

Chair of the Council

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| Contact Name and Details | The Revd Canon Gareth J Powell, Secretary of the Conference soc@methodistchurch.org.uk |
| Resolutions | 86/1. The Council receives the report. 86/2. 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 2018. 86/3. The Council recommends to the Conference that the Chair of the Council should serve for a period of four years, and directs that amendments to Standing Orders are prepared to effect this change. |

1. The Revd Ruth M Gee finishes her three 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 2018-2021. 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 three years and is not able to be extended.
2. On previous occasions, the Secretary of the Conference has contacted those Presidents and Vice-Presidents eligible to serve under SO 210(2)(d) inviting them to consider prayerfully whether or not they wished to be considered for this significant role in the life of the Church. The Council has then been provided with a personal statement on behalf of each candidate, and an election has been conducted.
3. The Council is now asked to consider how it wishes to undertake the process of nomination for the next Chair. For such a significant and representative role, which includes many responsibilities between meetings and, crucially, the presentation of a very wide range of material to the Conference, it might be that the Council would prefer there to be a thorough selection process. Such a process would involve the establishment of a nomination panel drawn from the Council and including those with the knowledge and understanding of the role. The panel would meet with the candidates and 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. A draft indicative role description, based on the responsibilities of the Council as set out in the standing orders is attached.
4. The Council is further asked to consider whether it wishes to review the length of the term of the Chair of the Council. The present formally-appointed role of the Chair of the Council was introduced following the 2005 Review of the Council, and took effect from 2006. Prior to that, the Council had been chaired by the current President or Vice-President. At the time of the last review, therefore, the Council had been accustomed to having a chair for only one year at a time. Three years was introduced as a means of increasing the sense of continuity, whilst also limiting the potential power that could be held in one person. However, it could now be argued that it should be increased to four years, which would bring it into line with the length of the term of service for those who are representatives of Districts, District Chairs, the representatives of the Strategy and Resources Committee, the representative of the Ministries Committee, the representatives of the Children and Youth Assembly and the representatives of the concerns of racial justice.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

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The Chair of the Council

Appointed by the Conference for a three 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 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 lead 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), appointed 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 racial justice;

(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.

(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, being in each case a person who 356 The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church 2017 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 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.

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

(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 three 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.

(7) The chair of the connexional Audit Committee appointed under Standing Order 213A, the secretary of the Faith and Order Committee, the Youth President elected under Standing Order 250(10) and the members of the senior leadership group as defined in Standing Order 304 not appointed as members of the council under clause (1) above shall have the right to attend and speak at meetings of the council, but shall not be voting members.