

## Minutes of a meeting of the Methodist Council held on 13 – 15 April 2013 at Uplands House, High Wycombe

- Present:** The President, the Vice-President and 49 voting members.
- Apologies:** The Revds Ward Jones and Stephen Wigley, Mr Nigel Barton  
The Revd Ruth Gee (13 April afternoon): The Revd Peter Pillinger (13 April afternoon, 14 April evening, and 15 April)
- Observers:** Mrs Louise Wilkins (Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice), Mr John Chastney (Chair of the Audit Committee), the Revd Gareth Hill, Ms Jude Levermore, Mr Nick Moore (Members of the Senior Leadership Group of the Connexional Team).
- In attendance:** The Revd Stephen Burgess (in place of The Revd Ward Jones); The Revd Steve Wild (in place of The Revd Stephen Wigley); Ms Anna Drew, (Media Team); Ms Sharon Hassanali, Mr John Moffoot (Minutes).

**Opening Prayers** were led by the Chaplain, Dr Nigel Hardwick

### 13.2.1 Greetings

The Methodist Council received greetings from the Methodist Women in Britain residential conference meeting at Swanwick in Derbyshire. The Council agreed to send greetings in return to the Methodist Women in Britain Conference.

The Council agreed to send greetings and condolences to Revd Dr Kenneth Greet following the death of his wife.

The Council noted that Janet Deakin had completed 40 years' service working at Methodist Church House, and agreed to send congratulations and thanks to Ms Deakins for her service.

### 13.2.2 The Minutes of the Methodist Council held on 21-22 January 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 13.2.3 Matters arising [MC/13/27]

The Council noted report **MC/13/27** on progress on various outstanding issues. The Council noted that the outstanding decision on electronic voting had not been implemented because it was considered that it would be inappropriate for budget and governance issues. It could still be used for considering nominations, when necessary, as it had been previously.

***The Council agreed:***

***That the requirement in Methodist Council Minute 12.2.16 to consider protocols for electronic voting be not pursued further.***

### 13.2.4 Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 6 – 7 March 2013

The Council received the draft minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 6 and 7 March 2013.

### 13.2.5 Report from the Senior Leadership Group

The Revd Dr Martyn Atkins reported that the Senior Leadership Group met weekly, and had occasional and beneficial meetings with the Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee. The Group was continuing to embed positively and effectively, organising its meetings to deal with both managerial and strategic issues in a balanced way.

The Group was liaising with the Chair of the Connexional Grants Committee on a possible review of that Committee, the outcome of which would be reported to the Council in due course.

Dr Atkins provided an update on conversations with representatives of the United Reformed Church to progress the decisions of the Methodist Conference and the URC General Assembly in 2008.

The Council noted that;

The Mission Council of the URC had suggested that dates and venues of future meetings of the Mission Council and the Methodist Council, and the General Assembly and the Methodist Conference, should be co-ordinated to allow for more joint meetings.

Dr Atkins had responded that he was not in a position to enter into any formal arrangements without governance approval, so there would be no attempt to co-ordinate meetings for at least the next two years.

### **13.2.6 Report from the Connexional Leaders' Forum**

The Revd Dr Martyn Atkins reported that the March meeting of the Connexional Leaders' Forum had considered:

- fulfilling the resolution of the Conference in relation to the Joint Working Party on the Ecclesiology of Emerging Expressions of the Church (JAMWPEEEEC) report;
- a budget update;
- listed buildings and conservation issues;
- progress on the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network;
- plans for a 'Living Generously' campaign;
- the roles of some members of the Forum.

Over the next year, the Forum would be considering how the discipleship and mission motif could be further progressed.

### **13.2.7 Inter-Faith Relations**

Mr Doug Swanney presented paper MC/13/28 which explored possible ways in which the Church could engage with inter-faith work in the future.

***The Council agreed:***

***28/1 That the report be received and that the Connexional Team be instructed to explore the options contained within it.***

### **13.2.8 Reflections by the President and Vice-President**

The Vice-President of the Methodist Conference and the President reflected upon their year of office.

