

## **5. Appointment of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Conference**

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

- 5/1. The Conference appointed the Revd Gareth J Powell as Secretary of the Methodist Conference for a period of six years from 1 September 2015.**
- 5/2. The Conference appointed the Revd Helen D Cameron as Assistant Secretary of the Conference for a period of six years from 1 September 2015.**

### **The Revd Gareth J Powell**

The Revd Gareth Powell is presently the Assistant Secretary of the Conference (since September 2011) and Head of Governance Support in the Connexional Team (since September 2010). He read theology at Westminster College, Oxford and then undertook ministerial training at The Queen's College, Birmingham, obtaining an MA in Pastoral Theology before attending the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies, The University of Geneva. His initial station was in the Coventry Circuit, being received into Full Connexion and ordained in 1999. At the 1999 Conference he was directly stationed to the Cardiff Circuit as a circuit minister and university chaplain. From 2002-2008 he was Methodist Chaplain and Chaplaincy Coordinator at Cardiff University. It was in January 2009 that he was directly stationed to the Connexional Team to be based in the Governance Support Cluster as President's Assistant. Thus Gareth brings immediate and unparalleled experience to this new role of the Secretary of the Conference added to which he has the trust and confidence of many in the Connexion. Gareth deeply values and respects his calling before God as a Methodist presbyter and has excellent and sensitive interpersonal skills. He considers the judicious deployment of a sense of humour as essential to the enjoyment of God's creation.

His commitment to mission and evangelism means that he wants the church to pay careful and considered attention to its patterns of oversight and pastoral care so as to ensure that it is well resourced and enabled to respond to the challenges of the Gospel and of contemporary society.

Since 2010 Gareth has been a member of the Council of Cardiff University where he is highly valued and regarded. He has served in a variety of roles including being a member of the University's Strategy and Resources and Ethics Committees. He has also been involved in the appointment of key leaders at the University. He has vast experience of ecumenical partnerships and is highly respected in such circles. He is a member of the Council of Christian Unity of the Church of England. He was a member of the Methodist/Roman Catholic Committee from 2001 to 2012 and was The Ecumenical Officer of Y Gymanfa from 2005-7. He has served on a variety of committees of the Methodist Church.

Gareth is universally known as courteous, well prepared, approachable and clear. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge of Methodism at every 'level' and his expertise in constitutional matters is unquestioned. He is well aware of the need for the Methodist Church to change in the context of a fast changing world and for the Secretary of the Conference to enable the vision of the Church to be implemented throughout the Connexion. He is a deeply spiritual God-centred man who will bring passion, energy, humour and commitment to the mission of the church and to this role.

The Council, in accordance with Standing Orders 114 and 313, nominates the Revd Gareth J Powell to the Conference for appointment as the Secretary of the Conference for a period of six years from 1 September 2015.

## **The Revd Helen D Cameron**

The Revd Helen Cameron, having practised in the NHS as a senior physiotherapist, trained for the Methodist Ministry at the Queen's College Birmingham and has served in the Birmingham South-West Circuit and the Birmingham Elmdon Circuit. From 1996-99 and since 2006 she has been Oversight Tutor at the Queen's Foundation. Since 2007 she has been Director of the Centre for Ministerial Formation at Queen's, serving additionally since 2012 as the Director of Methodist Formation within the Foundation. In 1991 she was awarded an MPhil by the University of Birmingham.

Through both her circuit ministry and her work in theological education Helen has wide and detailed experience of the variety and breadth of Methodism and partner churches. During her time in theological education she has worked to maintain and develop relationships with Circuits, consistently making herself available to preach and teach in Circuits and Local Churches, revelling in opportunities to assist people in the development of faithful witness. In particular Helen has devoted much time and energy to the development of appropriate patterns of supervision for lay and ordained ministry, seeing supervision as an essential element of robust oversight and care. Helen has served on several connexional committees and working parties and in each case has offered to the wider church honesty and rigour. She is always well prepared for meetings and her breadth of understanding of both historical and contemporary Methodism as well as trends in pastoral theology ensures that she brings to any discussion a theological narrative that is vital to detailed consideration of any issues. She is well versed in the procedures of the Conference and has a detailed knowledge of the processes relating to candidating and the oversight of students and probationers. In all her work she listens with care and offers clear analysis, never forgetting that the primary locus of mission and ministry is to be found in the Circuits.

Her varied experience of Methodism ensures that she represents the Methodist tradition with faithfulness and integrity. She speaks with passion for and about the Methodist Church and understands its place within the world wide church. She is passionate about connexionalism and its distinctive charisms.

These skills, and above all her passion for the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, mean that she is well equipped to take on the role of Assistant Secretary of the Conference at a time when the role, and that of the Secretary, is undergoing some change. She brings to the post attention to detail, an expectation of rigorous thinking, and above all an understanding that the people called Methodist are at their most effective when they have a discipline that releases energy for proclamation.

The Council, in accordance with Standing Orders 116A and 313, nominates the Revd Helen D Cameron to the Conference for appointment as the Assistant Secretary of the Conference for a period of six years from 1 September 2015.