Presbyteral and Representative Sessions

By direction of the Conference, this Agenda has been sent by post to each member of the Representative Session.

The President and Vice-President confidently appeal to all representatives to join, as far as they possibly can, in all the devotions of the Conference.

Chaplains will be available throughout the Conference.
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Conference Rules of Procedure

The rules governing the procedures of the Conference are set out in the following Standing Orders.

130 Introductory.
The rules of debate comprising the clauses of Standing Order 131 shall regulate the proceedings of the Conference, except that since much of the business of the Conference may be conducted in the form of conversations clauses (3) and (9) to (14) shall apply only when a formal resolution is under consideration.

131 Rules of Debate.
(1) In this Standing Order ‘the President’ means the person presiding for the time being over the Conference in accordance with the provisions of clause 28 of the Deed of Union.
(1A) Any member who wishes to speak shall catch the President’s eye but shall not proceed further until called upon by the President.
(2) Every speaker shall address the President.
(3) No member may speak more than once on the same question without leave of the Conference, except in the exercise of a right of reply under clause (18) below. For this purpose an amendment or procedural motion raises a fresh question.
(4) (a) Subject to sub-clause (b) below every resolution or amendment shall be circulated beforehand in writing in the Agenda, or by other form of official report, or by notice of motion.
(b) Sub-clause (a) does not apply:
   (i) to procedural motions under clause (11) below or resolutions to extend sittings of the Conference beyond the time already determined;
   (ii) to resolutions submitted by the Law and Polity Sub-committee under clause (25) below;
   (iii) to business taken in closed session;
   (iv) to further amendments moved after a resolution has already been amended;
   (v) where the Conference has dispensed with circulation under clause (19)(a) (ii) below or Standing Order 129(4)(b) or 129A or otherwise;
   (vi) if the President judges it necessary for the effective conclusion of a debate to admit a resolution or amendment without prior notice.
(c) Where sub-clause (b) applies, except by virtue of head (i), the resolution or amendment shall be produced in writing when proposed, and immediately handed to the Secretary.
(5) Every resolution or amendment, except a resolution moved on behalf of a body authorised to report to the Conference, requires to be seconded in order to be submitted to the Conference. With the same exception, all movers and seonders of resolutions or amendments must be members of the Conference.
(6) Persons presenting reports may speak to the resolutions in them and may give information on any development of major importance which has arisen since publication. Otherwise reports circulated in the Agenda or otherwise shall be presented without
introductory speeches.

(7) When a resolution or amendment has been duly submitted it may not be withdrawn without the leave of the Conference.

(8) The seconder of a resolution or amendment may reserve the right to speak.

(9) (a) Any amendment of the terms of a resolution may be proposed if it is relevant to the subject-matter of the resolution, unless the same result could be achieved by the rejection of the resolution.

(b) If an amendment is carried the resolution as amended becomes the substantive motion, and as such may itself be amended under this clause.

(c) When an amendment has been duly submitted no other amendment may be moved until it has been disposed of, but any member may give notice of a proposed amendment and may state whether it is to be moved in any event or if not in what circumstances.

(10) A resolution may be disposed of by adoption (with or without amendment), rejection or withdrawal. Until it has been so disposed of no other resolution may be submitted except a procedural motion.

(11) The following are procedural motions, which may be adopted by the Conference at any time:

(i) that the vote be now taken;

(ii) that the question be not put;

(iii) that the question be referred to the Methodist Council or a committee;

(iv) that the debate be adjourned;

(v) that the Conference adjourn.

(12) If a resolution and amendment are before the Conference:

(i) a motion that the vote be now taken relates only to the amendment;

(ii) a motion that the question be referred or that the debate be adjourned relates to both;

(iii) a person moving that the question be not put must state whether that motion relates to both or only to the amendment.

(13) A motion that the vote be now taken requires a majority of two thirds and shall be voted upon without discussion, but the President shall not be bound to put it to the vote if of the opinion that there has not been adequate opportunity for necessary debate.

(14) A motion that the question be not put may be discussed concurrently with the question to which it relates.

(15) A motion that the debate be adjourned may specify the time of resumption or be a motion for adjournment to a time to be resolved upon later.

(16) A motion for the adjournment of the Conference shall specify the time of resumption.

(17) (a) Subject to any Standing Order relating specifically to particular forms of report a report contained in the Agenda or in a document supplemental to the Agenda shall be dealt with as a whole or as to each part by a resolution in one of the following forms:

(i) that it be referred back to the reporting body or referred to the Methodist Council or a committee;

(ii) that it be received;

(iii) that it be adopted.
(b) A resolution in any of these forms may contain or be accompanied by directions as to the publication or study of or any other action in relation to the report or (where appropriate) that no action be taken.

(c) Except as provided in (d) below or expressed in the resolution itself, no such resolution imports any endorsement by the Conference of any statement, opinion or recommendation in the report.

(d) By adopting a report the Conference endorses its recommendations or conclusions but not (without so stating) any reasons given for them.

(e) The Conference may qualify or limit any such adoption but shall not alter the text of any report except:

   (i) to rectify any manifest factual error; or
   (ii) to amend the terms of any passage which it is asked to endorse (whether expressly or by the operation of (d) above).

(f) The Conference may on a single motion deal en bloc with more than one resolution attached to a report, or with the resolutions to more than one report, but whenever:

   (i) an amendment is proposed to any such resolution; or
   (ii) there is a procedural motion under clause (11) above which in its original form or by a proposed amendment relates to less than all the matters before the Conference;

any matters which require to be put separately shall be so put.

(18) (a) When a vote falls to be taken, whether or not by the adoption of a motion under clause (11)(i) above, the following persons have a right to speak, and if more than one in the following order:

   (i) the seconder of the resolution or amendment to be put, if he or she has reserved the right to speak and has not already exercised that right;
   (ii) the mover of the substantive resolution, unless the question to be put is an amendment to which he or she has already spoken;
   (iii) if the question to be put is an amendment, the mover of the amendment.

(b) The person entitled to speak last under sub-clause (a) above may deal only with questions or arguments put during the debate.

(c) Before putting the question the President shall call the Conference to order and read the resolution or amendment to be put. Except on a point of order no member shall speak after the question has been put until the vote has been taken.

(19) (a) Subject to sub-clause (b) below, no decision of the current meeting of the Conference may be rescinded except by substantive resolution, and no such resolution shall be adopted unless either:

   (i) it is submitted on behalf of the Law and Polity Sub-Committee under clause (25) below; or
   (ii) it is moved upon notice in writing previously given and officially circulated (unless by a majority of two thirds the Conference has dispensed with notice) and obtains a majority of two thirds.

For the purposes of this sub-clause a resolution rescinds a previous resolution if, and only
if, it is expressed to do so, or it directly reverses the previous resolution, or the President
rules that in substance it is inconsistent with the intention of the Conference in adopting the
previous resolution.
(b) Any resolution which, on the advice of the financial committee given in accordance with
Standing Order 136A, would result in amendment of the provisions of the connexional budget
for the Methodist Church Fund proposed under Standing Order 212(2) shall, if moved after
the budget has been adopted, require a majority of two thirds, and, if carried, shall have the
effect of amending the Conference’s resolution on the budget without the operation of sub-
clause (a) above.
(20) A resolution to suspend a rule of debate or other provision within the Conference rules
of procedure, as contained in Standing Orders 122, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134(3) and (4),
134A, 136(2C) and 136A(3) requires a majority of two thirds.
(21) The President shall call to order any speaker who departs from the question or violates
the courtesies of debate.
(22) Any member may raise a point of order on the ground that the rules of debate or
regulations of the Conference have been violated. The speaker then addressing the
Conference shall give way until the point of order has been decided. The President decides all
questions of order.
(23) (a) The following interventions in the ordinary course of business may occur, but only for
substantial cause and by leave of the President:

(i) a member who thinks himself or herself misrepresented may interrupt the
speaker to correct the misrepresentation;
(ii) a member may interrupt the speaker or intervene at the end of a speech to ask
of the speaker a question of fact immediately connected with what is being or has
been said;
(iii) brief information on uncontested matters of fact germane to the business of the
Conference may be given between speeches or between items of business.

(b) A member permitted to intervene under this clause must not enter into argument nor
speak to the merits of the question.
(24) Questions which relate to the rights and privileges of the Conference or of individual
members, or to the order of business, have precedence.
(25) The Conference may at any time entertain without notice any resolution moved on behalf
of the Conference Sub-Committee of the Committee on Methodist Law and Polity which arises
out of an earlier resolution of the current meeting of the Conference, in that or an earlier
session, and which seeks:

(i) to make consequential provisions; or
(ii) to amend the earlier resolution for the purpose only of –

clarification, or

reconciliation with the requirements of the law or of Methodist polity, or

the avoidance of unintended results, or

the better achievement of the intention of the Conference, or

the correction of factual error, or
any other purpose considered by the Conference to be within the scope of the functions of the Law and Polity Committee; or
(iii) to rescind the earlier resolution on the ground of illegality, irregularity or impossibility or any other ground considered by the Conference to be within the scope of the above functions.

(25A) The Conference may also entertain any resolution contained in the report of the Committee on Methodist Law and Polity which arises out of a resolution of an earlier Conference and which seeks:
(i) to amend the earlier resolution for a purpose within head (ii) of clause (25) above; or
(ii) to rescind the earlier resolution on a ground within head (iii) of clause (25) above.

(26) The response of the Conference shall not normally be conveyed by clapping.

