

56. Appointments of District Chairs

***RESOLUTIONS

- 56/1.** The Conference appointed the Revd David Hinchliffe as District Chair for the Channel Islands District for a period of six years from the 1st September 2010.
- 56/2.** The Conference appointed the Revd Loraine N Mellor as District Chair for the Nottingham and Derby District for a period of six years from the 1st September 2010.
- 56/3.** The Conference appointed the Revd Stephen J Burgess as District Chair for the York and Hull District for a further period of five years from the 1st September 2010.
- 56/4.** The Conference appointed the Revd Lionel E Osborn as District Chair for the Newcastle upon Tyne District for a further period of two years from the 1st September 2010.
- 56/5.** The Conference appointed the Revd Jeremy Dare as District Chair for the Shetland District for a further period of five years from the 1st September 2010.
- 56/6.** The Conference appointed the Revd Keith Davies as District Chair for the Manchester and Stockport District for a further period of five years from the 1st September 2010.
- 56/7.** The Conference appointed the Revd William H Anderson as District Chair for the Birmingham District for a further period of three years from the 1st September 2010.

REASONED STATEMENTS

The Revd William H Anderson

The Revd William Anderson was appointed Chair of the Birmingham District in 2004. In response to his willingness to serve beyond the initial 6 year appointment, the Chair's Nomination Committee has consulted widely across the District. This consultation, which has included Circuits, superintendents, district officers and ecumenical partners, clearly shows that Bill has fulfilled the essential criteria that were set by the District for this appointment.

The consultation also makes it clear that Bill is welcomed throughout the District as a friend and an encouraging supporter. He brings his warm personality to the role of Chair, together with an openness and genuine interest in people. He has a dynamic vision of the Kingdom which permeates through all his life. His commitment to those who are disadvantaged, including those who live with impairment or those who lack justice, informs his work.

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Bill is a reflective practitioner who listens to advice and is willing to address issues that arise in order to be the best that he can be. "Telling the story" is very important to Bill. As he has travelled around our diverse District he has brought an increased awareness of the different issues that confront the various Circuits and communities. In this way good ideas and innovations have been helpfully shared.

In a District that covers five Dioceses, Bill has given a good lead in ecumenical matters. This has been an encouragement and challenge to other ecumenical leaders, one of whom says "He is a delightful and inspiring colleague and friend."

In view of the above, it is entirely appropriate that an extension should be offered to Bill. Taking all relevant factors into account, it is considered that a three year extension is most appropriate. This will ensure continuity of leadership during a time of significant change and will also provide an opportunity for further review in due course in the light of developing District and Connexional changes.

The Revd Stephen J Burgess

The Reverend Stephen John Burgess has served as Chair of the York and Hull District since September 2004. During this time he has developed a deeper insight into the working of the District and an appreciation of the wide variety of contexts in which Methodism seeks to carry out the work of God. Stephen has always shown a deep appreciation of ministry in both rural and inner cities and in environments as diverse as the coast, dales, the Wolds and industrial areas.

Stephen's preaching and teaching are generally thought-provoking and Circuits and churches find him relaxed and approachable, with a personal humility which makes everyone feel valued. He listens well and can act decisively. He is not afraid of tackling difficult situations and his chairing of Synod and DPC is widely appreciated. Pastorally he is always prepared to make himself available to those who need him and his care of them is both sensitive and helpful.

Stephen is always supportive of officers within the District and has established a relationship of mutual respect and confidence with both lay and ordained. He is held in high regard by all his ecumenical colleagues and by his fellow Chairs within the Yorkshire and NE region. Connexionally his work is much admired and respected and his experience and the knowledge gained from his involvement in the review of the stationing process, and in the Connexional Leaders Forum, give a deeper dimension to his work in the District.

Stephen is enthusiastic both for the Methodist Church in this present time and for the future. He is committed to enabling the District to make the best use of its resources in Mapping a Way Forward and is excited by the idea of helping the District to meet the challenges which face us.