### **13.2.9 Connexional Central Services Budget**

Mr Peter Howdle, Chair of the Strategy & Resources Committee presented report MC/13/.

***The Council agreed:***

***29/1 That the Conference be recommended to approve a 1% increase in the management charge on ring-fenced funds, with an additional 1% on that to the World Mission Fund.***

***29/2 That the Conference be offered three options for calculating the Methodist Church Fund assessment as outlined in paragraph 17 of the report.***

***29/3 That the Conference be recommended to approve the next five years of funding for Fresh Expressions and Venturefx as per Table 5 of the report.***

**29/4 That the Conference be recommended that the Epworth Fund be utilised as described in Paragraphs 60 to 66 of the report**

**29/5 That the post of Connexional Liaison Officer for Scotland be declared redundant.**

**29/6 That the Connexional Central Services budget be recommended to the Conference for approval as described in this report.**

**29/7 That the Senior Leadership Group of the Connexional Team be instructed to carry out, within the next six months, a review of the Ecumenical grants and membership fees paid from the central services budget, taking account of:**

*the needs of the whole connexion.*

*the aspirations of Methodist ecumenical involvement as set out in various Conference statements on ecumenism.*

*the need to ensure an appropriate and fair use of the resources of the connexion.*

#### **13.2.10 District Allocations**

Mr Nick Moore introduced report MC/13/29A.

***The Council agreed:***

**29A/1 That the Conference be recommended to approve the District allocations of the assessment to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF).**

#### **13.2.11 Supporting Ministers with Ill-Health**

The Revd Jenny Impey introduced report MC/13/30 which proposed approaches to supporting ministers experiencing ill health or impairment, and proposed tools for encouraging healthy and sustainable patterns for ministry.

***The Council agreed:***

**30/1 That the Conference be recommended to adopt:**

**a) The 'Good Practice Guide – Supporting Ministers who experience ill health Part 2'**

**b) 'Living with disabilities and impairments – practical support for ministers and their Chairs/Superintendents/the MDO Warden';**

***and to agree that these documents be placed on the Methodist Church website and that reference to them be incorporated into Standing Orders where and when appropriate.***

**30/2 That the Conference be recommended to adopt the revision to guidance on holidays as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.**

#### **13.2.12 Connexional Allowances Committee**

Mr John Bell, Chair of the Connexional Allowances Committee, presented the Committee's annual Report to the Conference for 2013.

***The Council agreed:***

**31/1 That the report be received and be recommended to the Conference for approval.**

### **13.2.13 Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill**

Mr Doug Swanney and the Secretary of the Council, presented report MC/13/32, responding to the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill and proposing the establishment of a working group.

The Council noted the importance of the membership of the Working Group taking account of the breadth of theology, age, race, gender and experience.

***The Council agreed:***

***32/1 That the Conference be recommended to establish a working group as set out in the paper to consider whether the Methodist Church's position on marriage needs revising in the light of changes in society, undertaking this consideration with reference to scripture, tradition, reason and experience.***

### **13.2.14 Supreme Court Case – The President of the Methodist Conference vs Preston (formerly Moore)**

The Revd Gareth Powell presented report MC/13/33, which updated the Methodist Council on the progress of the Supreme Court case *The President of the Methodist Conference vs Preston (formerly Moore)*.

The Council expressed its appreciation of the work of His Hon John Hicks QC, the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice and the Assistant Secretary of the Conference in preparing for, and conducting, the case.

***The Council agreed:***

***33/1 That the report be received and that approval be given to the appointment of a Working Party to consider the judgement of the Supreme Court.***

***33/2 That responsibility for appointing the members of the Working Party be delegated to the Secretary of the Conference.***

***33/3 That the Working Party be directed to report to the Methodist Council in October 2013.***

### **13.2.15 Power to Appoint Substitutes**

Mrs Louise Wilkins introduced report MC/13/45 which related to a request from the Law and Polity Committee for the Council to consider the issue of appointing substitutes to Circuit Meetings, and outlined the difficulties that such an arrangement would present in the light of charity law, and the options available.