132 Notices of Motion.
(1) Subject to Standing Order 131(4) any two members may upon notice of motion complying with this Standing Order bring before the Conference any lawful resolution within the competence of the Conference.
(1A) Every notice of motion shall be handed to the Secretary in written form and signed by the following persons:
(i) where the proposal is to amend a resolution and those responsible for presenting that business to the Conference are prepared to accept it, the proposer and seconder of the motion;
(ii) where such a proposal to amend is not accepted by those responsible, the proposer and seconder and four other persons;
(iii) in all other cases, the proposer and seconder and eight other persons.
(2) Only on matters of urgency, so judged by the President after consultation with the Vice-President, shall notices of motion in the Representative Session be accepted after 4:30pm on the third day of the session, except that a notice of motion proposing to amend a resolution circulated or materially altered on or after the first day of the session shall be accepted if lodged before the close of business on the day before the resolution is to be dealt with.

133 Memorials.
(1) The Conference may adopt, with or without amendment, or reject any reply proposed by the Memorials Committee or (if Standing Order 134(4) applies) by its convener.
(2) In relation to any one or more memorials to which replies have been proposed by the committee any two members of the Conference may, on notice of motion submitted on the first day of the relevant session, move that instead of dealing with the committee’s proposed reply in the ordinary course of business the Conference shall debate a resolution based on the relevant memorials, and if such a motion is carried the President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Conference shall make arrangements accordingly.
(3) If there is a debate pursuant to Standing Order 138(5) or clause (2) above any resolution or amended resolution then adopted by the Conference is its reply to the relevant memorials.

(4) Subject to clause (5) below the Conference shall reply to every memorial, although it is open to the Conference as its interim reply to refer the memorial to the Methodist Council or a committee for consideration and report. Rejection of a proposal that a memorial be declined is not itself a reply. It is the responsibility of the convener of the committee to ensure that if the Conference rejects the proposed reply of the committee under clause (1) above or fails to adopt any resolution under clause (3) above consideration of the matter is not closed until a reply has been adopted.

(5) The committee may recommend that the Conference instead of replying to a memorial refer the questions raised to Synods and/or to Circuit Meetings for consideration or action without itself expressing a judgment on the substance of the issue. In such a case, the committee shall recommend whether Synods and Circuit Meetings are to report their conclusions to the Conference and, if so, a timetable for such report.

134 District Resolutions.

(1) Resolutions and reports submitted under Standing Order 419(2) in due time shall be printed in the Agenda. If a report is included the cost of printing shall be a charge on the District.

(2) [revoked]

(3) Such resolutions shall be moved and seconded in the Conference by representatives of the District and shall, subject to any recommendation from the Business Committee, be debated.

(4) If it appears likely to the Business Committee that the Conference will not, in the time available, be able to debate all such resolutions adequately, it may recommend to the Conference that one or more of such resolutions be dealt with instead as memorials. If the Conference adopts such a recommendation, the convener of the Memorials Committee shall, after such consultation as he or she thinks appropriate, frame a proposed reply, which shall be printed for the Conference in an order paper.

134A En Bloc Business.

(1)(a) The Business Committee shall consider, taking into account the recommendations of the Memorials Committee made under Standing Order 138(5A), which resolutions to which sub-clause (b) of this Standing Order applies are unlikely to become provisional resolutions or to give rise to opposition or debate or to require amendment other than within sub-clause (e) below. It shall, no later than the opening of the Representative Session, table a list of such resolutions with notice of its intention to invite the Conference in due course to adopt all such resolutions en bloc.

(b) This clause applies to all resolutions in the Agenda or otherwise circulated before the opening of the Conference except those for the confirmation of provisional resolutions, or for the adoption or confirmation of special resolutions under Standing Order 126, and except resolutions relating to Conference Statements under Standing Order 129.
(c) Subject to sub-clause (e) below any resolution, including any recommended reply to a memorial, which becomes the subject of an amending notice of motion shall be removed from the list. In addition, by giving notice to the Secretary of the Conference in writing before the close of business on the third day of the Representative Session, any six members of the Conference may, without proposing an amendment, require any item or items, except a recommended reply to a memorial, to be removed from the list. The Business Committee itself shall be free at any time before the resolutions are moved to remove any item or items from the list.

(d) The resolutions remaining in the list shall not earlier than the fourth day of the Representative Session be moved en bloc and voted upon without discussion.

(e) A need to make minor corrections to the text of any resolution on the list shall not necessitate its removal, and it may be moved under sub-clause (d) above as corrected. The Business Committee shall decide all questions as to the application of this sub-clause.

(2) The Business Committee may also advise, in the exercise of its functions under Standing Order 136(2A)(c), that such resolutions based upon the recommendations of reference groups as it considers appropriate for such procedure should also be moved en bloc and voted upon without discussion. Sub-clause (1) c) shall apply to the removal of any resolution from that procedure, provided the notice is duly given before the close of business on the day upon which such advice is circulated to the Conference.

135 Closed Sessions.

(1) The Conference may at any time meet in closed session and shall do so when hearing any appeal arising out of any charge within Part II.

(2) [revoked]

(3) During any closed session other than one for the hearing of an appeal within Part II no one may be present except members of the Conference entitled to vote on the business under consideration and any other persons or classes of persons whom the Conference may for the time being resolve to admit.

136 Conference Business Committee.

(1) There shall be a Business Committee for the Representative Session of the Conference, consisting of:

(i) an ex-President or ex-Vice-President, appointed by the previous Conference upon the nomination of the Methodist Council to serve for a period of three years, who shall chair the committee and who shall, whether or not a member in any other capacity, be a member of the Conference during the period of appointment; and

(ii) three ministerial and three lay members of the Conference elected in accordance with clause (1A) or appointed under clause (1C).

The Secretary and assistant secretary of the Conference shall be in attendance but without a vote and a connexional Treasurer and the connexional Press Officer shall attend as consultants when required.

(1A) Where there will be a vacancy in the elected membership of the committee for the
next Conference, an election shall be held after nomination by members of the current Conference. Each nomination shall be signed by a proposer and seconder. It shall contain the District and Circuit in which the person being nominated is stationed or is a member, current appointment or current offices within the church, age, occupation, and any other relevant information (up to fifteen words). No member shall nominate more than one person. In electing such members, the Conference shall consider the composition of the committee with regard to age, sex and ethnic origin. The election shall be by single transferable vote and the chair of the Business Committee or his or her representative shall be the returning officer. The returning officer shall declare the persons elected to serve, together with two persons in each category as reserves in the event of any person who received a higher number of votes, or a continuing member under clause (1B), not being a member of the next Conference or not being able or willing to attend. Such reserves shall serve for the period for which the person originally elected would have served and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election. (1B) Committee members shall be elected for three years and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election. If an elected member is not a member of or is unable to attend the next ensuing or one of the subsequent Conferences the appointment shall lapse and the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with clause (1A) or (1C).

(1C) If it becomes clear during the course of the connexional year that there will be a vacancy on the committee which cannot be filled in accordance with the above provisions, the Methodist Council shall have the power to appoint a member from amongst the members of the next Conference. Such appointment shall be for that Conference only.

(2) The committee shall meet before and during the sessions of the Conference as may be necessary and shall have the following responsibilities:

(i) to draw up the order of business in the Conference and to allocate time to each item;
(ii) to recommend to the Conference which notices of motion should be debated in the Conference and at what time, and which should be dealt with in some other way, and for what reason;
(iii) to review at the end of each day the business allocated to the day but not completed and to advise the Conference how it should be dealt with;
(iv) to recommend to the President and Vice-President items of business for which they might invite members of the Conference to indicate to the committee in advance a wish to speak, and to offer advice to the President and Vice-President so as to enable a representative range of views to be heard in any such debates;
(v) to identify matters which are appropriate to be dealt with through any of the processes set out in clause (2A) below and to make the necessary arrangements, including assigning the members of the Conference to such groups as may be required.

(2A) (a) The committee may arrange for matters of general concern, not being dealt with in the formal business of the Conference, to be discussed in workshops or similar groups and
shall advise the Conference on the procedure by which any issues raised in those discussions may be taken forward.

(b) The committee may identify items of Conference business which, because of the detail involved or the complexity of the issues, can profitably be explored in depth in hearings or group discussion before being debated in full Conference, and may advise the Conference whether, and if so how, the results of such exploration are to be reported.

(c) The committee may advise that certain items in the business of the Conference be dealt with in reference groups, with the expectation that the recommendations of such groups will be dealt with by the Conference en bloc under Standing Order 134A(2).

(2B) The committee may recommend that the Conference deal with any business by referring the questions raised to Synods and/or to Circuit Meetings for consideration or action without itself expressing a judgment on the substance of the issue. In such a case, the committee shall recommend whether Synods and Circuit Meetings are to report their conclusions to the Conference and, if so, a timetable for such reports.

(2C) The committee shall arrange for the budget for the Methodist Church Fund proposed by the Methodist Council under Standing Order 212(2) to be presented and considered not later than the fourth day of the Representative Session. The formal resolution for its adoption, and the consequent resolution as to the allocation to the respective Districts of the assessments, shall be moved on the final day of the Representative Session.

(3) All recommendations of the committee shall be reported daily to the Conference for approval or amendment. The person presiding shall have the power to limit the length of any debate on procedural questions arising from the committee’s report.

136A Financial Committee.

(1) The Methodist Council, with a view to the discharge of its functions under Standing Orders 211(3)(vii) and 212(2) during the periods of the Conference, shall appoint a financial committee annually, consisting of the lead connexional Treasurer or his or her representative, the Connexional Secretary responsible for central services, three other members of the council who are also members of the Conference, together with such other members of the Connexional Team in an advisory capacity as the council may decide.

(2) The committee shall meet before and during the sessions of the Conference as necessary, shall identify all resolutions in the Agenda or otherwise circulated to the Conference which would have financial implications, other than those for which provision has already been made in the budget, and shall notify the Conference accordingly.

