

## Global Relationships Strategic Oversight Sub-Committee (GRSOSC) Report and Review of Mission Partner Programme

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<b>Resolutions</b>	Listed at the end of the report

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	To provide an update on the work overseen by GRSOSC which has responsibility for implementing the Strategy for Global Relationships and to present proposals for revised membership and terms of reference for the sub-committee.
<b>Main Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on developments with global partners</li> <li>• Overview of work of World Church Relationships team</li> <li>• Outcomes from the Mission Partner Review</li> <li>• Suggestions for the future of GRSOSC including membership</li> <li>• Budget overview and project for encouraging revenue generation by partner churches</li> </ul>
<b>Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)</b>	MC/17/110 Global Relationships Strategic Oversight Sub-Committee MC/16/77 Global Relationships Strategic Oversight Sub-Committee MC/16/8 - Partnership, Focus and Evolution - A strategy for expressing One Mission through our global relationships

### Summary of Impact

<b>Standing Orders</b>	Revision of Standing Order SO 107(1)(ii) would be required to implement the proposal for change in the associate membership of the Conference Potential addition of a Global Relations Committee to SO 213 or 214.
<b>Financial</b>	Budget information included in the paper; within current budget.

## Global Relationships Strategic Oversight Sub-Committee (GRSOSC) Report and Review of Mission Partner Programme

### Introduction

1. The Global Relationships Strategic Oversight Sub-Committee (GRSOSC) of the SRC was established by the Methodist Council in January 2016 “to advise and support the Connexional Secretary and the Connexional Team to oversee the implementation, development and monitoring of the strategy” for expressing One Mission through Global Relationships of the Methodist Church in Britain (MC/16/8). It reports annually to the SRC and the Council and this is its third report.
2. In the last year, the GRSOSC has met three times as well as being involved in other meetings, activities and plans of the Church as it plays a significant role in the global mission scene with its partner churches and organisations. It receives regular reports from the Director of Global Relationships (who heads up the World Church Relationships Team). It works closely with the Connexional Grants Committee (CGC) and its World Church Sub-Committee (WCSC) for grants. There is a separate report [MC/18/86] to the Council from the CGC that details its work.
3. The strategic vision when the Council approved the Global Relationships in Mission policy in 2016 was “that the Methodist Church in Britain will be a distinctive and highly effective global participant in mission, by means of true partnerships with sister Churches around the world, a focus on the places and programmes where our participation can make a difference locally and globally and evolution that encourages new initiatives while maintaining the best of what has gone before” (MC/16/8). The GRSOSC has been attempting to promote this vision and support the implementation of the strategy.

### Specific Global Relationships

4. The United Methodist Church (UMC) and its General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM)  
The leadership of the GBGM met in London in January/February 2018 where common plans were discussed, and efforts made for greater cooperation. The Connexional Secretary also participates as an ecumenical observer at the Connectional Table of the UMC and is responsible for growing this relationship with the UMC.
5. Concordat 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations: In August 2018, participants from the United Methodist Church and the Methodist Church in Britain met together in London to celebrate and review their partnership, signed in a concordat agreement in 1968. It was an opportunity to assess the present situation of the cooperation and dream about the future. A new statement for the future was signed with plans to bring it to the respective Conferences in 2020. A report of the meeting and the statement was shared with the Methodist Council in October 2018, and a small group has been formed to follow up cooperation in specific areas.
6. Engagement and cooperation between the two Churches takes place in certain areas. This includes exchange of delegates to each other’s meetings, Global Mission Fellows, justice and peace ministries, women ministries, United Methodist Ecumenical and Interreligious Training (UMEIT), and youth and young adult work. The Concordat event included the signing of a partnership agreement between the UMC’s General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and Wesley House, Cambridge. There is also cooperation in the Methodist Liaison Office, Jerusalem, and in the work in Europe.
7. There will be a recalled General Conference of the UMC in February 2019 where important matters about the future of the Church will be discussed. The UMC is in our prayers. Four people from the Methodist Church in Britain (MCB) serve as delegates to the UMC General Conference.

8. World Methodist Council (WMC)

The WMC met in South Korea in July 2018 and the MCB sent delegates. The Council passed a resolution to have a world-wide Methodist consultation on the diaspora communities and the establishment of Methodist churches amongst them. This consultation may be held in London. The idea was generally supported, and it was agreed that the Connexional Secretary will follow this up.

