

Framework of Commitment with All We Can

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Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	For approval
Resolution	14/1. The Council approves the Framework of Commitment with All We Can.

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	At its meeting in October 2017, the Council received an update (MC/17/92) on continuing dialogue aimed at bringing the work of World Church Relationships (WCR) and All We Can into closer alignment. The Council expressed support for the direction of travel and requested the preparation of a new Memorandum of Understanding between the Church and All We Can. This paper delivers the requested agreement, with the sole difference that the title 'Framework of Commitment' has been preferred to 'Memorandum of Understanding'.
Main Points	The Framework expresses the relationship between the Methodist Church and All We Can, 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 without constraining innovative thinking and further collaborative initiatives. It sets this collaboration in the context of Our Calling, the One Mission Statement, a mutual understanding of the nature of mission and a shared commitment to work together.
Background Context and Relevant Documents	MC/17/92 Building closer relations MC/16/81 All We Can MC/09/31 Memorandum of Understanding with MRDF

Summary of Impact

Wider Connexional	As collaboration continues to grow, the Connexion should receive a sense of the Church and All We Can working towards common goals, with a much reduced risk of confusion and 'mixed messages' being heard about mission.
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FRAMEWORK OF COMMITMENT

Working together in support of *Our Calling*

Introduction

1. This Framework of Commitment is agreed between:

The Methodist Council (The Council)
and
All We Can, the operating name of The Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF)
2. The Framework expresses various interrelated aspects of the relationship between the parties, 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 without constraining innovative thinking and further collaborative initiatives.
3. Nothing in this Framework is intended to limit either the Council or All We Can from working with other partners or organisations, where relationships with others are considered in the best interests of either party and not contrary to any part of this Framework, in language or intent.

Purpose and Scope of the Framework

4. The Calling of the Methodist Church, as expressed in a statement adopted in 2000, is *“to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission”*. The mission of the Church is *“necessarily undertaken both locally and globally”* (SO 1000(1)), an idea which was developed more fully in the report *Future Mission Together* received by the Conference in 2012. The vision expressed in that report is known as the One Mission Statement. All We Can is the Methodist relief and development agency, an integral part of the Methodist Church’s response to *Our Calling* and its commitment to One Mission, acting for the Church through work in international relief and development and in related public engagement.
5. This Framework describes the relationship between The Council and All We Can in terms of governance and mission, defining various levels of engagement, intention and commitment between the parties. It re-articulates the Church’s calling to ‘Service’ i.e. to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice, as expressed through international relief and development.
6. The purpose and scope of the Framework are described as follows:
 - 6.1. To support the *‘desire of the Council to see the work of All We Can more clearly embedded in the life of the wider Connexion’* (MC/17/92) and encourage the staff, trustees and stakeholders of All We Can, members of the Connexional Team and others across the Connexion to see ways of deepening that relationship in their work.
 - 6.2. To delineate the three principal aspects of relations between the parties:
 - 6.2.1. Missional: identifying how the two organisations are guided by the *Calling* of the Methodist Church: to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission;

- 6.2.2. Operational: this Framework will be the covering document for more detailed 'Terms of Reference' for relevant time-limited and task-focussed initiatives that the parties will undertake from time to time;
- 6.2.3. Mutual Dependence: recognising the mutual dependence of each organisation that comes from All We Can having been established by the Methodist Conference as set out in the Trust Deed dated 29 March 1985.
- 6.3. For both parties to affirm:
 - 6.3.1. Their support for the Methodist Church's One Mission Statement;
 - 6.3.2. Their understanding of mission as integral, in which social action (including the work of relief and development) is one way of expressing the message of the Gospel. One aspect of *Reaffirming Our Calling* is '*To enable the Church to be a good neighbour, especially to people in need, to be prophetic and to challenge injustice*' (MC/18/1).
- 6.4. The Council and All We Can agree:
 - 6.4.1. That All We Can is part of a worldwide family of Methodists (as referred to in Standing Order 1000(2)) including Partner Churches and represents the Methodist Church through its international relief and development work and associated public engagement;
 - 6.4.2. To honour one another other in this special relationship;
 - 6.4.3. To respect each other's different skills and experience;
 - 6.4.4. To maintain regular dialogue between the parties to enhance awareness of what each party can offer and to identify new opportunities for working together;
 - 6.4.5. That dialogue and joint working will involve relationships between All We Can, the Connexional Team and the wider Connexion as well as autonomous Methodist conferences.
- 6.5. This Framework of Commitment replaces the MOU between the Council and MRDF created in February 2009.
- 6.6. The Framework is not intended to create a contractual relationship between the parties and the commitments set out are not intended to be legally enforceable against either party.
- 6.7. Any change to this Framework must be approved in writing by The Council and the All We Can Board of Trustees.