(3) In relation to all such resolutions which, if adopted, would result in increased costs the committee shall advise the Conference, prior to any debate or vote upon them,

(i) whether, if adopted, the costs can be accommodated within the Council’s proposed budget;

(ii) if not, what additional resources are estimated to be required to carry them out, and the timescale within which the work might be started and completed;

(iii) whether the cost of the proposal, if adopted, should be substituted for some other item of expenditure, or treated as an addition, and, in the latter case, the
source of the additional funds required;
(iv) if there are several such proposals before the committee, what priority should be given to each.

The committee’s advice shall, except in emergencies, be conveyed to the Conference in writing.

122 Provisional Resolutions.

(1) If the Conference judges that any resolution which it has adopted is of such significance that it ought to be considered by the Synods and confirmed before coming into effect it may declare that it shall be a provisional resolution. If the resolution is being dealt with as shared business under clause 24(c) of the Deed of Union, such a declaration by the Conference in either of the sessions dealing with the business shall be effective.

(2) Notice shall be given of any motion for such a declaration either by means of a notice of motion which complies with Standing Order 132 or by the inclusion of a resolution to that effect in the report upon that business contained in the Agenda. Where notice is given before the adoption of the substantive resolution to which it relates the motion shall not be considered by the Conference until after such adoption.

(3) Provisional resolutions shall be submitted to the Synods of the home Districts and to the Law and Polity Committee, each of which may approve, disapprove or approve with amendments. Provisional resolutions shall be submitted for confirmation to the next annual meeting of the Conference with a report of the opinions of the Synods and the Law and Polity Committee, and shall take effect only if then confirmed.

(4) The Conference may direct that the whole or some specified part of the text of any report leading to the adoption of a provisional resolution be submitted with it to the Synods. Unless it does so the Secretary of the Conference shall ensure that a brief summary of the arguments for and against the resolution and of the implications of adopting or declining it is prepared for the same purpose. The resolution and the above text or summary, as the case may be, shall be distributed by the district officers to all members of the Synod before its meeting. The district Policy Committee may arrange for such consultation within the District as it thinks fit before the Synod expresses its judgment.

(5) Provisional resolutions submitted to the Synods under clause (3) above shall be dealt with in their Representative Sessions and, if falling within one or more of the categories defined in heads (i), (ii) and (iii) of sub-clause 24(c) of the Deed of Union and dealt with under that clause, also in their Presbyteral Sessions.

(6) On receiving the reports of the Synods and the Law and Polity Committee upon a provisional resolution the Conference may confirm it unamended or may decline to confirm it, or may confirm it with amendments, and in the last event may, by the procedure of clauses (1) and (2) above, declare that the resolution as so amended shall itself be a provisional resolution.

NOTE: Throughout this Agenda, in amendments to the Deed of Union, Model Trusts and Standing Orders, matter to be deleted is usually shown thus and matter to be inserted thus. The surrounding text is printed to show the context of the proposed amendments, where this is not otherwise plain.
1. THE ELECTION AND DECLARATION

After a brief explanation of the procedure to be followed, the Secretary of the Conference moves the resolution for the election of the President.

***RESOLUTION

1/1. The Conference elects the Reverend Richard Jeremy Teal to be the President of the Conference.

A standing vote is taken.
The President says:

I declare that the Reverend Richard Jeremy Teal has been duly elected to be the President of the Conference.

The Conference is invited to sit.
The Secretary moves the resolution for the election of the Vice-President.

***RESOLUTION

1/2. The Conference elects Mrs Carolyn Jayne Lawrence to be the Vice-President of the Conference.

A standing vote is taken.
The Vice-President says:

I declare that Mrs Carolyn Jayne Lawrence has been duly elected to be the Vice-President of the Conference.

2. THE INDUCTION

The President and Vice-President enter together.
The Conference is invited to sit.

The Ex-President says:

Richard and Carolyn, the Conference has elected you to the offices of President and Vice-President. In its sessions you are to preside over its worship, its conferring and its taking of decisions. You will be its representatives, embodying its authority and acting on its behalf as authorised by the Deed of Union and Standing Orders. You
are called to share with others in the oversight and leadership of the Church. You are called to a ministry of visitation in the Districts and Circuits and with partners across the world, to encourage the Methodist people in their calling and strengthen the bonds that connect them with each other. In all this you are to exercise, in collaboration, the particular gifts God has given you as a presbyter and a lay person in the Church.

In the presence of God and of this Conference we therefore ask you: do you trust that God who has called you into his service has now called you to this ministry and will give you the grace to undertake it?

The President and Vice-President respond:

I do so trust.

The Ex-Vice-President says:

Richard and Carolyn, will you endeavour to hold before the Church a vision of its calling to proclaim and respond to the grace and love of God in worship, mission and service?

They respond:

I will, God being my helper.

The Ex-President says:

Will you work with all who are in leadership of the Church in equipping God’s people to fulfil their calling?

They respond:

I will, God being my helper.

The Ex-Vice-President says:

Will you work with ecumenical partners in pursuing the greater unity of Christ’s Church and in the encouraging of a common witness to God’s reconciling love?

They respond:

I will, God being my helper.
1. Election and Induction of the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

The Ex-President addresses her successor:

Richard, will you be faithful in living out your calling as a presbyter in the service of this Conference and all the Methodist people?

Will you work with the Vice-President to offer a ministry that affirms and encourages the gifts of all God’s people?

The President replies:

I will, God being my helper.

The Ex-Vice-President addresses his successor:

Carolyn, will you faithfully exercise the gifts God has given you in the service of this Conference and all the Methodist people?

Will you work with the President to offer a ministry that affirms and encourages the gifts of all God’s people?

The Vice-President replies:

I will, God being my helper.

3. THE PRAYERS

The Ex-Vice-President says:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in Jesus Christ you have called your Church to be a sign of and witness to your kingdom in the world, and through the gifts of the Holy Spirit you guide and inspire it.

We give you thanks for these your servants now called to the offices of President and Vice-President of the Conference. We bless you for the ways in which you have led them to this moment and for the gifts with which you have inspired them.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them that they may build up your people in love and service, to the glory of your name. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
4. THE GIVING OF SYMBOLS AND GIFTS

The Ex-President invests the President with the Presidential Cross and hands to him John Wesley’s Bible.

The Ex-Vice-President invests the Vice-President with the Vice-Presidential Cross and hands to her a first edition copy of John and Charles Wesley’s Hymns and Sacred Songs.

Each in turn then briefly expresses the thanks of the Conference to his/her predecessor and presents her/him with a replica of the Presidential/Vice-Presidential Cross.

A hymn is sung and the Conference continues its business.
SECTION A
GENERAL REPORT

The Methodist Council is charged under SO 211(2) with responsibility to keep in constant review the life of the Methodist Church, to study its work and witness throughout the Connexion, to indicate what changes are necessary or what steps could be taken to make the work of the Church more effective, to give spiritual leadership to the Church and to report annually to the Conference, bringing to the notice of the Conference matters to which it believes the Conference ought to give urgent attention.

The full range of papers presented to the Council and the outcomes of the Council’s deliberations on them are available on the Methodist Church website at www.methodist.org.uk/council

The report to the Conference is presented in two parts, this one in Volume 1 of the Agenda and part two in Volume 2 of the Agenda. The business conducted by the Council at its meetings in October and January is reported here; and the business conducted at its meeting in March is reported in part two. The Conference will be updated on any meeting of the Council subsequent to March.

These reports contain those items considered by the Council and not reported elsewhere in the Agenda.

1.1 Governance responsibilities

In accordance with its governance responsibilities, the Council:

- appointed connexional committees, trusts and representatives for the year 2019/2020;
- received reports from a number of committees and trustee bodies;
- approved the revised list of authorisations and delegations;
- received reports from the Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC) of the Council at each meeting;
- received reports from the Connexional Team at each meeting;
- received reports on progress in relation to the Council’s objectives in support of Our Calling;
- adopted a risk management policy;
adopted the corporate risk register;
noted with thanks the grants provided by the Joseph Rank Trust in 2019;
under SO 136(1C), appointed the Revd Sonia J Hicks and Deacon Tracey J Hume to the Conference Business Committee for the 2020 Conference;
adopted a modern slavery transparency statement and underlined its strong commitment to pursuing the objectives of the Modern Slavery Act (2015);
approved a partnership agreement with The Queen’s Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Foundation;
appointed Epworth as its regulated adviser in relation to the Royal London proposed Group Personal Pension Plan for employees of the Methodist Council and other Methodist employers;

further to previous decisions of the Conference, directed that a grant (and/or a loan if appropriate) be made available for university funding for the children of ministers who are significantly financially disadvantaged as a consequence of being resident in non-UK jurisdictions;
directed that the Connexional Allowances Committee be given discretionary authority to agree the grants figure for university funding for the children of ministers, taking into account the minister’s circumstances and the university funding arrangements at the time, and further directed that they should be funded from the Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons (or other funds should that be appropriate);
appointed a task group to undertake the review of the role of Youth President, as directed by Notice of Motion 2019/201, and approved its terms of reference;
as the managing trustees of the Centenary Hall Trust, considered the responses to the consultation on the proposed amendments to the Charity Commission Scheme (1988) and concluded that an amended scheme should be sought from the Charity Commission;
made decisions and recommendations in relation to the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church, and its ongoing costs in the light of its closure to future accrual;
noted an error in a resolution of the 2019 Conference, and confirmed that from 1 September 2020, the list of ministers on the Plan will follow the order listed in SO 785(4)(a);
adopted, on behalf of the Conference, the renomination by the Methodist Independent Schools Trust of Mrs Anne Vautrey as Governor of Ashville College for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2022;
appointed, on behalf of the Conference, Alan Brooks as a Trustee of Aldersgate Memorial Committee;
appointed, on behalf of the Conference, the Revds Michaela A Youngson and Ruth M Gee and a young adult to be nominated from among the 3Generate representatives, as representatives to the World Council of Churches 11th Assembly in September 2021;
2. Methodist Council, part 1

- on behalf of the Conference, appointed the Methodist Diaconal Order Leadership Group as follows: Ms Rachel J Lampard (chair), the Revd Andrew Letby, the Revd Dr Claire Potter, Mr Peter Baffoe, Deacon Dawn N Canham, Deacon Kathryn Lamb;
- on behalf of the Conference, appointed Mr Keith Norman as deputy chair of the Ministries Committee;
- on behalf of the Conference, appointed the Revd Christine M Howe as a new Trustee to act jointly with the remaining and continuing Trustees for the Aldershot Methodist Military Trust, and directed the President to execute a deed of appointment to evidence this appointment;
- appointed the members of the Property Development Committee as the Connexional Trustees for Elderfield, Otterbourne;
- adopted the terms of reference for the review of the complaints and discipline procedure and directed the Secretary of the Conference to instigate the appropriate means by which this review is undertaken;
- on behalf of the Conference, appointed Mr Michael Rickard as a member of the Audit Committee;
- appointed the Revd Keith A Reed to the group established by the Conference to receive the reports from the Synods and the Law and Polity Committee in relation to the provisional resolutions.