***The Council agreed:***

***45/1 That the proposal of the Law and Polity Committee that substitutes should only be able to attend and speak at Circuit Meetings, but not have a right to vote, be supported.***

Members of the Council shared in a service of Holy Communion at which the Secretary of the Council presided and the Secretary of the Conference preached.

### **13.2.16 Larger than Circuit**

Mrs Susan Howdle introduced report MC/13/34 which outlined the work of the Larger than Circuit Working Party.

The Council noted;

That further work was needed on the implications for new invitations and appointments of Chairs of Districts for 2015, prior to the report being submitted to the Conference.

That it would receive regular update reports on the outcome and implementation of the Conference decision.

***The Council agreed:***

***34/1. That Part A of the report be received and, with such appropriate amendments as are approved by those appointed by the Council for this purpose, it be brought by the Council to the Conference of 2013 with the recommendation that the Conference adopt the proposal contained within Section 6 of the report.***

***34/2. That the Conference be further recommended to approve:***

***a) the working party's recommendations in paragraphs 96-99 on connexional facilitation through support, oversight and co-ordination;***

***b) the appointment of a group as set out in paragraph 110-111 to review recent developments in the role of the District Chair, particularly in relationship to the exercise of personal and collegial connexional leadership;***

***c) that the Faith and Order Committee and the Law and Polity Committee respectively be directed to work on the issues identified in paragraphs 112-116 on Connexionalism, in consultation with the co-ordinating group appointed under 34/2.a) above, with a view to reporting to the Conference of 2015.***

***34/4. That the work on 'benchmarks' in paragraphs 104-109 be noted and that the working party be encouraged to continue to develop this material in consultation with other appropriate groups, with a view to it being presented to the Conference for approval for use in the ongoing process.***

#### **13.2.17 Buckfastleigh Methodist Church – Plymouth & Exeter (24/10)**

Mr Nick Moore introduced report MC/13/44 which informed the Methodist Council of unapproved work carried out at Buckfastleigh Methodist Church, a Grade II listed building, and asked whether it was considered necessary to exercise the Council's power under SO 985(4) to require the managing trustees to restore and reinstate the property.

***The Council agreed (22 votes in favour; 19 votes against):***

***44/1. That the course of action as set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report be approved.***

#### **13.2.18 Methodist Missionary Society (MMS) Working Group**

Dr Daleep Mukarji and the Revd Jim Booth introduced report MC/13/36, which updated the Council on the progress and activities of the Methodist Missionary Society Working Group.

***The Council agreed:***

***36/1. That the Working Group be requested to present a resolution to the 2013 Conference that will bring about the closure of MMS.***

***36/2. That the Working Group present a resolution to the 2013 Conference that will ensure the full integration of mission work into the life of the Connexion.***

***36/3. That the 2013 Conference be presented with a resolution that states, for the purposes of Section 24 of the Methodist Church Act 1976, that the Methodist Church in Britain is the successor body to the MMS.***

**36/4. That the Council affirms that the MMS(Ireland) will continue to relate to the Methodist Church in Britain through the World Church Relationships Team and invites the Methodist Church in Ireland to make appropriate adjustments to its Manual of Laws to reflect this.**

#### **13.2.19 Review of the Role of the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order**

Mr Dudley Coates presented report MC/13/37 which responded to the decision of the Conference in 2010 to review the responsibilities of the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order and provided recommendations for strengthening and supporting the role of the Warden.

The Council noted an amendment to Recommendation 1 of the Report to read as follows:

**'We recommend that the Methodist Council invites the 2013 Conference to direct the Faith & Order Committee, in consultation with the Methodist Diaconal Order, to undertake work on the theology and ecclesiology underpinning the diaconate in Methodism, its place within the British Connexion and its place within the universal church.'**

The Council also noted the need for wider consultation.

