

Minutes of a meeting of the Methodist Council held on 14-15 October 2019 at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon

- Present:** The President, the Vice-President and 46 voting members as follows:
Mrs E Jill Baker, Mr Tim Baker, Ms Roxanne Bromley, Mr David Burton, the Revd Linda J Catlow, Ms Sue Draper, the Revd Mark Dunn-Wilson, Mrs Aileen Fox, the Revd Dr Andrew M Fox, the Revd Ruth M Gee, Mr Bala Gnanapragasam, the Revd Jeremy H A Hackett, the Revd Novette S Headley, the Revd Beverly Hollings, the Revd David W Hookins, the Revd Dr Jennifer A Hurd, the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, the Revd Philip J Jackson, the Revd Ermal Kirby, Mrs Heather Lovelady, Mr Andrew Lowe, Deacon Karen McBride, Mr Alister McClure, Professor David Matthews, Deacon Jonathan Miller, Professor Ken Mortimer, Dr Daleep S Mukarji, the Revd Gillian M Newton, the Revd Leslie M Newton, the Revd Richard Ormrod, the Revd Mary M Patterson, the Revd Malcolm Peacock, the Revd Stephen J Poxon, Mr Peter Prescott, Mrs Anne Pryke, Mr Michael Pryke, Mr Graham Russell, the Revd Billy Slatter, Mr Doug Swanney, the Revd Timothy A Swindell, the Revd Richard J Teal, Miss Margaret Webber, Mrs Louise C Wilkins, Mr Richard Wills, the Revd Michaela A Youngson, the Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle.
- Apologies:** The Revd Paul H Booth, the Revd Dr Adrian Burdon, the Revd Dr Vincent Jambawo, Mrs Carolyn Lawrence, Mrs Helen Norton, the Revd Michael Parker, the Revd Rachel E Parkinson.
- Substitutes:** The Revd Kevin Hooke, the Revd Caroline Hague, the Revd Stephen J Lindridge.
- Observers:** Mr Ted Awty (Connexional Treasurer), Ms Thelma Commey (Youth President), the Revd Dr Nicola V Price-Tebbutt (Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee), Mr Peter Pay (the United Reformed Church), Ms Jude Levermore, Mr Matthew Tattersall, the Revd Dr Andrew D Wood (senior management group of the Connexional Team).
- In attendance:** Ms Sharon Hassanali, Ms Louise Taylor (Administration), Ms Jane Bates (Minutes), Ms Jillian Moody (Director of Communications).
- Letters:** The Council sent a letter of greeting to the Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal in recognition of his being awarded the World Methodist Peace Award.

At this first meeting of the connexional year, the Council engaged in an introductory session where it spent some time considering its composition, its role, its ways of working and the business it will be considering during the year.

19.3.1 *Our Calling* Methodist Council Objectives [MC/19/64]

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/19/64.

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

19.3.2 Minutes of the Methodist Council held in April

The minutes of the meeting held on 6-8 April 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.

19.3.3 Connexional Team Update [MC/19/65]

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/19/65.

65/1. *The Council noted the update from the Connexional Team.*

19.3.4 Response to Notice of Motion 2019/201: Review of the Role of Youth President [MC/19/67]

The Head of Mission presented MC/19/67.

- 67/1. The Council received the report.**
- 67/2. The Council approved the Terms of Reference of the Task Group.**
- 67/3. The Council appointed the Task Group as set out in the report.**

19.3.5 The Nomination of the Secretary of the Conference [MC/19/68]

The Chair of the Council presented MC/19/68 and the proposed composition of the nomination panel.

- 68/1. The Council appointed to the Nomination Panel those persons presented to it, and appointed the Revd Loraine N Mellor as chair of the panel.**
- 68/2. The Council authorised the Nomination Panel to undertake the work as outlined in the report.**

19.3.6 Consultation on amendments to the Centenary Hall Trust [MC/19/74]

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/19/74.

- 74/1. The Council received the report.**
- 74/2. The Council as the managing trustees of the Centenary Hall Trust considered the responses to the consultation on the proposed amendments to the Charity Commission Scheme dated 4 March 1988 and concluded that an amended scheme should be sought from the Charity Commission with clauses 8 and 15 being amended as set out in paragraph 9 of the report.**

19.3.7 Confidential minute

19.3.8 Draft Foundations of an Evangelism and Growth Strategy [MC/19/69]

Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth, gave a presentation and introduced MC/19/69.

- 69/1. The Council received the report.**
- 69/2. The Council affirmed the general direction of travel.**

19.3.9 Reaffirming *Our Calling*: The Next Steps [MC/19/70]

The Council heard a presentation by the Connexional Secretary and Secretary of the Conference and, in small groups, discussed MC/19/70 and possible models for a new structure.

19.3.10 Report from the Strategy and Resources Committee [MC/19/71]

The Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee presented MC/19/71.