9. All We Can (AWC)

Progress has been made in strengthening relations between AWC and the World Church Relationships Team and, in this process, it is expected that partner churches will be better supported by various means:

- a) Development of a Framework of Commitment (formerly referred to as a Memorandum of Understanding): The framework expresses various interrelated aspects of the relationship and sets a context for future collaboration in a way that is intended to motivate, inform and structure the planning and implementation of mutually agreed work. This agreement has been completed and is brought to the Council as a separate item (see MC/19/14).
- b) Capacity Development pilot projects: AWC has undertaken a pilot project to support the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL) in developing a mission strategy and then working towards a more sustainable future. This has progressed well, and a 3-year plan has been agreed. Much more needs to be done to take this forward and MCB is committed to supporting it. A second pilot is being discussed with the Church of North India (CNI) where a memorandum of understanding has been developed to help one diocese. It is hoped this will start soon. GRSOSC will receive regular reports on the progress of these two projects.
- c) Strengthening the Global Church for Mission: A more formal teaming up between AWC and the WCR Team will take forward the commitment for capacity building of partner churches under a programme of 'Church CAN' (Church Community Action for Neighbours). AWC has assigned a dedicated member to the WCR Team from January 2019. This partnership will offer organisational assessments, strategic planning and capacity development programmes specifically designed for our Partner Churches. The expectation is to create an integrated approach to support that will equip Methodist global partner churches to be successful and sustainable in achieving their mission.

10. Relations with Theological Educational Institutes in Global Mission

The MCB works with its learning centres, the Queen's Foundation and Cliff College to assist partner churches in their mission. This past year, representatives from both institutions came to a meeting to share their plans and concerns (if any), and to build relations with GRSOSC. This was helpful and, while the formal links and financial support are overseen by the Director of Global Relationships, it was thought useful to meet representatives occasionally. Funding is set aside for these two centres and is conditional upon them delivering appropriate and relevant programmes of activity.

11. The Principal of Wesley House attended a meeting and shared news of developments to serve global Methodism through international partnerships, courses and a special relationship with the UMC's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. It was agreed to see how this develops and how it may fit into the Council-approved strategy for global relationships in mission. The training of ministers and the development of local leaders for partner churches is part of our commitment to capacity building of churches for mission.

The Director of Global Relationships will follow up all these discussions with the three institutions.

12. European Methodist Council (EMC)  
The Methodist Church in Britain continues good relations with Methodist, Wesleyan and Uniting Churches in Europe and the EMC. The European Regional Relationship Coordinator post will be filled from 1 January 2019 by the Revd Dr Barry Sloan, who will be based in Chemnitz, Germany where he is already a mission partner. The Europe Coordinator role will become 0.5fte of his appointment with him retaining the role of Director of Evangelism for the UMC (Germany) in a 0.5fte capacity. This is in keeping with an agreed plan to consider the location of Partnership Coordinators within their regions.
13. Methodist Church of Ireland (MCI)  
Methodist Church in Britain has an historic and ongoing relationship with the MCI in many areas of exchange, cooperation and partnership. Representatives of the MCI are on the grant approval streams, and on GRSOSC itself.
14. World Council of Churches (WCC) Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME):  
The Methodist Church in Britain sent representatives to the World Mission and Evangelism Conference organised by the WCC/CWME in Tanzania in March 2018. A report from this meeting was presented to the 2018 Conference [report 37, Agenda pp 505-507].