***The Council agreed:***

***37/1. That recommendations 1 (as amended), 2 and 4 of the report be accepted.***

***37/2. That recommendation 3 of the report be accepted and that the Conference be recommended that the provisions of SO 743 should be extended to apply to the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order.***

***37/3. That the Conference be recommended that provision be made within Standing Orders for the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order to be able to appoint an assistant akin to the provision of SO 426(5) and (6) for Chairs of District.***

***37/4. That the Working Party be requested to consult with the Convocation of the Methodist Diaconal Order in respect of recommendations 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 and to report to the October meeting of the Methodist Council on the result of the consultation along with observations on how the proposals may be funded so that the Council can give appropriate consideration to the financial implications of the recommendations.***

***37/5. That the Strategy and Resources Committee be directed to furnish the Council with an overview of the finances of the Methodist Diaconal Order so as to assist the Council in giving further consideration to recommendations 5 and 7 when it meets in October.***

#### **13.2.20 The Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network**

Ms Jude Levermore presented report MC/13/38 which related to the implementation of the recommendations of the Fruitful Field Project report to the 2012 Conference in 2012 and the establishment of the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network. The report provided an overview of the work completed since the previous meeting of the Council, outlining areas where the Council needed to discharge its employment, governance and oversight functions. Some areas of variance from the original Fruitful Field report and decisions were specifically noted.

The Council received a note from the Council's Secretary and the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice about the Council's powers under SO 211 (1) to act on behalf of the Conference.

***The Council agreed:***

***38/1. That the report be received.***

***38/2. That the changes to the proposals in respect of staffing as set out in the Fruitful Field report be approved so as to enable the more effective establishment of the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network.***

***38/3. That the development of plans for a Local Preachers Pathway be noted and that prior to any implementation of such a pathway a further report be made to the Council so as to enable the Council to fulfil its obligations under SO 565 as the body responsible for prescribing training programmes for Local Preachers.***

***38/4. That the creation of a Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network Committee as set out in section 3 of the report be approved.***

***38/5. That the Implementation Executive, in conjunction with the Strategy and Resources Committee, be directed to oversee the establishment of the Network Committee and that the Conference be recommended to appoint the members of the Committee for the Connexional Year 2013-2014.***

***38/6. That the responsibility for negotiating and approving a Service Level Agreement with the Governors of The Queen's Foundation be delegated to the Strategy and Resources Committee and that any two members of the Council be authorised to sign such an Agreement.***

***38/7. That the responsibility for approving the revised terms of management for Cliff College be delegated to the Strategy and Resources Committee.***

***38/8. That, at a date to be approved by the officers of the Council and the Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee, the managing trusteeship and all other such governance responsibilities of The North Bank Estate, Methodist International Centre, the York Institute of Community Theology, and Hartley Victoria College be delegated to the Network Committee.***

***38/9. That the Council acknowledges that the resolutions contained in the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network report depart from the recommendations adopted by the resolutions of the 2012 Conference, and accepts that the proposals contained within the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network report are the most effective and efficient way of ensuring that the general intentions of the 2012 Conference are fulfilled in the light of the legal and practical issues which have emerged in the process of implementation.***

***38/10. That the Council further resolves to seek from the Conference of 2013 any necessary ratification of the resolutions proposed in the Discipleship and Learning Network report and passed by the Council.***

### **13.2.21 Southlands Methodist Trust**

Ms Jude Levermore introduced report MC/13/39 which proposed amendments to the Southlands Methodist Trust Deed to ensure that the resolutions of the 2012 Conference in response to the Fruitful Field Project could be achieved.

*The Council agreed:*

**39/1. That the charitable purposes at clause 6 of the Southlands Methodist Trust Fund be amended as set out in the report.**

**39/2. That clauses 11.3 and 11.4 of the Southlands Methodist Trust Deed be amended as set out in the report.**

**39/3. That the following definition be inserted into the Southlands Methodist Trust Deed as clause 1.6 and that the numbering of remaining definitions in clause 1 of the Deed be consequentially amended to reflect this addition:**

**1.6 “the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network” means the network of that name established pursuant to the principles set out in the report entitled ‘The Fruitful Field Project’ presented to and accepted by the 2012 Conference and subject to the oversight of the Methodist Council in accordance with the arrangements determined by the Methodist Council from time to time (or such other person or persons or body or bodies as the Conference or the Methodist Council may determine to constitute that network for the purposes of this deed).**

### **13.2.22 Third Age Discipleship**

Ms Jude Levermore introduced report MC/13/40 which sought to raise the profile and understanding of Third Age Discipleship.