1.2 Other business

The Council received annual reports from:
- the Property Development Committee;
- the Connexional Grants Committee.

***RESOLUTION


SECTION B
NOTICES OF MOTION REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL

1. The 2019 Conference referred one notice of motion to the Council, and directed the Council to consider the issues raised by another.

2. Notice of Motion 2019/206: Review of procedures following incidents of hate or unlawful discrimination was referred to the Council. The Council noted that the Conference had therefore not voted on it.
The Conference notes the significant work that has been undertaken by the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. However, continuing reports of incidents of hate or unlawful discrimination within the Methodist Church show there is more work to be done and raise major concerns about the adequacy of our current arrangements for the protection and safeguarding of victims.

The Conference therefore directs the EDI Committee to undertake a review of connexional procedures and protocols, and Standing Orders, in liaison with the Law and Polity Committee and the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice, in order to:

- ensure their effectiveness in protecting and supporting victims who experience discrimination and hate;
- ensure that and Circuits are adequately protected and supported in taking measures to prevent the spread of incidents of hate or unlawful discrimination by particular individuals within their contexts.

In addition, the Conference directs the EDI Committee to provide:

1. for the collation and reporting of statistics at local Church, Circuit and District levels, on the number of incidents involving unlawful discrimination or hate;
2. recommendations for training and/or resources to meet needs within Circuits and Districts in regard to the management and resolution of incidents of unlawful discrimination or hate.

3. The Council considered the distinction between hate crime and unlawful discrimination, and the ways in which both should be addressed. It adopted the following recommendations:

- It directed the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Safeguarding Committee to undertake a joint review of safeguarding procedures to explore possible opportunities for expanding existing safeguarding procedures to encompass incidents involving hate, unlawful discrimination, abuse or bullying, as described under the Equalities Act 2010.
- It directed the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Safeguarding Committee jointly to explore options for the production of a best practice guide, which would be ‘victim-centred’ in approach, for Circuits and Districts.
- It directed the Connexional Team to identify appropriate training and/or resources to meet needs within Circuits and Districts in regard to the management and resolution of incidents of unlawful discrimination or hate, and to implement learning from the best practice guide.
- It referred the issues raised by Notice of Motion 2019/206 to the review of Part 11.
of Standing Orders, and encouraged those undertaking the review to consult the EDI Adviser in respect of how incidents of discrimination and hate crime might best be addressed in future arrangements.

4. The Conference declined Notice of Motion 2019/207: EDI concerns in stationing, but referred the issues raised by it to the Council for further consideration:

_The Conference is grateful for the work that has been done on its behalf by the many people involved in the stationing process. It acknowledges the increasing challenges faced by the Committee in deploying the ministerial resources of the Church in the most effective way and the attempts that have been made to improve the system._

_The Conference notes with extreme concern the implication given in paragraph 2.6 [of the Stationing Committee report to the Conference] that appropriate monitoring and auditing of processes with regard to equality, diversity and inclusion commitments are currently not being done. Many members of the Conference are very aware of situations in current and previous connexional years where issues of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age or marital or family status have played a part in the failure to make a match. It recognises the immense pain and damage to vocation often done to individuals faced with such situations._

_Whilst it is welcome news that monitoring is now on the Committee’s agenda, the Conference directs that this issue be given top priority and that the Stationing Committee:_

a) establishes an EDI sub-committee to take forward this work, with membership including the Connexional EDI Adviser and at least one former President or Vice-President;
b) seeks and records all feedback from individual ministers and Circuits where issues of exclusion or discrimination may have been factors in decisions reached;
c) develops and implements audit tools, in consultation with the EDI Officer, whereby all processes and protocols involved in stationing are properly assessed for their compliance with the connexional EDI guidance and all relevant legislation;
d) drafts and publishes guidelines for Stationing Matching Group, Stationing Advisory Group and Circuit Invitation Committees outlining the grounds by which matches and invitations can and cannot be refused in accordance with EDI policies, and provides appropriate training;
e) liaises with the Law and Polity Committee to review guidance on complaints and reporting for those involved in the stationing process and where necessary
2. Methodist Council, part 1

designs appropriate interventions to ensure that discrimination can be tackled immediately once reported;
f) establishes feedback and monitoring procedures that require Circuits, individual ministers and District Chairs or Lay Stationing reps to provide reasoned statements for decisions taken throughout the process;
g) includes, from now on, a section on EDI in each report to the Conference detailing monitoring and progress to date.

5. The Council engaged in discussion of these issues with the Chair of the Stationing Committee and the Secretary of the Conference, and, in recognising the importance of the issues highlighted by the notice of motion:

- directed that all members of Circuit Invitation Committees should be alerted to these issues and to the content of the EDI toolkit;
- recorded its expectation that every member of a Circuit Invitation Committee will have completed training in unconscious bias, and;
- mandated the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee to ensure that resources to enable this are available to Circuits.

***RESOLUTION

2/2. The Conference receives the Report.

SECTION C
AUDIT COMMITTEE

1. The Council adopted revised terms of reference for the Audit Committee. The revised terms of reference seek to clarify the role that the Committee plays in the area of risk management. In the light of that, the Council recommends to the Conference that the Committee is renamed as the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee to reflect that, whilst the Committee is not responsible for identifying or managing the risks posed to the Church and Connexional Team, the Audit Committee plays a pivotal role in oversight and ensuring that appropriate assurance and processes for risk management are in place. Revised Standing Orders are shown below.

Terms of Reference for Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

The Methodist Conference appoints an Audit and Risk Assurance Committee to support the Methodist Council and the senior management of the Connexional Team in their responsibilities for ensuring the adequacy of risk management and the assessment of the control environment through both external and internal assurance.
The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee will review the comprehensiveness of assurances for the Council and review the reliability and integrity of those assurances. The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee is a sub-committee of the Methodist Council and shall provide assurance to each meeting of the Council, with a full report provided annually.

1. **Membership**

1.1 The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) will have no fewer than three members, all of whom shall be members of the Methodist Church but none shall be members of the Methodist Council, Strategy and Resources Committee, or Connexional Team.

1.2 All ARAC members will be appointed to the ARAC for an initial term of four years and then on an annual basis thereafter. The members shall be appointed by the Conference upon the nomination of the Council in accordance with Standing Order 213A(1). One person shall be appointed by the Methodist Council to be Chair of the ARAC and this person shall be suitably financially qualified and have recent and relevant financial experience.

1.3 All appointments shall be made with due regard to the need to understand the purposes of the Methodist Church, objectives of the Methodist Council and regulatory framework of the Methodist Church as a large national charity. ARAC members will ideally collectively possess knowledge and skills in accounting, risk management, audit, finance and governance.

1.4 Members of the ARAC commit to being appointed by the Conference for a period of at least four years and may be appointed for a further two years thereafter. No member of the ARAC shall be appointed for a period of more than six years unless the nomination is made by the Methodist Council with a majority vote of 75% of those members present and voting at the Council.

1.5 The Methodist Council may appoint new members of the ARAC between meetings of the Methodist Conference should the membership of the ARAC fall below the minimum number set out in clause 1.1 due to resignation, death or loss of Methodist membership.

2. **Frequency of meetings**

2.1 The ARAC will meet at least three times per year at appropriate times in the reporting and audit cycle or as requested by the external auditors, internal auditors, senior management of the Connexional Team or the Methodist Council.
3. **Attendance at ARAC meetings**

3.1 ARAC meetings will normally be attended by:

- the Secretary of the Conference;
- the Connexional Secretary;
- the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice;
- the Director of Finance and Resources;
- a Governance Adviser
- one of the Connexional Treasurers

3.2 The ARAC may ask any other members of the Connexional Team to attend to assist it with its discussions on any particular matter.

3.3 All meetings will be chaired by the Chair of the ARAC. In the absence of the Chair the remaining members present shall elect one of their number to chair the meeting.

3.4 The ARAC may ask any or all of those who normally attend but who are not members to withdraw from the discussion of particular matters to facilitate open and frank discussion.

3.5 The ARAC will meet at least annually with each of the external and internal auditors without members of the Connexional Team being present to discuss their respective remits and any issues arising from their audits.

4. **Notice of meetings**

4.1 Unless otherwise agreed, an annual schedule of meeting dates, times and venues shall be agreed at the first meeting of the Committee in each connexional year.

4.2 The Chair of the Committee, Director of Finance and Resources and Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice shall ensure that an agenda and relevant papers for the meeting are sent to all members and those invited to attend at least seven days ahead of a forthcoming meeting.

4.3 In addition to its scheduled meetings, further meetings of the ARAC may be called by the Chair of the Committee or at the request of the Chair of the Methodist Council or external auditor.