#### **Work of the World Church Relationships Team**

15. The Revd Dr Stephen F Skuce joined the Connexional Team in March 2018 as interim Director for Global Relationships. He will leave at the end of June 2019 after a sabbatical period to take up a senior role with the Methodist Church in Ireland. A search for his successor has started. It is important that his contribution and leadership are acknowledged; in a short time he has made a significant difference to the work. New staff were appointed to the team during the year. If recruitment for the Director is successful, it is good to note that the WCR Team will be at full strength from the start of 2019.
16. Consultations  
Prior to the 2018 Conference, there was a consultation with representatives of partner churches for two days to get their views on the mission partner programme, which was a part of the Mission Partner Review. The opportunity was also used to gain insights into their understanding of safeguarding issues. The Africa-based mission partners all met in Jinja, Uganda and the Asia and Pacific based partners also met together. These meetings allowed mission partners spiritual and physical refreshment and the opportunity to discuss concerns as a group.
17. Mission Partners  
In October 2018 there is a total of 28 Mission Partners overseas. New partners have gone to Sri Lanka (Anne Baldwin), Israel/Palestine (Deacon Angleena Keizer), Italy (Fiona Kendall) and Uganda (the Revd Freddy and Dee Takavarasha).
18. The Mission Partner Review  
The review was completed during this past year and the findings and recommendations shared with the GRSOSC meetings in May and November. The Review Group was led by the Revd Timothy A Swindell and comprised the Revd Cathy Gale, Ms Pat Jamison, Mr Martin Ashford, Mr David Friswell (until Feb 2018) and the Revd Dr Stephen F Skuce (from March 2018). The purpose was “to review the existing Mission Partner Programme and make recommendations for the future nature and direction of the programme” (further details of the review are available on request from [batesj@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:batesj@methodistchurch.org.uk)). A copy of the Executive Summary was shared with the members of the SRC.

19. Some of the conclusions and recommendations are as follows:
- The Mission Partner programme continues to enjoy widespread support across the Connexion. It is seen as an important expression of the engagement with the World Church and benefits the MCB, Partner Churches and Mission Partners themselves.
  - A small minority within the life of the Connexion question the relevance of this programme today and think it may still reflect outmoded models of mission. Yet there is general belief, with the recent changes in understandings of mission and the nature of the programme, that there is contemporary relevance. Most of those consulted wanted the programme to continue and recognised it as an expression of One Mission.
  - While the grants programme continues and other forms of people-to-people programmes continue to be developed, these should not be an alternative to the ongoing mission partner programme. Many wanted to see more people brought to the UK too.
  - There are some serious weaknesses in the communications related to the programme: telling the stories to churches across the Connexion, poor support for some mission partners (in a few areas - experience was varied), and links with Districts could be improved. Steps are being taken regarding these concerns.
  - Questions were raised about the recruitment process, preparation, and the placements. Some partners wanted more contact and experience with the partner church before they went out. There was a feeling the whole programme needs to be properly resourced given the demands on staff time. More pastoral support and backing should be provided. A suggestion was to have voluntary accompaniers who could maintain regular contact with the mission partners.
  - Concerns were shared about the level of stipends and terms of the contracts.

The Director of Global Relationships is taking forward these points.

20. Grants to Partner Churches and Organisations

The annual report of the Connexional Grants Committee for the year ended 31 August 2018 was presented to the Council at its October meeting. The budget for the year was £3,620,000 and the expenditure was £3,359,186 (93% of total). This money comes from the World Mission Fund and support is provided for training of leaders from partner churches (SALT); posts for nationals of partner churches to do strategic mission work for the Church (NMAs); annual grants for the general functioning of the Church or partner organisation; and in response to unexpected needs for disaster relief and other emergencies.

21. Visits from Partner Churches and Participation in the Annual Conference

As part of a two-way dialogue and exchange it is thought good to invite people from partner churches throughout the year (possibly one a month) to visit local churches, circuits, districts and other areas of work. This will enhance district links and twinning relationships, better understanding of mission and could deepen engagement with the worldwide church. The British Methodist Church will be able to listen to and learn from Christians from our partner churches and these visits will support mission education, advocacy and our understanding of what it means to be part of a worldwide family. To be able to do this at no extra cost it is suggested that, instead of having twenty people from autonomous conferences, other Methodist Churches and United Churches in which Methodists have joined coming to the Conference each year, we invite only eight persons. Having twenty people at the Conference has a limited impact and little opportunity to meet British Methodists apart from those who are understandably focused on the activities of the Conference. There would still be two members of the Conference appointed from the associate members under clause 14(4)(d) of the Deed of Union (SO 107(3)) and World Church representatives would still participate in the ordination services. In practice the full twenty people do not actually all attend due to visa refusals, cancellations by the partners etc. At the 2018 Conference seventeen partners participated.

