

One Mission Forum (OMF)

Contact Name and Details	Doug Swanney, Connexional Secretary cs@methodistchurch.org.uk
Action Required	Discussion
Subject and Aims	To consider moving future One Mission activity into a district context rather than holding two connexional One Mission Forum events each year.
Background Context and Relevant Documents	MC/17/67 One Mission Forum report The 2014 Conference Report 36: One Mission Working Party The 2012 Conference Report 25: Future Mission Together

1. The 2014 Conference established the 'One Mission Forum' (OMF). It was envisaged that by 'meeting together to confer, share insights and develop vision' the OMF 'will assist the Church in developing and implementing a strategic vision for mission which is both local and global.'¹ Through this, we will work towards a vision of 'a world transformed by God's love, of being a confident Church motivated to share God's love and a Methodist people celebrating being part of a worldwide family.'²
2. Since 2015, the approach has been to hold two connexional OMF events each year to which representatives from each district were invited; although only one gathering was held in 2018 due to bad weather causing the cancellation of the March event at short notice.
3. Having indications that the OMF was not fulfilling all the original hopes and expectations for it, a decision was taken early in 2019 not to hold the planned March 2019 OMF event, and to explore whether there may be better ways to achieve the aims of SO 1001. Under the leadership of Dr Jill Barber who chairs the Forum, and to assist this discernment, a provisional decision was taken to hold a small number of district One Mission events that will enable the sharing of insights, conferring and developing of vision. The first such 'roadshow' is planned for the Cornwall district in November 2019, with promotional presentations and/or exhibition stands offered to the districts for their synods in the meantime.
4. The Council is invited to consider whether it is helpful to move towards more of a district focus and bring event/s to districts, so that a broader constituency of Methodism can engage with One Mission thinking, resources and inspiration more locally. The Connexional Team currently has the capacity to support such an initiative and can reallocate budget to finance it.
5. If the Council is minded to agree to this change of focus to the way in which One Mission is promoted and supported across the Connexion SO 1001 will need to be amended and the following is offered as a suggested development:

1001 One Mission Forum. (1) The Methodist Council shall ~~annually appoint a One Mission Forum to discharge the following responsibilities~~ **ensure that the Connexional Team has the requisite resource to provide occasional events in the Districts that assist in:**

- (i) ~~to developing~~ **and supporting** a network of people committed to mission both local and global;
- (ii) ~~to challenge~~ **ing the Church Circuits and Districts** to learn from and keep constantly under review ~~its~~ **the place of the Church** within the world Church;
- (iii) ~~to share~~ **ing** insights and develop vision;

¹ Conference 2014 Report 36: One Mission Working Party

² Conference 2012 Report 25: Future Mission Together

(iv) ~~to~~ **conferring** about how the vision and policies for mission adopted by the Conference might be implemented in the ~~Church~~ **Circuits and Districts**.

If the Council agrees with this pattern of working sub clauses 2, 3 and 4 would need to be revoked and the Connexional Team would impress upon the districts when offering such events the need to ensure a broad and diverse audience.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

37/1. The Council receives the report.

37/2. The Council recommends to the Conference that SO 1001 be amended as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

Appendix: Standing Order 1001

1001 One Mission Forum. (1) The Methodist Council shall annually appoint a One Mission Forum to discharge the following responsibilities:

- (i) to develop and support a network of people committed to mission both local and global;
- (ii) to challenge the Church to learn from and keep constantly under review its place within the world Church;
- (iii) to share insights and develop vision;
- (iv) to confer about how the vision and policies for mission adopted by the Conference might be implemented in the Church.

(2) (a) The Forum shall consist of:

- (i) the chair, appointed as such in accordance with sub-clause (b) below;
 - (ii) from each home District one representative elected by the District Synod in accordance with a rota published annually by the Methodist Council;
 - (iii) one representative each appointed by:
 - a. The Methodist Church in Ireland
 - b. The Methodist Children and Youth Assembly;
 - (iv) such other person or persons as the council may from time to time determine to ensure that the breadth of mission activity across the Connexion is adequately represented.
- (b) (i) The chair shall at the time of appointment be the current President or Vice-President, the ex-President or ex-Vice-President or the President or Vice-President designate of the Conference.
- (ii) The chair shall be appointed by the Methodist Council to serve for six years.

(3) The Forum shall normally meet twice in each connexional year.

(4) The Forum shall report annually to the Methodist Council to enable the Church to develop and implement a strategic vision for mission which is both local and global.