5. **Minutes of meetings**

5.1 The Director of Finance and Resources shall ensure that a Connexional Team
member is available for every meeting to record the proceedings and decisions of each meeting, including the names of those present and in attendance, and any declarations of conflict of interest.

5.2 Draft minutes of the meetings shall be circulated within 15 working days of the meeting taking place to the Chair of the ARAC and then to all members and attendees of the ARAC.

5.3 The minutes of the meeting shall be approved by the ARAC at its subsequent meeting.

6. **Duties and responsibilities**

6.1 External audit

6.1.1 The ARAC will annually advise the Council upon the appointment of the external auditors to fulfil the responsibilities set out in Standing Order 012 in respect of all the funds under the Council’s responsibilities.

6.1.2 The ARAC shall advise the Methodist Council upon the scope and nature of the external auditor’s work.

6.1.3 The ARAC shall formally review the appointment of the external auditor annually.

6.1.4 The ARAC will advise the Council on and support the senior management in monitoring, planning for or acting upon:

- the annual plans for external audit, in light of the Methodist Council’s objectives;
- the adequacy of management responses to issues raised by external audit;
- the performance of external audit services.

6.2 Annual report and accounts

6.2.1 The ARAC shall consider the Methodist Church of Great Britain’s accounts and trustee annual report so as to ensure:

- that there has been a robust process in preparing the accounts and annual report;
- the unified statement of connexional finances required by Standing Order 360(1) and trustee annual report have been subject to sufficient review by relevant members of senior management within the Connexional Team and the Finance Sub-Committee of the Strategy and Resources Committee before being recommended for approval by the Methodist Council;
- issues raised by the External Auditors have been given appropriate attention by
senior management of the Connexional Team and the Strategy and Resources Committee;

- any concerns are raised with the Methodist Council about the processes for preparation of and review of the accounts and annual report.

6.2.2 The ARAC should satisfy itself that the annual financial statements represent fairly the financial position of the organisation.

6.3 Internal audit

6.3.1 The ARAC will advise the Council on and support the senior management in monitoring, planning for or acting upon:

- the adequacy of the Connexional Team’s assurance processes including but not limited to, financial controls, grants, compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements and adherence to relevant codes of practice;
- the annual plans for internal audit, in light of the Methodist Council’s objectives;
- the adequacy of management responses to issues raised by internal auditors and the implementation of internal audit recommendations and timescales;
- the appointment of internal auditors;
- the performance of internal audit services;
- the adequacy of the Council’s policies for whistle-blowing, business continuity, serious incident reporting to the Charity Commission, Information Commissioner and Funding Regulator, and cyber and information security.

6.3.2 The ARAC shall review the appointment of the internal auditor annually and re-tender for the appointment of the internal auditors at least every five years.

6.4 Risk management

6.4 The ARAC will advise the Council on and support the senior management in monitoring, planning for, or acting upon:

- the processes for identifying, assessing, mitigating, owning of, monitoring and reporting on risks;
- the capability of the organisation’s internal reporting system to provide early warning of control failures and emerging risks;
- the adequacy of the organisation’s assurance arrangements relating to the management of risk,
- the adequacy of the oversight of the Methodist Council of its self-accounting entities in respect of finances, and risk management.
6.5 Whistleblowing

6.5.1 The ARAC shall receive any concerns about alleged improprieties, misconduct or wrongdoing raised by whistleblowing at every scheduled meeting and shall act upon such concerns as the ARAC considers appropriate.

6.5.2 The ARAC may advise the Methodist Council on recommendations for the improvement of the whistleblowing policy as it considers necessary, whether or not in response to an incident.

7. Reporting responsibilities

7.1 The Chair will provide an annual report to the Methodist Council in January, summarising the Committee’s conclusions from the work it has done during the year.

8. Other matters

8.1 If anything contained within the terms of reference contradicts those contained in Standing Order 213A or any other Standing Order contained in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, the Standing Order shall be the final authority.

8.2 The ARAC shall arrange for periodic reviews of its own performance including periodic self-assessment and external independent review as appropriate.

8.3 The ARAC may propose to the Methodist Council amendments to its terms of reference in light of its annual review of its terms of reference and changes to recommended good practice, legislative and regulatory requirements.

213A Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. (1) The Conference shall each year appoint, upon the nomination of the Methodist Council, a connexional Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, having the constitution and responsibilities specified below, in order to assist the council in its functions under Standing Order 212(1).

(2) The committee shall consist of five three persons, including one appointed by the Conference to chair the committee, all of whom shall be members of the Methodist Church and all of whom shall normally serve for an initial term of four years and thereafter on an annual basis. No person shall be eligible to be a member of the committee who is a member of the Connexional Team, or the Strategy and Resources Committee, or of the council.

(3) The committee shall meet as frequently as need be, but in any event at least three times a year and also whenever the auditors appointed under Standing Order 012 require it to do so.
(4) When required to do so by the committee, a connexional Treasurer and any appropriate members of the Connexional Team shall also be in attendance at meetings.

(5) The responsibilities of the committee shall be:

(i) to advise the council upon the appointment in accordance with Standing Order 012 of auditors for all the funds for which it is responsible, and (subject to that Standing Order) upon the nature and scope of the audit required;
(ii) to review the unified statement of connexional finances required by Standing Order 360(1);
(iii) to review, in direct consultation with the auditors, their annual report;
(iv) to review the effectiveness of the financial and other internal control systems with regard to moneys and other assets for which the council is responsible;
(v) to submit an annual report to the council.

(6) In carrying out its functions the committee shall have reference to the terms of reference for the committee provided by the council from time to time.

The following consequential amendments are also required:

210 The Methodist Council. (1) There shall be a Methodist Council appointed annually by the Conference which in addition to the ex-officio members shall consist of:

(7) The chair of the connexional Audit and Risk Assurance Committee appointed under Standing Order 213A, the secretary of the Faith and Order Committee and the Youth President elected under Standing Order 250(10) shall have the right to attend and speak at meetings of the council, but shall not be voting members.

212 Particular Functions. (1) The council shall be responsible, upon the recommendation of its Strategy and Resources Committee and with the advice of the connexional Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, for the adoption of the financial statement required by Standing Order 360 and its presentation to the Conference.

***RESOLUTIONS


2/4. The Conference amends Standing Order 213A as above.

2/5. The Conference, by way of minor and consequential amendments, amends Standing Orders as above.
SECTION D
MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

1. The 2019 Conference directed the Methodist Council to undertake a review of the role and composition of the Memorials Committee and to bring recommendations to the 2020 Conference.

2. In reviewing the Committee, the Council noted that changes were necessary to ensure the inclusion of those who have more intentional links with other parts of the Church’s oversight processes. The Council acknowledged that whilst the current composition of the Committee enables representation of just under half the Districts at any one time, the Committee is not connected to the full range of strategic thinking in the Church undertaken by other bodies.

3. The deadlines for the submission of memorials and the short timescale for the drafting of replies to resource the Committee mitigate against a considered overview of the range of questions being raised in a particular case by the Council, the Strategy and Resources Committee or any other committee charged with proposing policy. Therefore, the Council concluded that it is not helpful for the Committee to stand alone in this way from other decision-making bodies given the importance of giving careful consideration to the view of the Districts and the Circuits as expressed in memorials. This would serve to achieve greater coherence as the Conference seeks to honour the importance of the Circuits and Districts submitting memorials to the Conference, and ensuring that those memorials are given careful replies that relate to the activities of a range of bodies.

4. The Committee is established by SO 138 and meets once a year in late May to consider the memorials submitted by Circuits and Districts and to propose the replies which are to be put before the Conference. The current Committee membership is 20 persons and comprises a number of representatives from the Districts (on a rota basis). Each of the district representatives is intended to serve for three years to ensure some continuity.

5. The current Committee in addition to the convener appointed by the preceding Conference consists of:

(i) a former President or Vice-President appointed for three years, who shall be chair;
(ii) the President-designate, Vice-President-designate and Secretary of the Conference;
(iii) the Connexional Secretaries or their representatives;
(iv) one district Chair, and one synod secretary, each appointed for a period of three years;
(v) three ministers and ten other persons, each nominated by a district Policy Committee according to a rota.
6. Under the current arrangements, the first drafts of memorial replies are in most cases written by members of the Connexional Team who are invited to the meeting to present them and to answer any questions. Inevitably, the committee will often include no-one who has had detailed engagement with previous discussions about these questions in the various committees of the Church and therefore tends to depend heavily on the Secretary of the Conference and the Connexional Secretary (who are members of the Committee) and the Assistant Secretary, Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice, and the Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee (who are not).

7. The inclusion of the President and Vice-President designate seems anomalous as the committee makes decisions about the text of draft replies which might then be the subject of debate in the Conference. For the President and Vice-President designate to be in attendance would be helpful to them and to the committee but it might be prudent to maintain their independence from any controversial recommendations to the Conference. It is therefore proposed that the President and Vice-President designate attend the committee but do not vote.

8. The Business Committee needs to determine which memorials are to be taken with which items of business, which need a separate discussion, and which might be taken en bloc. It would therefore make sense for the Chair or a member of the Business Committee to be in attendance at the Memorial Committee’s meeting though again without a vote.

9. In order to ensure that the quality of conversation remains and that there is a degree of representation of the Connexion retained, the Council proposes the following as a revised constitution of the committee:

138 Memorials Committee. (1) The Methodist Council shall annually appoint a committee to consider all memorials from Synods and Circuit Meetings and make a recommendation on each to the Conference.
(2) In addition to the convener appointed by the preceding Conference the committee shall consist of:

(i) a former President or Vice-President appointed for three years, who shall be chair;
(ii) the President designate, Vice-President designate and Secretary of the Conference;
(iii) the Connexional Secretaries or their representatives;
(iv) one district Chair, and one synod secretary, each appointed for a period of three years;
(v) three ministers and ten other persons, each nominated by a district Policy Committee according to a rota;

(i) a former President or Vice-President, who shall chair the committee;
(ii) the Secretary of the Conference and the assistant secretary of the Conference;
(iii) the Connexional Secretary;
(iv) the conference officer for legal and constitutional practice;
(v) the secretary of the Faith and Order Committee;
(vi) a member of the Ministries Committee;
(vii) a member of the Strategy and Resources Committee;
(viii) one district Chair, two presbyters, one deacon, one synod secretary and two lay persons, each nominated by a district Policy Committee from a different stationing region, according to a rota.