22. If this suggestion is accepted a revision would be necessary to Standing Order SO 107(1)(ii) that describes associate members of the Conference, two of whom shall be members of the Conference. The amendment could read:

**107 Associate Members.** (1) The associate members of the Conference to be appointed under clause 14(4) of the Deed of Union shall be as follows:

- (i) six persons appointed by other churches and Christian bodies which are members of an ecumenical body or association in Great Britain of which the Methodist Church is also a member;
- (ii) ~~twenty~~ **eight** persons appointed by other autonomous conferences, other Methodist churches and united churches in which Methodists have joined.

This will allow other representatives of partner churches to come to Britain throughout the year. This proposal is budget neutral.

23. An addition to the list of Partner Organisations

A new category of Partner Organisation was accepted in 2016-2017: "Organisations based in the UK or Ireland whose primary focus relates to a church, country or area of the world already agreed and whose work is considered a strategic priority for support through the World Mission Fund (WMF) can be taken up. Before the submission of any grant application such organisations must be approved by the GRSOSC."

On the recommendation of GRSOSC and the SRC, the Council is asked to add the Community for Reconciliation to the list of partner organisations. It operates within the countries that once formed Yugoslavia and has been supported in the past by the Methodist Church in Britain.

There is no change in the official list of partner churches.

### **Membership of GRSOSC**

24. GRSOSC is appointed by the Methodist Council and consists of the following:  
Members: Dr Daleep S Mukarji (Chair), the Revd Catherine Gale, the Revd Dr Laurence Graham (Methodist Church in Ireland), the Revd Timothy A Swindell (Connexional Treasurer), the Revd Dr Andrew D Wood (SRC Member), Ms Jenny Borden, Mrs Carolyn Lawrence (AWC), and Mr Doug Swanney (Connexional Secretary)

Ex-officio (participant observers): the Revd Ruth M Gee (Connexional Ecumenical Officer), the Revd Dr Stephen F Skuce (Director of Global Relationships), and Mr Martin Ashford (Head of Mission and Advocacy).

The Revd Catherine Gale and Ms Carolyn Lawrence have resigned. Proposals will be made to the SRC and the Council for new members.

### **Future of GRSOSC**

25. GRSOSC has had a detailed discussion on its future and has consulted the SRC, which brings the following revised terms of reference to the Council:

The Sub-Committee shall be known as the Global Relationships Committee, to express the range of its responsibilities and accountability more clearly.

The task of the Global Relationships Committee (GRC) shall be to advise and support the Connexional Secretary and the Connexional Team to oversee the implementation, development and monitoring of the strategy of expressing One Mission through our Global Relationships (MC/16/8), particularly through the annual planning, budget and review process of the Church. The GRC should be

embedded in the life, the work and structures of the Methodist Church. It should play a valuable role as a 'bridging' structure between the MCB, All We Can and other parts of the worldwide Methodist family.

The Global Relationships Committee shall be appointed by the Council and report to the Council via the SRC, so that the SRC can continue to oversee the strategic use of funds.

The Committee shall be responsible for:

- development of new programmes and the balance between these and existing work;
- planning and monitoring of activities, budgets and programmes covered in relation to the aims set out in the strategy;
- overseeing the list of Partner Churches and organisations with which the Methodist Church works and supporting the regular refreshing of Partner Relationship Reviews;
- evaluating the implications of continuing dialogue with AWC and other worldwide ecumenical partners and developing how the Methodist Church relates to and works with these bodies now and in the future.
- taking some responsibility for activities and expenditure from the World Mission Fund to implement the strategic policy for global relationships in mission.
- the Membership of the Committee shall be as follows:
  - Chair
  - a Connexional Treasurer
  - The Connexional Secretary
  - One representative from each of the following: SRC, Council, AWC, Methodist Women in Britain (new), MCI
  - two others for their experience and expertise (one new)
  - Ex officio: The Connexional Ecumenical Officer, the Director of Global Relationships, a member of the senior staff of AWC and a member of the senior management group of the Connexional Team (currently the Head of Mission and Advocacy)
- the Committee will meet at least twice per year.

Discussions are continuing as to whether the work of the World Methodist Committee of the Church (SO 335(1) and (3)) can be incorporated in the work of the GRC. This may also be brought into the terms of reference.