Having consulted widely amongst all the groups mentioned above the Representative Synod of the York and Hull District overwhelmingly endorsed the unanimous recommendation of the Nomination Committee and the District Policy Committee that Stephen be invited to continue as Chair of the York and Hull District for a further period of 5 years to 2015.

The Revd Jeremy C Dare

The Revd Jeremy C Dare, who became Chair of the Shetland District in September 2004, has shown himself to be a leader and minister much esteemed in these islands and a blessing to us all. When approached regarding an extension to his appointment Jeremy agreed that he would be very pleased to put himself forward for a five year extension.

The Nomination Panel undertook an extensive and thorough consultation throughout the District, among ordinary members, those with special responsibilities in the Church, and adherents. The opinions of representatives from the Connexion were also sought. The outcome of this was a unanimous endorsement of Jeremy's ministry. All agreed that an extension would be most desirable.

It is very obvious from the feedback we have received that Jeremy has gained the respect and affection of everyone. Not only were his leadership skills much appreciated, but also his caring, his encouragement, approachability, humility and friendliness. He is someone always willing to go the extra mile. People also commented on his spirituality, preaching and teaching skills. His ability to communicate with young and old is another very positive quality.

Jeremy's many strengths and contribution to the Shetland District are of a high order indeed. We are grateful for all he is doing, ably supported by his wife, Sheila, and daughter, Marianne. Granting this extension will provide both stability and continuity.

The Revd Dr Keith Davies

In his ability to meet the person specification through his ministry there is overwhelming support for Keith. He gives a tremendous amount of time, energy and whole hearted commitment to the role of District Chair. His ministry is greatly supported by his wife Sylvia.

There has been in the past, and to some degree there is still, concern regarding his workload and together with Keith this has been addressed and will continue to be reviewed.

Having experience of training presbyters and deacons of Methodist and other denominations means Keith has an up-to-date understanding of the pressures of ministerial life and the wide range of specialist ministries across the District. He is specially equipped to exercise pastoral care and oversight of the ministers and lay

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employees within the District. Keith offers valued support to supernumeraries and their families and this is greatly appreciated.

As a pastor Keith has responded where pastoral care has been necessary and has given wholly of himself, and his care, compassion and love has been fully appreciated.

Keith is an effective communicator, an excellent leader of worship and a thought provoking and inspiring preacher. The services he takes are challenging in a gentle way and helpful. He has a very well tuned theological mind that quickly earths thoughts in practical applications. Keith's spirituality is the core of everything that he does.

Keith is a fine leader. He provides good and helpful leadership in a situation of conflict and difficulty. Keith has proven ability to think outside the box and to encourage others to do so too. This is a particularly important asset as the church is moving from a maintenance to a mission model of life and activity. He is well aware of the need for the good stewardship of our resources and also of the need to liberate those resources from the "waiting for a rainy day" syndrome. He is not afraid to initiate change where he thinks this is important for mission and service. His ability to manage change is proven in the way that he has led the re-structuring of the District to reflect the changes in the connexional re-organisation.

His work with and for the Connexion is very much valued, appreciated and applauded by those who work with him and it is clear that the District is well represented in the Connexion by our Chair.

Keith has valuable ecumenical experience at institutional level and has put this to good use working with ecumenical partners. Keith has been instrumental in the formation of the new Regional Training Partnership, and places a high emphasis on the area of training to which he brings expertise.

Keith is valued by other church and faith leaders and by those working on the ground in ecumenical situations and projects.

Keith keeps ministers, Circuits and Synod informed of developments at national, regional and local levels. Keith encourages cross communication and support between and for circuits which is reflected in the re-structuring of the District organisations.

Keith has excellent organisational and time management skills, he is able to prioritise and is an effective chair of meetings.

The Manchester and Stockport District Synod overwhelmingly endorsed the unanimous recommendation of the District Council that Keith Davies be designated as Chair of the District for a further five years from September 2010.