The Council received the report (**Resolution 40/1**) and divided into groups to explore the implications for ministry and mission of points raised in the report.

Resolutions 40/2, 40/3 and 40/4 were withdrawn.

### **13.2.23 Poverty and Inequality**

Mr Paul Morrison introduced report MC/13/41 which summarised the actions taken as a result of the 2011 Conference resolutions in response to the report ‘Of Equal Value: Poverty and Inequality in the UK’.

*The Council agreed:*

**41/1. That the report be received, and that the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) and others be encouraged to carry out further work to challenge the stigmatisation of people in poverty.**

**41/2. That churches be recommended to use the report “The lies we tell ourselves: ending comfortable myths about poverty”, and the accompanying resources, to aid the understanding of poverty in the UK by churches and the wider communities.**

**41/3. That local churches be recommended to use the resources provided by Church Action on Poverty’s Close the Gap campaign, or other bodies recommended by JPIT, to explore and challenge attitudes to those in poverty.**

### **13.2.24 Towards an Inclusive Church 2013**



Ms Carmila Legarda presented report MC/13/42 which introduced the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Programme and proposed the extension of the EDI Stakeholders Fora and the future oversight of EDI work.

**The Council agreed:**

- 42/1. That the possibility of a workshop on EDI at the 2013 Conference be welcomed and that the Connexional Team be directed to bring to the Council in October 2013 proposals for an EDI Programme.**
- 42/2. That the Conference be recommended that, in the light of the decision of the Conference of 2012 to extend the work on the EDI Theological Statement until 2015, the EDI Stakeholder Fora should continue to function until 2015.**
- 42/3. That SO 336 (The Racial Justice Committee) be suspended for a further year and that the EDI Resource Group takes on the oversight of the EDI agenda and the development and implementation of the EDI Programme.**
- 42/4. That the membership of the EDI Resource Group be supplemented in the interim by a District Chair, a member of the Connexional Team Senior Leadership Group, a past President/Vice-President and two members of the Council, until further proposals are considered for the oversight of EDI work.**

#### **13.2.25 Belonging Together**

The Revd Katei Kirby presented report MC/13/43 which provided an update on the 12 specific aims in the 3-year Belonging Together Project Plan.

The Council received the report and divided into groups to consider the steps that it should take to ensure that the learning from the review of key processes, policies and practices becomes the way that the Church operates, and to address the recommendations offered by the Belonging Together Partnership and outstanding issues which still remained, and to identify any potential resources required for them to be prioritised across the Connexion.

#### **13.2.26 Attesting the Journal of the 2012 Conference**

The Journal of the 2012 Conference was duly attested by the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary of the Conference and two attesters.

#### **13.2.27 Education Commission**

The Council adopted the following resolution:

**35/1. That the report be received.**

#### **13.2.28 Enhancing Maternity and Paternity Pay**

The Council adopted the following resolution:

**46/1. That the proposals set out in the report to enhance Statutory Maternity and Paternity pay to be in line with the Living Wage be approved and that this change be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013, and be back-dated to the commencement of such leave for any staff on maternity or paternity leave at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013.**

#### **13.2.29 British Methodist-Roman Catholic Dialogue Commission: Revised Terms of Reference**

The Council adopted the following resolution:

**47/1. That the revised Terms of Reference for the British Methodist-Roman Catholic Dialogue Commission be approved.**

#### **13.2.30 Southern North West Training Partnership**

The Council adopted the following resolution:

**48/1. That the report be received.**

**13.2.31 Personnel Files for Ministers**

The Council adopted the following resolution:

**49/1. That the report be received.**

**13.2.32 Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme (MMPS) and Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC)**

