

The Nomination of the Secretary of the Conference

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Resolutions	68/1. The Council appoints to the Nomination Panel those persons presented to it, and appoints (name to be supplied) as chair of the panel. 68/2. The Council authorises the Nomination Panel, once constituted, to undertake the work as outlined in the report.

1. The Council is now in a position where it is required to agree a process for the selection of a Secretary of the Conference of the Methodist Church for nomination to the 2020 Conference (for immediate appointment).

The formal position

2. The Deed of Union, clause 30 provides: 'There shall be a Secretary of the Conference, who shall be a presbyter'.
3. The Secretary of the Conference is appointed as if holding office under the provisions of SO 313; that is, when there is a vacancy, the Council is required to bring a nomination to the Conference accompanied by a reasoned statement indicating the qualifications of the person nominated. In the case of all nominations made under SO 313 the Council is required to complete its work as early in the connexional year as possible (SO 313(6)). In the first instance the nomination will be for a specified period not exceeding six years. The nomination by the Council and the appointment by the Conference shall each require a simple majority of those present and voting.

The present task for a new appointment

4. The Council will need to appoint a Nomination Panel so that a nomination can be brought to the 2020 Conference for immediate appointment.
5. It is proposed that the Council appoint a Nomination Panel comprising one person in the following categories, one person may cover a number of categories:
 - The President or a recent Past President
 - The Vice-President or a recent past Vice-President
 - A Chair of District (to be nominated by the Chairs meeting)
 - The chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee
 - A representative of the Faith and Order Committee
 - A representative of the Law and Polity Committee
 - A representative of the Methodist Diaconal Order
 - The Chair of the Conference Business Committee
 - A Superintendent Minister
 - A member of the Methodist Council
 - The Connexional Secretary

The panel will be serviced by an appropriate member of the Team through the Connexional Secretary.
6. It is important that the Nomination Panel be both experienced and diverse. To this end members of the Council were invited to suggest possible names for the Panel. The Strategy and

Resources Committee (SRC), in conversation with the chair of the Council, have considered these suggestions, along with the need for the Panel to be balanced in various ways. With that in mind, the SRC proposes that the Panel be appointed as set out in a paper which will be tabled at the Council meeting.

7. The timescale that is offered below is constructed around the desirability of making a nomination to the January Council so as to best align with stationing processes. Given that the role is defined already in Standing Orders the Chairs of the Council and the Strategy and Resources Committee took Chairs' action in authorising the commencement of recruitment processes prior to the meeting of the Council. This has meant the timetable has been shortened considerably. The full timetable is as follows:

Activity	Date (happened or will happen)
Chairs of SRC and Council agree on role description and process	August 2019
The Council receives information and is invited to feedback comments on the make-up of the Nomination Panel, including suggestions of names to serve on that panel by no later than 18 September	September 2019
Role advertised	Mid-September 2019
SRC, in conversation with the chair of the Council, reviews responses from Council members, and agrees a suggested slate of names against categories on the Panel.	September 2019
Council affirms process and agrees to both categories and names on the Panel	October 2019
Panel meets to confirm process they will use for selection	November 2019
Selection process takes place	December 2019
Nomination made to the Council	January 2020

8. The panel will therefore need to undertake the following tasks:
- Determine the method of selection by which a nomination will be made and to consider the various ways of undertaking this task. It is recommended that the process from 2015 is utilised again with attention paid to ensuring this is a discernment process, akin to a stationing conversation, whilst paying attention to good HR practice.
 - Endeavour to bring a nomination to the Council in January 2020.

Assistant Secretary of the Conference

9. Should it be necessary for there to be a nomination process for the role of Assistant Secretary of the Conference, this will take place following the nomination of the Secretary to the Council in January. This will enable the person nominated as Secretary to be part of the discernment process in the spring, thus ensuring a complementarity of skills and experience between the two roles and enabling the Council to bring a name to the Conference.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

- 68/1. The Council appoints to the Nomination Panel those persons presented to it, and appoints (name to be supplied) as chair of the panel.**
- 68/2. The Council authorises the Nomination Panel, once constituted, to undertake the work as outlined in the report.**