

58. Designations for Appointment of District Chairs

*****RESOLUTIONS**

- 58/1. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr Andrew J Lunn as Chair for the Manchester and Stockport District for a period of six years from 1 September 2015.**
- 58/2. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Rachel E Parkinson as Chair for the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District for a period of six years from 1 September 2016.**

The following resolutions required a majority of 75%.

- 58/3. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Loraine N Mellor as Chair for the Nottingham and Derby District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2016.**
- 58/4. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Graham Thompson as Chair for the Plymouth and Exeter District for a further period of six years from 1 September 2015.**
- 58/5. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr David Hinchliffe as Chair for the Channel Islands District for a further period of four years from 1 September 2016.**
- 58/6. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd John Hellyer as Chair for the South East District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2016.**

Reasoned Statements

The Revd Dr Andrew J Lunn

Andrew Lunn is an experienced minister and theological educator. He has been a Methodist presbyter for over 25 years, serving in Circuits in London, Leicester, Birmingham and Durham, including an appointment as a Superintendent.

In 2003 he moved to the Wesley Study Centre in Durham as Pastoral Studies Tutor. He was Director of Undergraduate Studies there from 2010 until moving to be Ministries Development Officer for the North-West and Mann Region of the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network in 2014. He has combined his academic role at Durham with a part-time appointment in the local Circuit and therefore has strong, continuing and contemporary practical experience of both ministerial formation and the local church context.

His scholarship is matched with a pastoral heart, which cares deeply about the wellbeing and flourishing of others. For Andrew, worship and mission are intimately related. He has a keen understanding of the contemporary world and the challenges it brings to the Church as well as the opportunities for exploring faith. He sees leadership as collaborative; a servant ministry which helps others to grow into leadership and which shares the tasks and responsibilities. He is used to working in partnership within and between churches and is sensitive to the diversity found there. His role at Durham was an ecumenical one and he was also responsible for overseeing student placements, including an increasing number of overseas placements. Andrew is an encourager and an enabler and will bring considerable gifts to the role of Chair of the Manchester and Stockport District.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that Andrew J Lunn be appointed as Chair for the Manchester and Stockport District for a period of six years from 1 September 2015.

The Revd Rachel E Parkinson

The Revd Rachel Parkinson is currently superintendent of the Leicester North Circuit; she previously served as a presbyter in the Thirsk and Northallerton Circuit, so brings both urban and rural experience. She has exercised a significant public ministry in her current appointment as a broadcaster on both BBC Radio Leicester and BBC Radio 2 and has served the Connexion as a member of the Faith and Order Committee's Liturgical Resources Subcommittee and as one of the team responsible for worship at the Conference.

She offers a rich spirituality, a confidence in representing the Methodist people, a pastoral heart, and a hopeful enthusiasm for the life of the Church, gifts which the Committee believe will enable her to offer effective leadership to the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that Rachel Parkinson be appointed to serve as Chair for the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District for a period of six years from 1 September 2016.

The Revd John Hellyer

The Revd John Hellyer has served as Chair of the South East District since its inception in 2006. He has worked with energy and enthusiasm to establish and develop the District and has modelled collaborative ways of working. He supports and encourages Circuits and churches to be effective agents for mission.

He is recognised as a good listener, compassionate, approachable, supportive and able to handle difficult situations effectively where necessary. He demonstrates pastoral concern for both ministers and lay officers. He delegates well and is a team player. He is comfortable and confident in his role. His leading of worship is much appreciated, thought provoking, relevant, balanced and inclusive.

He has encouraged Circuits to explore different ways to engage with their communities and look outwards. He has a deep commitment to ecumenism. Ecumenical partners respect his theological integrity and ecumenical generosity and find him constructive and helpful. From a connexional perspective he is a trusted colleague who works well with others and has a leadership style that helps others to contribute. John is recognised as being able to see the bigger picture and his insights and leadership will give him the ability to provide continuity during a time of uncertainty and change.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that John Hellyer be appointed to serve as Chair for the South East District for a further period of three years from 1 September 2016.

The Revd Dr David Hinchliffe

The ministry of the Revd Dr David Hinchliffe is strongly appreciated in the Local Churches and Circuits of the Channel Islands District and across the wider church and community. David serves as superintendent of the Guernsey Circuit; the proposed extension of his appointment will provide the Circuit with the stability it needs.

David has brought to the District a new vision for growth and development of mission and ministry, which the District feels needs more time to bear fruit.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that David Hinchliffe be appointed to serve as Chair for the Channel Islands District for a further period of four years from 1 September 2016.

The Revd Loraine N Mellor

The Revd Loraine N Mellor has served the Nottingham and Derby District as Chair since 2010. People describe her as a breath of fresh air, very down to earth, and with a good sense of humour. She has proved herself to be a strong leader, clear-thinking and unafraid to confront difficult issues, and with a willingness to question the way that things are normally done. Mission is high on her agenda. She

encourages and affirms new ideas and bold initiatives, such as Pioneer Ministry and fresh expressions of Church, challenging churches and Circuits to take risks. She sees and can communicate a bigger picture. Pastorally, Loraine responds well and effectively to difficult issues, and this is widely appreciated.

Loraine has served the Connexion in a number of capacities, including presently the Larger than Circuit coordinating group. Ecumenical colleagues and those who work with her connexionally speak appreciatively of her collegiality, and of her willingness to tackle difficult issues and speak the truth in love.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the appointment of Loraine Mellor be extended for a period of five years from 1 September 2016.

The Revd Graham Thompson

Graham Thompson has wide and contemporary experience as a Chair of District having served as Chair of the East Anglia District for the past 11 years.

Preaching is important to Graham and he seeks to preach, teach, encourage and inspire as he conducts his appointments throughout the District. He is a good communicator and is approachable at all times, a good listener with a well-developed sense of humour. Graham cares for people, believes pastoral care is of primary importance and is keen to offer hospitality whenever possible.

Graham is concerned for the rural church and is comfortable with and knowledgeable about rural issues. He is equally aware of the different challenges posed in our larger centres of population. He is committed to ecumenism and relates well to other Church leaders. He is aware of the challenges posed by a large geographical area and of working across many different boundaries.

Graham has proven ability in strategic planning and leadership and has a collaborative leadership style. He seeks to develop clear policies that will provide vision and act as foundations for effective administration of the District. He believes that building relationships is key to the integration of circuits into the life of the District and of the Connexion. He gives importance to building relationships between Circuits, the Synod and district officers so that all may share in that feeling of connectedness which is a distinctive feature of our Church.

The mission of the church is important to Graham and he is keen to work with others to produce a strategy for nurturing disciples. Graham, above all, is a person of prayer and will bring a sensitive but firm, warm, caring, listening ear to all who are in need.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the appointment of Graham Thompson be extended for a period of six years from 1 September 2015.