

Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group: Appointment of Methodist Members

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Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	Decision
Draft Resolutions	As set out in the paper

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	The Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group: to appoint the Methodist members.
Main Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2014 Conference directed the Methodist Council to appoint the three Methodist members of the Group • The task of the Group • Three nominations for appointment
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Covenant between the Methodist Church and the Church of England signed in 2003 • The Joint Implementation Commission (JIC) reports of 2005, 2007, 2008, 2011, and 2013 • The JIC report to the 2014 Conference

Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group: Appointment of Methodist Members

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The 2014 Conference adopted all the resolutions relating to the report, 'The Challenge of the Covenant: Uniting in Mission and Holiness'.¹ Resolution 21/5 adopted Recommendation 3 in the report, namely:

We recommend that a Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group, co-chaired by a President or Vice-President of the Methodist Conference and a Diocesan Bishop and including two other Methodist and two other Anglican members should be established, with access to the key policy making bodies of our churches, to replace the Joint Implementation Commission in the next quinquennium. This body will monitor progress of faith and order conversations and other on-going work under the Covenant and advocate new initiatives; facilitate communication of Anglican–Methodist developments in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland; and report annually to the General Synod and Methodist Conference.

- 1.2 Resolution 21/6 directed the Methodist Council to 'appoint the Methodist members of the group proposed in Recommendation 3 following the adoption of that Recommendation by the General Synod of the Church of England.'
- 1.3 The Council for Christian Unity of the Church of England took to the General Synod's November 2014 Group of Sessions a resolution on the JIC report equivalent to the ones adopted by the Conference.² Like the Conference, the Synod strongly supported the recommendations contained in the JIC's report.³

2.0 The task of the Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group

- 2.1 Resolution 21/5 set out the task of the Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group. Recommendation 1 described the purpose of the faith and order conversations and Recommendation 2 referred to the work of the Methodist Anglican Panel for Unity in Mission (MAPUM);⁴ both recommendations were endorsed by the Conference and the General Synod.
- 2.2 The JIC's Report to the Conference and the General Synod reviewed developments under the Covenant (particularly in the previous five years), and the JIC's full Second Quinquennial Report (2013)⁵ included an assessment of ten years living in Covenant, outlining much of the other on-going work under the Covenant. Both of these Reports explained why the JIC

¹ For the report, see the Conference Agenda (2014), pp.125-145; Resolutions 21/1 – 21/6 on p.141f were adopted; see Daily Record (2014), 6/9.

² See <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2101036/gs%201966%20-%20agenda%20november%202014.pdf>, p.3, item 9.

³ See *The Anglican-Methodist Covenant: A report from the Council for Christian Unity, to which is appended the Final Report from the Joint Implementation Commission* (GS 1971), which is available at <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2101244/gs%201971%20-%20the%20anglican-methodist%20covenant%20report%20from%20the%20joint%20implementation%20commission.pdf>.

⁴ See the Conference Agenda (2014), pp. 140-141.

⁵ <http://www.methodist.org.uk/who-we-are/anglican-methodist-covenant>

considered it important for there to be communication about developments in Anglican-Methodist relations between the relevant churches in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

- 2.3 The task of the Group means that it is desirable that among its Methodist members are those who are familiar with as well as have access to the key policy making bodies of the Methodist Church, have experience and/or an appreciation of faith and order matters and of other ongoing work under the Covenant, can identify and advocate new initiatives, and have an awareness of the different ecumenical contexts in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

3.0 Nominations

- 3.1 Those nominated to the Council for appointment are:

Mr David S Walton, to be the Methodist co-Chair
The Revd David Gamble
The Revd Michaela Youngson

- 3.2 The following reasoned statements are offered to support the above nominations:

Mr David Walton was the Vice-President of the Conference 2008-09 and chaired the Methodist Council 2009-12. A solicitor by profession, he has been a member of the Law and Polity Committee for over 20 years and acted as its Chair for the last 15. He is a local preacher, a member of his local Churches Together group (sharing good relations with the local parish church), and was a representative on Greater Manchester Churches Together. He was a member of both the last triennium of the British Council of Churches (1988-91) and the Churches Together in England Assembly in the 1990s, continuing to serve as CTE's honorary solicitor. David is Chair of Methodist Insurance plc, which enjoys close relations with Ecclesiastical Insurance plc, and, in that capacity, a member of Allchurches Trust. He chaired the former Ecumenical Committee for a period, was a member of the Faith and Order Committee 2001-10, and co-chaired (with the Bishop of St Albans) the Anglican-Methodist working party on the ecclesiology of fresh expressions, *Fresh Expressions in the Mission of the Church*, which reported to the Conference and the General Synod in 2012.

The Revd David Gamble was the President of the Conference 2009-10 and has chaired the Methodist Council for the past three years. He trained for the ministry at Wesley House during the time of the formation of the ecumenical Cambridge Federation of Theological Colleges, studied at the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey (near Geneva), and attended a two-month inter-faith seminar at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute (Jerusalem) before serving in two Circuit appointments in North Yorkshire. In 1987 he became Children's Work Secretary in the then Division of Education and Youth and, in 1995, the Division's General Secretary. He then served in a number of connexional posts, including that of the Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice. David served as Moderator of the ecumenical Consultative Group for Ministry among Children (a network of CTBI) and, more recently, was co-Chair (with the Bishop of Durham) of the Church of England/Methodist Joint Safeguarding Liaison Group.

The Revd Michaela Youngson trained at The Queen's College, Birmingham (Britain's first ecumenical theological college), where she deepened her commitment to and enthusiasm for ecumenism. She has been a presbyter for 17 years, serving in Circuits in Lancashire and London, as the Connexional Secretary for Pastoral Care and Spirituality (during which time she was a member of CTE's Spirituality Group), and currently as a

Chair of District in London. She is a member of the London Church Leaders Group and Vice-Chair of Churches Together in South London. A founder member of the Christian Muslim Forum, of which she is an Honorary Vice-President, Michaela serves as the Methodist representative on the Faiths Forum London. She is a member of the Methodist Council and the Faith and Order Network, previously serving on the Worship and Liturgy Resource Group and as a representative to the ecumenical Joint Liturgical Group. She is a writer and broadcaster.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

57/1. The Council receives the Report.

57/2. The Council appoints Mr David S Walton to be the Methodist co-Chair of the Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group and the Revds David Gamble and Michaela Youngson to be its other two Methodist members.