The Council adopted the following resolutions:

**50/1. That the Council nominates, for the approval of the Conference, Mr Colin Pearson and Mr Graham Danbury for reappointment as directors of the Trustee Board of Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme, as from 1 September 2013.**

**50/2. That the Methodist Council re-appoints Mr Ronald Calver as a director of the Trustee Board of Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church for a period of three years from 1 September 2013.**

**50/3. That the change to the rules of MMPS required by auto-enrolment be noted.**

**50/4. That it be noted that the certification of MMPS as a qualifying scheme will be required every 3 years and that this process should be incorporated within the triennial valuation.**

**50/5. That the Council agrees the Deed of Amendment to the change to the rules of the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church required as a result of auto-enrolment and authorises this to be signed by any two members of the Council.**

**50/6. That the change to the staging date to 1 September 2013 be noted.**

**50/7. That it be noted that the certification of PASLEMC as a qualifying scheme will be required every 3 years and that this process should be incorporated within the triennial valuation.**

**50/8. That it be noted that from 1 February 2013, PASLEMC was closed to new joiners employed by the Methodist Relief and Development Fund.**

**13.2.33 Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme (MMPS) Consultation**

The Council adopted the following resolution:

**51/1. That the responses to the consultation be noted and that the Conference be recommended that from 1 September 2013**

- **the Normal Pension Date under MMPS should be linked to the male State Pension Age:**
- **the balance of the 2013 increase in cost should be shared equally between the scheme member and the Church.**

**13.2.34 Amendment to Standing Order 250 - Methodist Children and Youth Assembly**

The Council adopted the following resolution:

**52/1. That the Conference be recommended that SO 250 be amended to reflect the proposals contained in the report.**

**13.2.35 Safeguarding**

The Council adopted the following resolution:

**53/1. That the report be received.**

**13.2.36 Connexional Priority Fund Levy – Hemel Hempstead**

The Council adopted the following resolution:

**54/1. That it be confirmed that the Connexional Priority Fund levy policy prior to 1 September 2009 should apply to the Hemel Hempstead project detailed in the report.**

**13.2.37 Changes in the Composition of a District**

The Council adopted the following resolution:

**55/1. That, with effect from 1 September 2013, the Southport (Banks and Hesketh Bank) Circuit [18/18] shall become part of the Lancashire District [21]**

**13.2.37 Nominations and Appointments**

The Council adopted the following resolutions:

**(a) Council Appointments:**

**56/1. That the Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 245, appoints Mrs Sian Arulanantham, Mr Paul Cornelius, Mrs Karen Lawson as Trustees of the Methodist Relief and Development Fund.**

**56/2. That the Methodist Council appoints Mr Cliff Lewer and Mr Reg Everest as Trustees of the Connexional Manses.**

**56/3. That the Methodist Council, pursuant to SO214, appoints Ms Daniella Fetuga-Joensuu, Ms Charity Nzegwu and the Revd Wendy Mair as members of the Connexional Grants Committee.**

**(b) Nominations for the 2013 Conference:**

**56/4. That the Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 325(2), nominates to the Conference the following persons as members of the Diaconal Candidates Selection Committee:**

The Warden of the Order (Deacon Sue Culver); the Revds Sheryl Anderson, Peter Barber, Jane Carter, David Ellis, Paul Flowers, Sheila Foreman, Christopher Jones; Deacons Richard Beckett, Andrew Carter, Jackie Fowler, Angleena Keizer, Michelle Legumi, Phil Osborne, Andrew Packer, Sylvie Phillips, Myrtle Poxon, Brian Purchase, Janet Stafford, Jan Sutton; Mrs Audrey Hensman, Ms Sarah Akindole, Mr Phil Langdale, Mr Alf Philpott, Ms Rachel Starr.