Expectations and Benefits of the relationship

- 7. It is acknowledged that '*we live in a world broken by violence, injustice, poverty and greed. God's purpose for the world is that all people will flourish and have abundant life. Mission is concerned with every aspect of that life – body, mind and spirit*'. (Future Mission Together)
- 8. The relationship between the Council and All We Can practically demonstrates the sharing in God's mission that '*embraces and unites social action and evangelical proclamation as good news for all people in every aspect of their being in order to bring about the transformation of lives which we both seek*'. (Future Mission Together)

9. The mutually dependent and embedded relationship between the parties is expected to deliver benefits in these areas:
 - 9.1. Mobilising the Church
 - 9.1.1. Express the vision of One Mission and engage the Methodist people in it;
 - 9.1.2. Inspire the Church with stories of new and more effective ways of doing mission together;
 - 9.1.3. Engage the Church in practical responses to tackling global poverty in deed and word.
 - 9.2. Being more effective and having greater impact
 - 9.2.1. Ensure that, where possible, the impact of the Church's work is planned, measured and regularly monitored;
 - 9.2.2. By pooling knowledge and experience, facilitate new forms of working that can deliver greater benefit to our overseas partners and beneficiaries;
 - 9.2.3. Be a resource to the Church as it responds to issues of inequality and injustice.
 - 9.3. Being more efficient in the use of resources
 - 9.3.1. Apply "value for money" principles to the Church's work on social action in the developing world ;
 - 9.3.2. Minimise non-direct costs;
 - 9.3.3. Prevent duplication of effort by clearly defining roles and responsibilities;
 - 9.3.4. Provide clarity for members of both the Connexional Team and the wider Church over where responsibility sits for different aspects of mission.
 - 9.4. Being more efficient in the acquisition of resources
 - 9.4.1. Seek ways of working together in joint fundraising initiatives;
 - 9.4.2. Prevent duplication of donor support by clearly defining roles and responsibilities;
 - 9.4.3. Consult with each other on appropriate use of language in our communications to churches.

Missional Relationship

10. As part of a worldwide family of Methodists, the Methodist Church values close relationships with partner Churches and organisations in Britain and around the world. It expresses those relationships in various ways - from visits and exchanges of personnel, through consultation on public issues, to the making of grants. In some cases, such grants include support for the partner's own expression of their mission through engagement in aid or development work.
11. As an integral part of the Methodist Church, All We Can plays a specific and discrete role in the Church's mission. It prioritises support for church and community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor. All We Can chooses to work through a relational approach with partner organisations, ensuring that their objectives are realised by offering organisational and project support.

12. There are operational differences between the missional approaches of both parties, but there are many points of similarity and connection in their objectives and desired impact. The connectivity of both organisations will be reflected in general and specific ways as follows:
 - 12.1. The work of All We Can in international relief and development and aligned public engagement has relevance to multiple parts of the Connexional Team and to all districts, circuits and churches whose members are considered a natural supporter base for All We Can. The parties agree to encourage all relevant points of contact between All We Can and the Church and its members;
 - 12.2. All We Can will have no more than three representatives at the One Mission Forum (OMF);
 - 12.3. All We Can will be represented by a trustee and a management representative on the Global Relationships Strategic Oversight Sub Committee (GRSOSC).
13. The missional relationship is further expressed through the following commitments:

The Council will, or will direct the Connexional Team to:

- 13.1. Give due consideration to inviting All We Can participation in any situation where working together may be to the benefit of the Methodist Church and/or its Partner Churches or Partner Organisations around the world;
- 13.2. Facilitate and support regular meetings between the staff of All We Can and members of the Connexional Team engaged in relevant work;
- 13.3. Encourage the Methodist people to engage with, and support the work of All We Can as the relief and development arm of the Church;
- 13.4. Engage in constructive and collaborative dialogue ensuring that both parties speak with a common purpose and understanding in their public communications;
- 13.5. Seek new opportunities to undertake joint communication with All We Can to Methodists in Great Britain;
- 13.6. Endeavour to avoid any action or language that is likely to cause confusion among Methodists about the respective roles and programmes of the parties.