The Revd David Hinchliffe

David Hinchliffe has been the Superintendent of the Woking and Walton on Thames Circuit since 2005. He is also the Assistant Chair (Eastern) of the South East District. David has been a Minister since 1997 and served as the Synod Secretary for the Southampton District from 2001 to 2005 and was Ministerial Synod Secretary in his present District until becoming an Assistant Chair.

David's academic studies included an MA from the University of Durham with research on the English Churches' Engagement with the European Union. Also he was a member of the Methodist European Reference Group, which is helpful experience for this District being so close to Continental Europe. Following a Pastorate Exchange in the US in 2004, David is presently in his third year as a Doctor of Ministry Student with St Paul School of Theology, Kansas City.

Bringing his excitement at being a Christian, with his awareness of the turbulence in the financial markets, David will contribute energy and creativity. With practical experience in ecumenical co-operation, he will serve the District well in its work and witness with other churches. A leader of Alpha and Disciple Courses, he is keen to help people grow through study and worship.

The Channel Islands District commends David Hinchliffe to the Conference of 2009 for appointment as Chair of the Channel Islands District from 1st September 2010.

The Revd Loraine N Mellor

The Revd Loraine N Mellor has ministered in the Stockport and Warrington Circuits, becoming Superintendent in Warrington in 2003.

Prior to entering ministry she worked in the NHS for 24 years and was Acting Director of Nursing Information and Contracts when she left to begin her training for ministry in 1993. During her time in Warrington she has led the Circuit through a time of profound change, and is a key part of a similar process of change in her District. The Warrington Circuit has developed a strong staff team, both lay and ordained, which has since 2006 modelled new ways of working, which might be termed 'fresh expressions of circuit'.

In the Manchester and Stockport District she served as the District Probationers' Secretary. She currently serves as the Liverpool District representative to the Methodist Council and served as its chaplain last year. She has a keen interest in building upon the core areas of *Our Calling*, with a particular focus on evangelism and exploration of fresh expressions of church and pioneer ministry. Loraine has also served as a venue line manager for Easter People. She has been part of the District working group that has developed a new process of circuit based annual review to replace ASA.

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Loraine has ministered within the context of an LEP and is committed to ecumenical working. She is an able pastor and communicator, who inspires and leads worship both creatively and effectively. She works collaboratively with others – developing and working in teams lies at the heart of her ministry – yet she is not afraid of the challenges and responsibilities of leadership.

The Synod of the Nottingham and Derby District commends the Revd Loraine N Mellor to the Conference of 2009 for designation as Chair of the Nottingham and Derby District from 1st September 2010.

The Revd Lionel E Osborn

The Revd Leo Osborn became Chair of the Newcastle upon Tyne District in 2001 and we thanked God when he agreed to a re-invitation for a further period of 3 years until 2010. Consideration of a further extension was suggested and, after discussion with Leo, the Nomination Committee has consulted widely across the District.

Leo is highly regarded and warmly welcomed throughout the District. He is a person of profound faith whose preaching is relevant, Spirit led, challenging but encouraging. Leo is a caring pastor to ministers and to lay people alike. Supernumeraries, probationers and those in the early years of their ministry value his prayerful and practical support. The District is richly blessed by his own ministry.

The District is fortunate to have Leo as its thoughtful and sensitive Chair and has grown and developed in many ways as a result and will continue to do so. He has encouraged changes in the District for the better through his own endeavours and through the empowerment of others in a wide variety of roles. He is an excellent colleague and spiritual partner, but also a firm, well informed leader and administrator. The District trusts him.

Methodism, like other Churches, is facing a critical period of change and challenge and Leo is well placed to lead us as we face up to and try to understand and to develop God's vision for the future. Leo has a very positive relationship with Ecumenical colleagues within the area who look forward to continuing to worship and work together.

Leo's humble and Godly leadership as District Chair is highly valued and we would like it to continue.

The Newcastle upon Tyne District asks Conference to designate the Revd Lionel E Osborn as Chair for a further two years from 1st September 2010.