**56/5. That the Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 340A, nominates to the Conference the following persons as Oversight Tutors:**  
*(Where more than one oversight tutor is appointed for the same institution one shall be identified as having oversight responsibility. In the following list, that person is identified by an asterisk.)*

**Eastern Region Ministry Course:** The Revd Dr Hillary Nyika

**Hartley Victoria College, Manchester:** \*Dr Anthony Moodie (Principal), The Revd Dr Andrew Pratt, The Revd Nicola Price-Tebbutt

**Queen's Foundation, Birmingham:** \*The Revd Helen Cameron, The Revd Gary Hall, Ms Rachel Starr

**South East Institute for Theological Education:** The Revd Dr Hillary Nyika

**South West Ministry Training Course:** The Revd John Henry

**Southern Theological Education Training Scheme:** \*The Revd Dr Judith Rossall, The Revd Dr Philip Richter

**Urban Theology Unit, Sheffield:** The Revd Dr Noel Irwin

**Wesley House, Cambridge:** \*The Revd Dr Jane Leach (Principal), The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, The Revd Dr Cindy Wesley

**Wesley Study Centre, Durham:** \*The Revd Dr Calvin Samuel (Principal), Dr Jocelyn Bryan, The Revd Andrew Lunn

**York Institute for Community Theology:** The Revd Richard Andrew (Director), The Revd Sean Adair

**Methodist Training in Scotland:** Ms Helen Wareing (National Learning & Development Officer)

**Wales Training Network:** Mr Luke Curran (Director)

**56/6. Pursuant to SO 212(7), the Council nominates to the Conference the following persons to the following:**

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland AGM: Mr Michael King

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland Senior Representatives' Forum:

Mr Michael King, The Revd Neil A Stubbens

Churches Together in England Enabling Group: The Revd Richard Teal, The Revd Neil A Stubbens

Free Churches Group:

The Revd Peter Pillinger

Action of Churches Together in Scotland Members' Meeting:

The Revd David P Easton; Dr William M Reid

Alternate for either representative:

Mr David Easson

Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales)

The Revd Jennifer A Hurd

Proxies:

The Revds Dr Ian D Morris, Philip A Poynor

Group for Local Unity

The Revds K Hilary Cooke, Neil A Stubbens

*Reasoned statements:*

Mr Michael King

Vice-President 2012-13

The Revd Neil A Stubbens

Connexional Ecumenical Officer

The Revd Richard Teal

Chair, Cumbria District

The Revd Peter Pillinger

Chair, Plymouth & Exeter District

The Revd David P Easton

Chair-designate of the Scotland District

Mr David Easson

Synod Secretary of the Scotland District

The Revd Jennifer A Hurd

Chair-designate of Synod Cymru

The Revd Dr Ian D Morris

Ecumenical Officer of Synod Cymru

The Revd Philip A Poynor

Ecumenical Officer of the Wales Synod

**56/7. That the Methodist Council recommends to the Conference that Revd Dr Chris Blake be appointed Principal of Cliff College for a further period of 5 years from 1 September 2014.**

**56/8. That the Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 136, nominates Mrs Ruth Pickles as the chair of the Conference Business Committee (Representative Session) for a period of three years from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013.**

(c) Appointments for the 2013 Conference

**56/9. That the Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 116B, appoints the Revd Ian J Worsfold to be the Precentor for the Ministerial and Representative Sessions of the 2013 Conference.**

**56/10. That the Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 116B, appoints the Revd Alan Ashton to be the Letter-writer for the Ministerial and Representative Sessions of the 2013 Conference.**

**56/11. That the Methodist Council, noting that the Uniting Church in Australia is unable to appoint a representative to the 2013 Conference, confirms the extension of an invitation to the Church of North India to appoint a representative to the vacancy.**

**56/12. That the Methodist Council, acting under Deed of Union Clause 14(4)(d) and Standing Order 107(3), appoints the following two associate members of the Conference as (full, voting) members of the 2013 Conference:**

The Revd Patmore C. Henry	Antigua MCCA
Mrs Peggy Mulambya-Kabonde	United Church of Zambia

**56/13. That the Methodist Council, acting under SO 138(1) appoints the Memorials Committee for the 2013 Conference as follows:**