All We Can will:

- 13.7. Give due consideration to inviting Connexional Team participation in any situation where working together may be to the benefit of the Methodist Church and/or its Partner Churches or Partner Organisations;
- 13.8. Facilitate and support regular meetings between members of the Connexional Team and All We Can staff engaged in relevant work;
- 13.9. Produce joint communications with the Connexional Team – to demonstrate unity to British Methodists;
- 13.10. Provide technical support to British circuits or districts wishing to independently support international social action projects, if resources are made available;

- 13.11. Provide technical services such as Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) to parts of the Connexional Team;
- 13.12. Lead on the response to international humanitarian crises on behalf of the Methodist Church;
- 13.13. Endeavour to avoid any action, which is likely to cause confusion among Methodists about the respective roles and programmes of the parties.

Operational Relationship

14. The principle of connexionalism requires the various parts of the Church to work together, and to be effective and efficient in their stewardship and sharing of resources. All We Can, although not part of the Connexional Team that supports the work of the Church, is embedded into the life and work of the Connexion.
15. The operational relationship between the parties is described as follows:
 - 15.1. Work may be undertaken under this Framework jointly by All We Can with any part of the Connexional Team;
 - 15.2. The primary engagement between the Council and All We Can is in the sphere of Global Relationships, involving both All We Can and the WCR team in joint projects with Partner Churches and in response to humanitarian crises. Such work falls under the oversight of GRSOSC;
 - 15.3. All We Can will continue to develop its operational relationship with other parts of the Connexional Team including JPIT, the Learning Network, Communications and Education;
 - 15.4. When operational opportunities are identified, task-oriented and time-limited commitments will be defined by a separate MOU including an agreed work plan with terms of reference.

Mutual Dependence and Responsibilities

16. All We Can was established by Declaration of Trust on 29 March 1985. The purposes are 'to receive, hold and transmit moneys for relief, rehabilitation and development under Methodist, ecumenical or other oversight primarily overseas but, in cases of exceptional need, also in the United Kingdom'.
17. All We Can is a separately registered charity (No. 291691 registered under the name MRDF) with the charity trustees of All We Can being appointed by the Methodist Council.
18. One of the trustees must be a member of the Methodist Council.
19. The All We Can Board of Trustees is the governing body of the charity. The Board's duty is to set strategic objectives, establish priorities and ensure the assets are used exclusively for the purposes set out in the Trust Deed.
20. All We Can reports annually to the Council and for accounting purposes is a Self-Accounting Entity (SAE)
21. The Council has the responsibility to constantly review the life of the Methodist Church including the protection of its reputation.

- 21.1. The Council has the power to appoint and remove the trustees of All We Can. It is this power to appoint and remove that has led to All We Can being part of the consolidated accounts of the Methodist Church in Great Britain;
- 21.2. The need to protect the reputation of the Methodist Church might on occasion mean that the Council has to exercise its power to remove trustees or offer assistance to the trustees of All We Can in respect of personnel, financial, operational or strategic matters relating to their role as trustees;
- 21.3. In recognition of this mutual dependence the trustees of All We Can commit to taking all reasonable steps to protect their reputation and in turn that of the Methodist Church and to offer assistance or support to the Connexional Team wherever possible and considered by the trustees to be appropriate.
22. Each party shall ensure that personal data of individuals is not shared unless as agreed within a data sharing agreement between the parties. Both parties shall ensure that permission is obtained prior to the use of the other party's trademarks or other intellectual property.

Oversight and ownership of the Framework

23. Each of the levels of engagement defined within this Framework will be owned and overseen as follows:
 - 23.1. The Framework: by the Council on behalf of the Methodist Conference and by the Board of All We Can Trustees;
 - 23.2. Missional relations: by the appropriate connexional lead and by All We Can senior leaders on behalf of the All We Can Trustees. GRSOSC will be responsible on behalf of the Council for collaborative aspects of global relief and development;
 - 23.3. Operational services: by the relevant leads within the Connexional Team and All We Can management in accordance with the terms of reference for the project or service.

Commencement date and duration

24. The effective commencement date of this working relationship will be the date of the signing of this Framework of Commitment.
25. The Framework will remain in force until terminated by either party giving not less than 3 months' notice in writing.

Signatures

Signed for the Methodist Council

Name:

Capacity:

Date:

Signed for All We Can

Name:

Capacity:

Date:

List of Guiding and Reference Documents

All We Can Trust Deed

Current Memorandum of Understanding with All We Can, MC/09/31

Building closer relations between the Methodist Church and All We Can, MC/17/92

The Methodist Church's Relief and Development Policy 2007

Future Mission Together (Methodist Conference, 2012, paper 25)

Partnership, Focus and Evolution (MC/16/8)

Reaffirming Our Calling: Strategic Developments (MC/18/1)