- 71/1. The Council received the report.**
- 71/2. Noting amendments to the financial schedule, the Council approved the Partnership Agreement with The Queen's Foundation.**
- 71/3. The Council appointed Epworth as its regulated adviser in relation to the Royal London proposed Group Personal Pension Plan for employees of the Methodist Council and other Methodist employers.**
- 71/4. The Council directed that a grant (and/or a loan if appropriate) be made available for university funding for the children of ministers who are significantly financially disadvantaged as a consequence of being resident in non-UK jurisdictions.**
- 71/5. The Council directed that the Connexional Allowances Committee be given discretionary authority to agree the grants figure for university funding for the children of ministers, taking into account the minister's circumstances and the university funding arrangements at the time.**
- 71/6. The Council directed that, as these are benevolent grants to ministers who require assistance, they should be funded from the Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons (or other funds should that be appropriate).**

The President expressed some concerns about the workload of the Strategy and Resources Committee and highlighted the need to consider that as part of the overarching review of all our governance structures.

19.3.11 Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC) [MC/19/86]

The lead Connexional Treasurer presented some revised resolutions to the Council, which the Council approved as follows.

- 86/1. The Council re-appointed Capital Cranfield Pension Trustees Limited, represented by Ms Ingrid Kirby, as a Director of Methodist Lay Employees' Pension Trust Limited (MLEPTL) for a period of one year.**
- 86/3. The Council re-appointed Mr Andrew Paul and Mr Ronald Calver as Directors of the Methodist Lay Employees' Pension Trust Limited (MLEPTL).**
- 86/4. The Council noted that the Deed of Amendment relating to the closure of the Scheme to future accrual has been signed and executed.**
- 86/5. The Council noted the Deed of Participation and agreement of Flexible Apportionment Arrangement relating to PASLEMC and the assignment of Methodist Ministers' Housing Society's liabilities.**
- 86/6. The Council noted the Deed of Participation and agreement of Flexible Apportionment Arrangement relating to PASLEMC and the historic assignment of Wesley College Cambridge's liabilities to its new company Wesley House Cambridge.**
- 86/7a. The Council noted that the Pension Scheme Trustee is working with its Advisers on a new Investment Strategy following the closure of the Scheme.**
- 86/7b. The Council further noted Notice of Motion 2019/203 adopted by the Conference, relating to opposition to proposals to remove Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme funds under investment from the CFB and transfer them to external managers to invest into 'Liability Driven Investments', and confirmed the Council's opposition to similar proposals relating to funds of the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC).**
- 86/8. The Council asks that the Connexional Treasurers review the ongoing costs of administering the PASLEMC now that it has been closed to future accrual of pensions and reports back to the Council.**

Resolution 86/2 was withdrawn.

19.3.12 Risk Management Policy [MC/19/72]

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/19/72, noting that it will need amending to reflect the new terms of reference for the Audit Committee.

The Council felt that the last sentence of paragraph 4.3 needed some redrafting and directed the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice with the Secretary of the Council to provide amended wording to members of the Council by email.

- 72/1. The Council adopted the Risk Management Policy set out in the report.**

19.3.13 Connexional Grants Committee [MC/19/73]

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/19/73.

- 73/1. The Council received the report.**
- 73/2. The Council approved the property grant reclaim policy as set out in paragraph 7.1 and requested the Law and Polity Committee to draft the necessary amendments to Standing Orders.**

19.3.14 Listing Ministers on the Plan [MC/19/79B]

The Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee presented MC/19/79B.

79B/1. The Council received the report.

79B/2. The Council directed that from 1 September 2020 the list of ministers on the Plan will follow the order listed in SO 785(4)(a).

19.3.15 Methodist Council Appointments [MC/19/80]

80/1. Noting the amendments to the committee lists as circulated, the Council appointed the committees, trustees, governors, management bodies and representatives as set out below.

80/2. The Council adopted, on behalf of the Conference, the renomination by the Methodist Independent Schools Trust of Mrs Anne Vautrey as Governor of Ashville College for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2022.

80/3. The Council adopted under Standing Order 221, on behalf of the Conference, the nomination of Alan Brooks as a Trustee of the Aldersgate Memorial Committee.

80/4. The Council appointed, on behalf of the Conference, the following as representatives to the World Council of Churches 11th Assembly due to take place in Germany in September 2021: The Revds Michaela A Youngson, Ruth M Gee, a young adult nominated from the 3Generate representatives.

80/5. The Council adopted the renomination by the Methodist Independent Schools Trust Trustees of the Revd Canon Sir Ralph Waller for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2022.

80/6. The Council adopted the renomination by the Methodist Independent Schools Trust of the Revd Paul Martin for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2022.

80/8. The Council adopted the nominations made by the Ministries Committee for co-opted governors, following proposals from the Queen's Governing Body, as follows: The Revd Helen R Kirk, Professor Ken Mortimer.

80/9. Acting on behalf of the Conference, the Council appointed the Methodist Diaconal Order Leadership Group: Ms Rachel J Lampard (Chair), the Revd Andrew Letby, the Revd Dr Claire Potter, Mr Peter Baffoe, Deacon Dawn N Canham, Deacon Kathryn Lamb.