Those appointed under heads (i), (vi), (vii) and (viii) above shall normally serve for a period of three years. The President-Designate and Vice-President-Designate and the chair of the Business Committee shall attend, but without a vote.

***RESOLUTIONS


2/7. The Conference amends SO 138 as set out above.
3. Appointment of officers of the Conference

Secretary of the Conference

***RESOLUTION

3/1. The Conference appoints the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler as Secretary of the Methodist Conference for a period of six years from 1 September 2020.

The Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler

Jonathan Hustler has served as Secretary of the Conference since June 2019, having been Assistant Secretary of the Conference since 1 September 2017. Dr Hustler brings a wide experience of circuit ministry to the role, gained over a period of 20 years in the Leighton Buzzard and Stewkley Circuit, the Redcar, Saltburn and Guisborough Circuit and as Superintendent of the Horncastle and Bardney Circuit. From 2011 to 2014, he served as Vice-Principal of Wesley House, and from 2014 to 2017 as Ministerial Coordinator for the Oversight of Ordained Ministries in the Connexional Team.

Dr Hustler is a theological thinker with a deep pastoral heart and an ability to enable and empower those around him. He inspires confidence in his calling to this role at this time, listening to others with sensitivity, openness and graciousness. The Council commends him to the Conference as someone who can undertake the role of Secretary of the Conference with energy and a desire to move the Church forward in new and exciting ways.

The Council, in accordance with Standing Orders 114 and 313, nominates the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler to the Conference for appointment as the Secretary of the Conference for a period of six years from 1 September 2020.

Assistant Secretary of the Conference

***RESOLUTION


The Revd Ruth M Gee

The President in June 2019 stationed the Revd Ruth M Gee to serve as the Assistant Secretary in the wake of the curtailment of the Secretary’s appointment. The Conference in July 2019 subsequently appointed Mrs Gee to serve as Assistant Secretary for one year from September 2019.
Mrs Gee has ably combined the duties of the Assistant Secretary with her responsibilities as Connexional Ecumenical Officer. The appointment of the Assistant Ecumenical Officer has enabled her to delegate some of the work and to expand areas of ecumenical engagement whilst at the same time fulfilling the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary in relation to the Presbyteral Session of the Conference, relations with District Synods, oversight of our work on ministries and stationing, sharing in the senior leadership of the Connexional Team, and deputising as required for the Secretary. Her wisdom and calmness in all these areas are greatly appreciated.

The Council, in accordance with Standing Orders 116A and 313, nominates the Revd Ruth M Gee to the Conference for appointment as the Assistant Secretary of the Conference for the year 2020/2021.

Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice

***RESOLUTION

3/3. The Conference appoints Mrs Joanne Anderton as Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice with immediate effect.

Joanne Anderton

Mrs Joanne Anderton is a member of Sawtry Methodist Church and a qualified solicitor. She is a member of the Charity Law Society and has a wide range of experience in commercial practice as well as in charity and regulatory work (including work for Methodist Independent Schools). From 2008 to 2010 she was Senior Legal Officer for the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes so brings detailed knowledge of Methodist polity and Standing Orders to this role.

The Council, in accordance with Standing Orders 116C and 314, nominates Mrs Joanne Anderton to the Conference for appointment as Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice.
4. God For All: The Connexional Strategy for Evangelism and Growth

Contact names and details

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<tr>
<td>Jude Levermore, Head of Mission, <a href="mailto:levermorej@methodistchurch.org.uk">levermorej@methodistchurch.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth, <a href="mailto:hallt@methodistchurch.org.uk">hallt@methodistchurch.org.uk</a></td>
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Resolutions

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<td>4/2. The Conference agrees to the allocation of funds as outlined in the Report, and directs the Council to identify a source for the remaining funding yet to be identified.</td>
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<td>4/3. The Conference agrees the programme plans as outlined in the Report, and directs the Council to monitor progress against the ‘Expected Outcomes’ annually, reporting back to the Conference on this in 2025.</td>
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Summary of content

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<th>Main points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Section A – Introduction</td>
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<td>Section B – Overview of the God For All Strategy</td>
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<td>Appendix</td>
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<tr>
<th>Background context and relevant documents</th>
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<td>Our Calling (2000)</td>
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<td>Reaffirming Our Calling: the future call of the Methodist Church (2018)</td>
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<td>MC/18/68 Connexional Team Report</td>
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<td>MC/19/5 Connexional Team Update</td>
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Section A – Introduction

1. The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. It does this through
Worship, Learning and Caring, Service, and Evangelism. *Our Calling* says of evangelism: “The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.”

2. Following the 2018 Methodist Conference’s reaffirmation of *Our Calling*, a new Evangelism and Growth team was appointed in 2018/2019 to work diligently with leaders across the Connexion and with our ecumenical partners to inspire, design, and embed a contextual, coherent, and coordinated Connexional Strategy for Evangelism and Growth.

3. This paper presents the foundational orientations and key programmes of *God For All*¹, the Connexional Strategy for Evangelism and Growth.

4. This strategy is presented in the belief that, by God’s grace, it will help the Methodist Connexion to deepen its commitment to be a growing, evangelistic, justice-seeking, inclusive Church of gospel people who speak of, listen for, and live out the goodness of God so that more people become disciples of Jesus Christ, and already committed Methodists experience a deepening of their faith.

**Design process and timeline**

5. From the outset, the Evangelism and Growth team committed itself to discerning and building this strategy collaboratively. It took this approach believing that God speaks through God’s people, and that our mission is clearer, stronger, more flexible, and more achievable when it emerges from listening to the prayers, passions, wisdom, and questions of people faithful to the living God in different contexts and with different perspectives and beliefs.

6. In the connexional year 2018/2019 the Evangelism and Growth team facilitated more than a hundred on-the-ground large group listening consultations and theological workshops across the Connexion. It engaged in thousands of individual conversations with leaders and practitioners across Methodism’s broad theological and ecclesial spectrum and with key ecumenical partners and teams.

7. The emerging foundational commitments of the strategy and core direction of travel that flowed from the consultation process were shared, engaged, and tested at the Connexional Leaders’ Forum, District Chairs’ Meeting, Superintendents’ Conferences,

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¹ The term ‘God for All’ has been used in the ecumenical county of Cumbria as the title of their ecumenical programme for sharing God’s love with all people. In conversation with the Cumbria District, the gospel language, God For All, rooted also in Methodism’s Four Alls, has been chosen to describe a connexional vision for a renewed and expanded 21st-century commitment to evangelism in the Methodist Church, in concert with our ecumenical partners.
4. God For All: The Connexional Strategy for Evangelism and Growth

3Generate, the Cliff Festival, Learning Network gatherings, and the 2019 Methodist Conference.

8. Draft programme elements of the strategy were conceived and developed from within an intentionally joined-up way of working with other emerging connexional strategies; other sections of the Connexional Team including the Ministries: Vocations and Worship team; Equality Diversity and Inclusion; the Learning Network; the Children Youth and Family Ministry team; the Joint Public Issues Team; the Global Relationships team; the Communications team; the Engagement team; and Property team; as well as with the Methodist Diaconal Order and our Learning Centres – Cliff College and the Queen’s Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education.

9. After the 2019 Conference, the first official draft of the strategy was written and shared broadly with Methodist and ecumenical leaders and was posted publicly on the Methodist Church website for reflection and feedback.

10. In the connexional year 2019/2020, the Methodist Church hosted an Evangelism and Growth Consultation and Celebration, where over 250 leaders – with a focus on the participation of laity, Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic people, young people, and the leaders of Methodist Fellowship groups – gathered to pray, worship, and respond to the first draft of the Evangelism and Growth Strategy. This dynamic gathering, featuring testimony from diverse Methodists and work groups, and with prophetic input from our ecumenical partners, affirmed the draft strategy with joy and hope.

11. The children and young people at the 2019 3Generate spoke out with a bold manifesto that challenges the Methodist Church to take action on several areas that are also key to the Evangelism and Growth strategy. These include conversation with God at the centre, a more welcoming and relevant Church, and working to combat poverty and injustice.

12. The draft strategy was presented to the Methodist Council, the Strategy and Resources Committee, and the Ministries Committee, in the winter of 2019/2020.

Biblical, theological, and historical foundations

13. Our Calling begins with God and our experience of the good news. Our searching, our faith, our mission, our prayer – none of this is generated by us alone. It all starts from God who is before the beginning of everything, the source and sustainer of all life. Called to Love and Praise states: “the Church ... belongs to God” and “...is entirely dependent on God’s gift of [the] Spirit”. Anything good and gracious that the Church accomplishes flows from missio Dei, God’s mission which we are invited to join and be changed by.

2 Called to Love and Praise (1999), paragraph 2.4.3
John Wesley’s articulation of prevenient grace – “grace that comes before” – points to this foundational theme, which is a key aspect of the “general tenor” of Scripture: We love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19).