## Budget, Reserves and Innovative Programmes:

### 26. Budget and Actuals

Budget and Actuals - World Church	2016/17	2017/18	2017/18	2018/19
	Actual £000s	Budget £000s	Outturn	Budget £000s

World Mission Fund *				
<b>Income**</b>	<b>3,494</b>	<b>3,360</b>	<b>3,367</b>	<b>3,125</b>
Annual Grants	1,647	1,900	2,141	1,900
General	0	200	64	200
NMA	532	900	915	800
SALT	347	300	387	500
Research Student Support***	0	0	0	75
<b>Subtotal grants</b>	<b>2,526</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,507</b>	<b>3,475</b>
Salaries and overheads for staff based overseas	0	0	0	164
New development work****		350	49	615
Educational projects*****	0	0	0	450
Archive/digitisation	0	0	0	100
Mission partners	982	1,224	927	1,170
All other costs	77	102	134	145
Management levies etc	871	779	949	701
<b>WMF Total costs</b>	<b>4,456</b>	<b>5,755</b>	<b>5,566</b>	<b>6,820</b>
<i>Annual deficit **</i>	<i>-962</i>	<i>-2,395</i>	<i>-2,199</i>	<i>-3,695</i>

Methodist Church Fund				
WCR staff and on costs	451	485	340	395
All other costs	158	160	216	199
<b>MCF Total costs</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>594</b>

* Excludes WMF allocations to WMC and Ecumenical
** Excludes gains on investments: +£1.4m in 2016-17 and +1.03m in 2017-18
*** Short term student placements for research
**** Allocation to Capacity Building work and 'innovative projects' for financial self-
***** Allocation to Cliff/Queens, P2P bursaries, grants to PhD students

27. Income into the WMF was very close to budget. This was made up of donations (£1.501m), investment yields (£1.32m), legacies (£0.517m) and some others. Grants ran ahead of budget. Costs of the Mission Partner programme undershot the budget due to reduced number of Mission Partners and there were only small commitments against the lump sum budget for new work. As a result, the total balance on the WMF will again not have reduced to the extent that was anticipated in the strategy for global relationships. A larger budget is set for the next year for GRSOSC to discuss and allocate to possible projects for financial stability and educational work. On the overheads side (paid

from the Methodist Church Fund) salary/stipend costs significantly undershot the budget due in part to a long vacancy in the European Partnership Coordinator role.

28. Innovative project for encouraging revenue generation by partner churches

Over the last few years the GRSOSC has been discussing ideas on how to enable partner churches to manage their own projects, to develop their initiative and enhance their financial stability and long-term sustainability through revenue generation. Stages in the process would be as follows. The Partnership Coordinators would encourage suitable partner churches to submit draft proposals outlining what they wish to undertake and why, demonstrating how an initial investment will enable financial sustainability in the long term. The Coordinators would then have substantive conversations with the partners who submitted viable proposals supporting mission. Formal proposals would then be taken to the WCR team and be shared with the GRSOSC and the WC Grants Stream, for initial comments only. If a proposal were agreeable, the partner church would be asked to develop a more detailed plan including a feasibility study with clear costings and likely income generation, indicating their own contributions in cash and/or kind and their capacity to manage the project. The GRSOSC would then review the detailed plan and consider it for approval, taking independent professional advice. A contract would be drawn up with the successful partner church agreeing implementation, monitoring, reporting etc.

29. More details on how each project may be reviewed and the criteria for consideration is set out separately. A budget has been set aside for a couple of pilot projects with substantial funding.

30. A suggestion from the Director of Global Relationships for a suitable pilot is a proposal from the Methodist Church in Portugal, which currently receives annual grants. This pilot is supported by the GRSOSC for further consideration according to the agreed steps before final approval.

**\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**6/1. The Council receives the report.**

**6/2. The Council approves the new name for the Committee and the revised terms of reference for the Global Relationships Committee as set out in paragraph 25 and requests that the Secretary of the Conference ensures that the Committee is appropriately referenced in Standing Orders.**

**6/3. The Council recommends to the Conference that SO 107(1)(ii) is amended to enact the policy set out in paragraph 21.**

**6/4. The Council adds the Community of Reconciliation to the approved list of partner organisations.**