80/10. Acting on behalf of the Conference, the Council appointed Mr Keith Norman as deputy chair of the Ministries Committee.

80/11. Acting on behalf of the Conference under the terms of SO 211(1), the Council appointed the Revd Christine M Howe as a new Trustee to act jointly with the remaining and continuing Trustees for the Aldershot Methodist Military Trust.

80/12. The Council directed the President to execute a deed of appointment to evidence the appointment of the new Trustee.

Resolution 80/7 was withdrawn.

The Council appointed Michael Pryke to serve on a nomination panel for new members of the Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment.

19.3.16 Matters Arising [MC/19/81]

81/1. The Council received the report.

19.3.17 Decisions made, documents signed and action taken by the Council since its last meeting [MC/19/82]

82/1. The Council received the report.

19.3.18 Authorisations and Delegations [MC/19/83]

83/1. The Council received the report.

83/2. The Council approved the list of authorisations and delegations with effect from 15 October 2019.

19.3.19 Draft terms of reference for Audit and Risk Assurance Committee [MC/19/84]

84/1. The Council received the report.

84/2. The Council adopted the draft terms of reference for the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and directed the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice to ensure the necessary amendments to Standing Orders are presented to the Conference in 2020.

19.3.20 Southlands College [MC/19/85]

85/1. The Council received the report.

19.3.21 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

(a) Notice of Motion 2019/207 [MC/19/75]

The Council heard some background from the Secretary of the Conference and the chair of the Stationing Committee. Following discussion about the issues raised, the Council agreed the following resolution:

75/1. The Council recognises the importance of the issues highlighted by NoM 2019/207 and
(1) directed that all members of Circuit Invitation Committees should be alerted to these issues and to the content of the EDI Toolkit
(2) expects that every member of a Circuit Invitation Committee will have completed training in unconscious bias, and
(3) mandated the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee to ensure that resources to enable this are available to circuits.

(b) Notice of Motion 2019/206: Review of procedures following incidents of hate or unlawful discrimination [MC/19/76]

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/19/76.

76/1. The Council received the report.

76/2. The Council directed the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Safeguarding Committee to undertake a joint review of Safeguarding Procedures to explore possible opportunities for expanding existing safeguarding procedures to encompass incidents involving hate, unlawful discrimination, abuse or bullying as described under the Equalities Act 2010.

76/3. The Council directed the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Safeguarding Committee jointly to explore options for the production of a best practice guide, which would be 'victim-centred' in approach, for Circuits and Districts, as described within the report.

76/4. The Council directed the Connexional Team to identify appropriate training and/or resources to meet needs within Circuits and Districts in regard to the management and resolution of incidents of unlawful discrimination or hate and to implement learning from the best practice guide.

76/5. The Council referred the issues raised by Notice of Motion 2019/206 to the review of Part 11 of Standing Orders and encourages those undertaking the review to consult the EDI Adviser in respect of how incidents of discrimination and hate crime might best be addressed in future arrangements.

(c) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Task Group [MC/19/87]

The Ex-President of the Conference presented MC/19/87.

87/1. The Council received the report.

19.3.22 Discussion on fundamental principles of proposed Model Trust 20 policy [MC/19/77]

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/19/77, a discussion paper.

Members of the Council were encouraged to submit comments so that work could continue on a new draft policy.

19.3.23 Elderfield, assignment of new managing trustees [MC/19/88]

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/19/88.

88/1. *The Council received the report.*

88/2. *The Council appointed the members of the Property Development Committee as the Connexional Trustees for Elderfield, Otterbourne for the purposes of SO 904.*

19.3.24 Update on the work relating to Mission and Ministry in Covenant: report from the Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee [MC/19/79A]

The Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee presented MC/19/79A.

79A/1. *The Council received the report.*

79A/2. *The Council affirmed the priority of doing mission together and welcomes the work done by the faith and order bodies to respond to issues raised in the initial reception of Mission and Ministry in Covenant, while also recognising that, for some within the Methodist Church, concerns about the proposals remain.*

79A/8. *The Council directed the Faith and Order Committee to bring the Mission and Ministry in Covenant proposals to a future Conference and once the General Synod has begun the legislative process.*

The Council declined resolutions 79A/3, 79A/4, 79A/5, 79A/6, 79A/7, 79A/9 and 79A/10. In declining these resolutions, the Council did not feel that time and resources should be committed to further work on these specific proposals until there was a clearer indication of approval for them in both churches. The Council noted that work continues to support the Covenant itself, particularly in the area of advocacy and in practical ways in which it can be supported locally.

19.3.25 Discussion on proposed policy for the Connexional Priority Fund levy and replacement project criteria [MC/19/78]

Members of the Council were invited to submit comments to the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice so that the discussion could continue.

19.3.26 Reviewing the Complaints and Discipline Procedure [MC/19/66]

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/19/66.

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

66/2. *The Council adopted the terms of reference for the review of the complaints and discipline procedure and directed the Secretary of the Conference to instigate the appropriate means by which this review is undertaken.*