14. We want every aspect of our connexional commitment to evangelism and growth to flow from God’s amazing grace. Of course, we must also have an intelligent understanding of changing demographics, cultural and social shifts, and the patterns of younger generations: and our mission strategy must engage these factors in relevant, practical, and compelling ways. But ultimately the future of the Church is not a strategy, however brilliant or effective: the future of the Church is the risen Lord Jesus Christ, known through the movement of the Holy Spirit. We are committed to evangelism and growth because we have encountered and are being transformed by the living God. This God – in the birth, life and teaching, death, resurrection, ascension, and coming again in glory of Jesus Christ – creates, reconciles, and redeems the whole world so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, all people and the whole creation will flourish and therefore glorify God.

15. This renewed commitment to evangelism and growth underpins our commitment to be a Church that aligns with the *missio Dei*, the mission of God for all. Our desire to be a growing Church that reaches new people and new groups of people flows from our encounter with God. We recognise humbly that even as we seek to join with God, the *missio Dei* will challenge us in profound ways. But we know this wrestling is on holy ground. We remember that when our foremothers and forefathers in the first century experienced the coming of the Holy Spirit poured out on all flesh that Peter preached (Acts 2), their understanding of themselves and others as Church continued to be challenged and expanded (Acts 10, 11, 15). Their communal struggle and ongoing sanctification were connected deeply to the meaningful participation of Gentiles, women, people of diverse nationalities, eunuchs, and many other groups in the Church (Acts 8, 11, 16). *Called to Love and Praise* states: “…Scripture testifies to a vital distinction between evangelism (ie representing and proclaiming Jesus) and that kind of proselytizing which, in effect, means making Christians in our own image”\(^3\).

16. For Methodists, this ever-widening, prayerful, Pentecostal incorporation is linked theologically both to the process of salvation and to a strengthened mission to the world. John Wesley’s charge to “spread Scriptural holiness over the land” holds together evangelical fervour, justice for the marginalised, theological reflection, and the reform of nation and Church. A traditional summary of Methodist teaching holds that “All need to be saved. All may be saved. All may know themselves saved. All may be saved to the uttermost.”\(^4\)” The Holy Spirit continues to enliven the Methodist Church in the 21st

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3  Called to Love and Praise (1999), paragraph 2.3.7
4  *A Catechism for the use of the people called Methodists* paragraph 68
century as we aspire to join with our ecumenical partners in proclaiming the Good News of a God for all and a Church for all.

17. As we proclaim this gospel, we seek to be transformed by it ourselves. We name these particular commitments towards becoming a Church, ever more transformed by God, that:

- By God’s grace, makes new disciples of Jesus Christ
- Seeks robust ecumenical partnerships with a bias for action
- Commits to gospel-shaped participation, with a particular focus on practising anti-racism and growing as an increasingly multi-ethnic and multi-racial Church
- Expects, nurtures, learns from, and follows the leadership of children, youth, and young adults
- Ministers in rural, estate, urban, suburban, and village contexts, with a particular focus on communities experiencing marginalisation.

We expect that these commitments will underpin every part of this strategy.

**Traditional and contemporary at the same time**


19. *God For All* seeks to help the Methodist Church organise our mission and ministry around our core doctrinal teaching in robust, strategic, and sustainable ways – so that we can practise more faithfully and wisely what we have always affirmed theologically. Methodists are called not just to know our faith or to find comfort and meaning in our faith, but to live out our faith in every part of our lives.

20. In addition to the above commitments and the strategic areas which follow in section B, we desire that our work be orientated towards:

**A commitment to prayer**

21. Theologically to embrace God’s presence and ongoing promise is to depend on God in prayer. To paraphrase Evagrius of Pontus, a fourth-century Church father who deeply influenced John Wesley: “if we are theologically rooted, we will pray truly. If we pray truly,
4. God For All:  
The Connexional Strategy for Evangelism and Growth

we will be theologically rooted.” As Christians set about our work, we commit ourselves to intentional, unceasing prayer, so that our commitments to evangelism, church growth, mission with those who are poor and those who are young, and pioneering and church planting flow from a deep, contemplative orientation to God’s grace, movement, and will for us and the world. One of the particular gifts of Methodism to the Church of Jesus Christ is an insistence that prayer and evangelism, contemplation and justice, should never be separated: they are inherent dimensions of the Gospel.

22. 2020 is the 200th anniversary of ‘The Liverpool Minutes’ of the 1820 Wesleyan Methodist Conference. That Conference, alarmed at the decline in church membership only a generation after the death of John Wesley, articulated a strategy to grow again, which included as major drivers a call to prayer (XII. Cottage Prayer Meetings) and the challenge to reach new people in new places (XVI. Opening New Places).

23. Two hundred years later, as we seek to be a Church more fully alive with grace and truth, a people acting courageously and justly in the world, we come to God in prayer: we call upon the Lord and ask for renewal, revival, and resurrection; we confess and repent of our sin and seek forgiveness; we cry out to the Holy Spirit to break through and break apart our fear, rigidity, judgmentalism, and all idols or false gospels which we orient our lives around; we wait upon the Lord in silence and contemplative attentiveness; and we trust God to transform us.

A commitment to a mixed ecology

24. Thoroughly embedding this strategy across the Connexion will depend on diverse people working together. God For All is not theologically or strategically monolithic. It is most definitely not one-size-fits-all. It will be expressed in diverse ways across the broad spectrum of the Methodist Church. It values a mixed ecology: supporting the flourishing of a diversity of missional approaches rather than pitting approaches against each other. It values churches’, Circuits’, and Districts’ prayerful reflection and decision-making about how to engage with the strategy most faithfully and fruitfully in their particular contexts.

25. However, this mixed ecology should actively resist an unfocused, disorganised, laissez-faire orientation to evangelism and instead develop an orientation that holds together and grows from commitments that have traditionally been understood as dichotomies. We believe that, in the light of the gospel, they are false dichotomies: that is, they are falsely positioned as opposing each other. They are more appropriately

understood as partners, iron-sharpening iron (Proverbs 27:1). Increasingly mature evangelism and mission practice breaks these false dichotomies and holds together:

a. Church spiritual/missional growth and Church numerical growth
b. Inviting people to established churches and creating new expressions of church and new relationships outside the church building, in the community
c. Evangelism and social justice
d. Pointing to/expanding the Kingdom and ecumenical movement and starting/growing more particularly Methodist Christian communities
e. Missio Dei and missio ecclesiae: God’s Mission and Our Mission/the Church’s Mission

26. God For All is not a strategy that envisages “reversing numerical decline” by fine-tuning our current reality and “just working harder”. In the short-term to medium-term, we expect that Methodist membership numbers will continue to decline. God For All envisages, in both existing churches and new churches, the stewarding of mixed ecology cultures so that over the long-term, growth does occur in the numbers of new disciples of Jesus Christ, the numbers of missional risks taken and new churches started, the numbers of people who offer themselves for ordained and lay leadership for such a time as this, and the numbers of lives and communities transformed.

A commitment to letting go now towards future structural change

27. Methodists across the theological spectrum have consistently expressed great hope in the God For All strategy. At the same time, there has been an almost constant refrain: “if we are to focus our energy on this important work, we will have to stop doing other things and align our mission.” We know that this will require challenging decisions in Districts, Circuits, and churches, and in connexional policy. Focused attention is being given to potential structural and Standing Order changes – including trusteeship, governance, decision-making bodies, district and circuit reviews (see MC/20/9: Reaffirming Our Calling: Trustee Structure), resource sharing, administrative and operational streamlining, missional stationing, and releasing ministers for mission – that serve the Connexion’s expanding commitment to evangelism and growth. The fruit of God For All as it begins in earnest in 2020/2021 will support the Conference’s work to address these crucial structural changes and to help the Methodist Church align more fully with Our Calling.

28. That said, we must not delay responding to the imperative of evangelism and growth until structural change is completed. Standing Orders in general, in their current formulation, are meant to enable and encourage flexibility for mission now. Called to Love and Praise states: “From its beginnings, Methodism has been pragmatic in its approach to questions of church structure and order. Its own order and discipline
emerged largely as the result of a series of *ad hoc* experiments. They were created in the ‘missionary’ situation of the eighteenth century, and the legacy of this has been a tendency to subordinate church order to, and to deploy church resources in response to, the missionary needs of the Church. This is, or should be, a particular strength of a ‘connexional’ Church, in which there is a common recognition that all are parts of a larger whole.”

Each District, Circuit, and church is empowered already in our Methodist polity to take prayerful, missional decisions about the most important commitments to start and those to stop.

**A commitment to offer ourselves**

29. As we take the next concrete steps into action, we centre in the familiar story of the Feeding of the 5,000, which is repeated through the Gospels with variations on the ‘abundance not scarcity’ theme. When contemplating a major new strategy meant to drive significant ecclesial change, there is the tendency to imagine the Church as a superhero or wonderworker. “If we just work really hard”, “if we perform amazingly”, “if we take the stage with great courage and power”, we say, then we will be able to make the needed change. But if we are rooted in the gospel, we know that the needed change is not ours to supply: it is God’s. Our job is, over and over again, to offer what we have – the few “loaves and fishes” that are ours – and to trust Jesus to take them, bless them, break them, and offer them, so that all will have what they need. With Jesus, amazing abundance and wild generosity grow up from our offerings of what we actually have. Jesus transforms it all, and us in the process, and there is enough for everyone with plenty of leftovers for those who come to the party later. This is truly a God for all so that we can be a Church for all.

**Section B – Overview of the God For All Strategy**

30. *God For All* sets out the following eight core areas. It suggests prayerful and decisive action, coordinated strategy, and organised teams that build on the deep theological rooting and positive will for cultural change in the Methodist Church. It names concrete steps towards our commitment to be a growing, evangelistic, justice-seeking, inclusive Church of gospel people who speak of, listen for, and live out the goodness of God – so that new people become disciples of Jesus Christ and committed Methodists experience a deepening of faith.