Mr David Walton	Chair of Memorials Committee
Revd Ruth Gee	President-designate
Dr Daleep Mukarji	Vice-President-designate
Revd Dr Martyn Atkins	General Secretary/Secretary of the Conference
Mr Doug Swanney	Connexional Secretary
Mr Martin Harker	Convener of Memorials Committee
Mrs Chris Thompson	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent (until 2015)
Revd Margaret Barnes	Cornwall (until 2013)
Mrs Susan Smith	Darlington (until 2015)
Revd Graham Thompson	East Anglia (until 2013)
Mrs Doreen Rowley	Leeds (until 2013)
Rev Leslie Newton	Manchester and Stockport (until 2015)
Mrs Ann Riding	Newcastle upon Tyne (substitute for Mrs Elizabeth Edwards) (until 2013)
Ms Frances Hopwood	Nottingham and Derby (until 2013)
Revd Martin Wellings	Northampton (until 2014)
Mr Henry Curtis	Sheffield (until 2014)
Mr Peter Holt	West Yorkshire (until 2015)
Dr Stephen Leah	York and Hull (until 2015)
Revd Martin Keenan	Scotland & Shetland (substitute for Revd Andrew Letby) (until 2014)
Miss Jane Dansie	Bedfordshire, Essex & Hertfordshire (until 2014)
Miss Margaret Faulkner	South East (until 2014)

**Invited to attend:**

Revd Gareth Powell	Assistant Secretary of Conference
Revd Colin Smith	Conference Record Secretary
Revd Jenny Dyer	Conference Journal Secretary
Revd Dr Peter Phillips	Faith and Order Secretary

**56/14. That the Methodist Council, acting under SO 136A appoints the Financial Committee for the 2013 Conference as follows:**

A Connexional Treasurer (Mr Andrew Gibbs); The Connexional Secretary (Mr Doug Swanney), Revd D Paul Smith, Mr Stephen Cooper, Mr Graham Illingworth.

**(d) Appointments for the 2014 Conference**

**56/15. That the Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 107, directs that the following twenty other autonomous conferences, other Methodist churches and united churches in which Methodists have joined be invited to appoint a representative to be an associate member of the 2014 Conference:**

**Europe**

UMC Central Conference of Northern Europe - Nordic and Baltic

UMC Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe

UMC German Central Conference Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

OPCEMI (Italy)

Igreja Evangelica Metodista Portuguesa (The Evangelical Methodist Church in Portugal)

**Africa**

Methodist Church in Kenya

Methodist Church in Zimbabwe

Eglise Méthodiste duTogo

Methodist Church the Gambia

Methodist Church of Southern Africa

**Americas**

Iglesia Evangélica Metodista de Nicaragua (Evangelical Methodist Church of Nicaragua)

Iglesia Metodista del Uruguay (Methodist Church of Uruguay)

Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana (Evangelical Church of the Dominican Republic)

Iglesia Metodista en Cuba (Methodist Church in Cuba)

Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas – MCCA

**Asia-Pacific**

Uniting Church in Australia

Methodist Church in Samoa

Methodist Church, Hong Kong

Methodist Church, Sri Lanka

The Korean Methodist Church

**56/16. That the Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 105(1A), approves the following rota for diaconal representation at the Conference of 2014:**

Birmingham, East Anglia, Leeds, Manchester & Stockport, Lancashire, Nottingham &

Derby, Northampton, Southampton, Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury, Scotland,

Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire and London

Reserves: Liverpool and Channel Islands

**13.2.38 Dates and Venue for the 2015 Conference**

The Council adopted the following resolution:

**57/1. That the Methodist Council:**

- (i) welcomes the identification of Southport as the venue for the 2015 Conference;**
- (ii) authorises the relevant officers to negotiate and sign suitable contracts; and**
- (iii) recommends to the 2013 Conference that the 2015 Conference meets in Southport from Thursday 25 June to Thursday 2 July 2015.**

**13.2.39 Joint Property Strategy Group**

The Council adopted the following resolution:

**58/1. That the report be received and that the progress on the work of the Joint Property Strategy Group be noted.**

The meeting closed with Prayers led by the Chaplain.