three per year)

Acting on behalf of the Council in between meetings, on the advice of the Secretary

Presenting the reports of the Council to the Conference

Working with the Secretary, the Chair of the SRC, the assistant secretary, and staff in the Conference Office to determine the agenda for the meetings of the Council

The Chair of the Council represents and embodies the authority of the Council. The Chair of the Council represents the Council at meetings of the Conference and the Connexional Leaders' Forum, and presents the reports of the Council to the Conference, responding to questions and comments as appropriate.

Standing Order 210

210 The Methodist Council. (1) There shall be a Methodist Council appointed annually by the Conference which in addition to the ex-officio members shall consist of:

- (i) the chair of the council appointed in accordance with clause (2)(d) below;
- (iA) the assistant secretary of the Conference appointed under Standing Order 116A;
- (iB) the Conference officer for legal and constitutional practice appointed under Standing Order 116C;
- (ii) the connexional Treasurer appointed under Standing Order 311(1);
- (iii) four district Chairs nominated by the Chairs' Meeting with a view to meeting the needs of the council and reflecting the varying experience of the Chairs across the Connexion;
- (iv) one representative of each home District, being either a lay person or a minister (other than a district Chair), nominated in accordance with clause (2)(a) below;
- (v) the Connexional Secretaries or their representatives;
- (vi) the chair and two of the members of the Strategy and Resources Committee appointed under Standing Order 213(1)(iA), nominated by the committee;
- (viA) the chair or deputy chair of the Ministries Committee in accordance with Standing Order 32A2(2);
- (vii) a representative of the Methodist Diaconal Order, nominated by the Convocation of the Order;
- (viii) two representatives nominated by the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly;
- (ix) two representatives, not being members of the Connexional Team, representing the concerns of equality, diversity and inclusion;
- (x) up to four other persons appointed by the Conference in accordance with clause (2)(c) below, so as to ensure that appropriate areas of skill and experience are available to the council.

For the ex-officio members see S.O. 201.

(2) (a) The persons appointed under head (iv) of clause (1) above shall be nominated by their respective Synods for a period of four years, having regard to concerns for equality, diversity and inclusion, being in each case a person who would be entitled under Standing Order 417(1) to be a representative of that District to the Conference. If a person ceases to be so qualified, the Synod shall make a new nomination for appointment by the next ensuing Conference for the remainder of the term. The Conference shall periodically approve a rota for the purpose of determining from year to year which Districts shall be represented by lay persons and which by ministers.

See S.O. 203.

(b) The persons appointed under heads (iii), (vi), (vii) and (ix) of clause (1) above shall each be nominated for a period of four years by the body concerned.

(bA) The persons appointed under head (viii) of clause (1) above shall each be nominated for a period of two years by the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly.

(c) Where the council proposes that an appointment be made under head (x) of clause (1) above, the council shall be responsible for publicising the vacancy, inviting suggestions for possible nominees and bringing a nomination to the Conference. Any appointment shall be for a period of four years.

(d) The chair of the council shall be appointed upon nomination by the council for a period of four years, subject to Standing Order 316, and shall not be eligible for reappointment. He or she shall be chosen from amongst those persons, not being members of the Connexional Team, who took office as President or Vice-President during any of the five Conferences preceding the appointing Conference.

(3) The Secretary of the Conference shall be the secretary of the council. He or she shall be responsible in conjunction with the assistant secretary, the chair of the council and the chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee for preparing the agenda of the meeting.

(4) The council shall meet not less than three times in each year.

(5) The council may invite observers from other churches and Christian bodies.

(6) Only persons who are eligible under the Deed of Union to be members of the Conference and members of the Connexional Team who are members of another communion shall be eligible to be appointed as members of the council.

For eligibility under the Deed of Union, see cl. 12 and the qualifying clauses listed there (Book II, Part 1).

(7) The chair of the connexional Audit and Risk Assurance Committee appointed under Standing Order 213A, the secretary of the Faith and Order Committee and the Youth President elected under Standing Order 250(10) shall have the right to attend and speak at meetings of the council, but shall not be voting members.

(8)(a) If, more than fourteen days before the date fixed for the second meeting of the council in any connexional year, a person appointed to the council under clause (1)(iii), (iv), (vi), (viA), (vii), (viii) or (ix) above resigns, ceases to be eligible under clause (6) above or, if appointed under clause (1)(iv), ceases to be qualified under that clause, the council shall have authority to appoint to its membership with immediate effect until the end of the same connexional year an eligible and (where appropriate) qualified replacement for that person.

(b) Any appointments made under this provision shall be reported by the council to the Conference.