31. While all eight core areas have strategic elements, the first three areas describe our primary orientations to the work. Without these the strategy becomes disconnected from the living God and our missional imperative:

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6 *Called to Love and Praise* (1999) paragraph 4.7.9
4. God For All: The Connexional Strategy for Evangelism and Growth

- Centred in God
- Everyone an Evangelist
- Transformational Leadership

32. The next five core areas describe the crucial movements that we believe will drive fundamental change.

- New Places for New People
- Church at the Margins
- Every Church a Growing Church
- Young Evangelists, Pioneers, and Leaders
- Digital Presence: Mission for the Digital Age

33. In the following section, under each core area there is a short introduction with basic aims and expected outcomes, brief descriptions of key programmes, and draft plans for how individuals, churches, Circuits, and/or Districts can engage and participate. Key working partners are listed in each section, as well as the primary Evangelism and Growth staff contact.

34. This strategy is not envisaged as a tick-list that every church and Circuit must work through immediately to complete as soon as possible. Most churches and Circuits will find it helpful to choose one or two areas of focus, perhaps one internal and one outward-facing, to engage prayerfully and meaningfully over the next year as part of an intentional transformation process. This strategy is not about doing more: it is about making critical decisions to spend time, energy, and resources on the most important and life-giving things, and to stop doing things that do not reach new people and build up life.

35. Each area of this strategy is meant to address diverse regional and geographical contexts across the Connexion. No area, for example, is particularly focused on only one type of context. Faithful people in any context can engage in all areas; in rural, estate, urban, inner city, suburban, and village contexts; in established churches, new churches, and community projects; in historical Methodist Heritage sites and in contemporary missional communities that meet in someone’s lounge or the local pub.

**Continuing consultation, learning, and celebration**

36. Three major conferences (with related regional events) over the course of the first several years of the God For All strategy will help learn from, resource, celebrate, and expand the mission and evangelism movement:

- Launch Gathering (2022) – towards the beginning of the outworking of the strategy, hundreds of new, emerging, and veteran leaders gather for inspiration, ongoing mission training, and exploration.
Midpoint Gathering (2024) – as the strategy is now thoroughly underway, hundreds of leaders gather to celebrate, take stock of the journey so far, and plant seeds for the next five-ten years.

Transition Gathering (2026) – at the end of the first five years of the strategy and the launch of the next five to ten years, thousands of leaders gather to celebrate and commit to the next action steps.

Funding:

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Total funding £300,000

Section C – God For All Core Strategic Areas

1. CENTRED IN GOD #CentredInGod

Introduction
God is the Three-in-One who creates us, loves us, frees us, saves us, and transforms us to be who God has always been calling us to be. We are because of God. The Church exists to glorify God and to be a sign and presence of the Kingdom of God. If we are faithful, our mission flows intentionally from this orientation.

The Centred in God strategic area of God For All focuses on deepening the discipleship of Methodist people and lays a foundation for God For All as a whole. It aims to inspire and equip Methodists to:

- Grow in the grace of God given in Jesus and experienced in the life of the Holy Spirit.
- Be rooted and grounded in prayer.
- Make Our Calling a lived reality, particularly through A Methodist Way of Life.
- Live out their discipleship in everyday life.

Expected outcomes
Methodist people will:

- Be confident in their knowledge of God’s love for them, for others and for the world.
- Pray constantly and faithfully, expecting God to be present.
- Be better able to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit within the Church and beyond.
- Live intentionally as disciples of Jesus in the world.
Table 1: Five-year funding requirements

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<th>Programme</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rooted in Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing Pathways for Growth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Making Beautiful Worship: Beautiful Worship in Everyday Life</td>
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<td>Theological Depth: Theological Reflection</td>
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<td>Theological Depth: Theological Learning</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£248,000</strong></td>
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**Programmes:**

**Rooted in Prayer**

**Description:** Rooted in Prayer will underpin with prayer the *God For All* strategy. It will seek to ensure that everything flows from God’s initiative and is empowered by the Spirit of God, and will develop the understanding and experience that prayer is about more than making requests to God: it is the source of our life in God.

**How to engage:** Prayer in Local Churches and in other parts of the Church will be fostered in various ways including promotional videos and leaflets but especially through deepening collaboration with the 24-7 Prayer movement (a collaboration initiated by Methodist children and young people in the 2000s).

**Funding:** Funding will be focused on resource creation and promotion, including with partner organisations.

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**Developing Pathways for Growth**

**Description:** Developing Pathways for Growth will map a clear, flexible pathway for Christian discipleship to enable Methodist Christians to grow in their life in Christ.
How to engage: Districts, Circuits and Local Churches will be encouraged to develop the basic pathway in accordance with their own contexts and needs. A variety of ways of resourcing these pathways will be signposted.

Funding: Funding will be required to produce video material and to publish and distribute leaflets to publicise the basic pathway, provide pointers, to implement it in ways that respond to local contexts, and signpost a range of means of resourcing it.

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**A Methodist Way of Life**

Description: A Methodist Way of Life (MWoL) will offer a means for Methodists and others to respond to God’s love in Jesus through a patterned way of life. It revives a traditional Methodist way of being and becoming disciples, and re-presents it for contemporary discipleship. The commitments of a MWoL are based on the four aspects of Our Calling and provide a means to make it a lived reality. Accompanying questions will encourage and challenge participants as they follow this “way” together. A Methodist Way of Life will be signposted as a major resource for developing pathways for growth in discipleship.

How to engage: A MWoL will be promoted through video and printed material. In September 2020 all members and those attending Methodist churches will be provided with MWoL cards (listing commitments on one side and accountability questions on the other) together with a concise promotional booklet. Further support will be provided through a booklet, Finding the Way, copies of which will be provided to all churches, with further copies available on request. Additional resources will be provided in subsequent years.

Funding: Funding will provide for filming and resource production.

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**Making Beautiful Worship: Beautiful Worship within the Gathered Community of Faith**

Description: Making Beautiful Worship focuses on helping worship within the gathered community connect people to God and transform them for mission within the world. Worshippers will be inspired through worship to serve God in daily life.
4. God For All: 
The Connexional Strategy for Evangelism and Growth

How to engage: Districts, Circuits, and churches will be encouraged to engage with practices and resources that help Methodists connect worship with life. These will be signposted and, where needed, developed for use across the Connexion. Preachers and Worship Leaders will also be resourced to develop ways of connecting gatherings with the service of God in the world. A future pilot project will explore ways to embed whole-life worship within a Circuit.

Funding: Funding will be required to produce and promote resources for use across the Connexion, as well as running events and the pilot project.

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Making Beautiful Worship: Beautiful Worship in Everyday Life

Description: Making Beautiful Worship also seeks to equip Methodists to worship God in their everyday lives, and will include a focus on spiritual practices, including those for children and young people, that can help Methodists find the sacred in the midst of the secular.

How to engage: Individuals will be able to access resources to help them to worship God in the various contexts of daily life. Such resources will be available through the Methodist website and in other forms of media (including printed resources), and will form a natural link with the Methodist Way of Life. Churches, Circuits, and Districts will be encouraged to promote the use of such resources for Methodists seeking to grow their faith.

Funding: Funding will be devoted to resources and events.

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<th>Year</th>
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Theological Depth: Theological Reflection

Description: Theological Depth will include the development and promotion of different models of theological reflection for use across the Connexion. Such models – drawing on our Wesleyan tradition, resources from ecumenical partners, and the global Church – will offer simple processes for bringing faith into conversation with experience, and so provide means of connecting faith with daily life and moving from reflection into action.
How to engage: Individuals will be able to access simple models of theological reflection through sets of accessible printed and online resources. Churches will be encouraged to promote such resources and model positive ways of theological reflection, and events will be held to promote good theological reflection at circuit and district level.

Funding: Funding will be focused on resource production.

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Theological Depth: Theological Learning

Description: Theological Depth will also inspire and resource Methodists in deepening their understanding of the Christian faith and seeing its relevance to discipleship and mission. Drawing on the expertise and experience of theological educators in both the Church and the academy, Theological Depth will offer a vision for transformative learning, and resources to support it across the Connexion.

How to engage: At district and circuit level, Chairs and Superintendents will be drawn into conversations around theological learning and will be offered models of theological learning that they can share and develop within their areas of responsibility. Resources will also be developed for presbyters, deacons and local preachers, as well as for individual Methodists wishing to deepen their faith. Clear pathways for growing in theological depth will be provided to Methodists across the Connexion.

Funding: Following a theological learning consultation, funding will be used to develop events and resources that promote a vibrant vision for theological learning of the whole people of God and that resource Methodists to grow in theological engagement.

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<tr>
<td>£3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total funding</td>
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<td>£23,000</td>
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Good news story: Brindley Ford Methodist Church (Kidsgrove Circuit, Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District) had dwindled to fourteen regulars. It now advertises itself as “The Village Church” and Sunday attendance has grown to about 25 following a renewed focus on discipleship. An introductory course is run twice a year and a discipleship-focused group meets fortnightly. Missional community initiatives also help energise the congregation’s discipleship.
**Quote:** “Remaining centred on God is absolutely core to evangelism. We’re not offering ourselves to others: we’re offering Jesus. I know I need to keep building my inner life of prayer, reflection, silence, Bible study, and pilgrimage in order to have anything at all to say to others. Each of us explores whatever it is that enables us to build our lives around God (not the other way round). Do spirituality and evangelism go together? Absolutely – spirituality as evangelism perhaps, for surely evangelism without spirituality is nothing more than recruitment.” Jill Baker, Vice-President of the Conference, 2017/2018

**Key connexional partners:** Ministries: Vocation and Worship, Faith and Order Committee

**Key ecumenical partners:** 24-7 Prayer movement, Thy Kingdom Come

**Evangelism and Growth team staff contact for Centred in God**
Tony Moodie, Discipleship Development Coordinator: moodiet@methodistchurch.org.uk

**2. EVERYONE AN EVANGELIST #EveryoneAnEvangelist**

All disciples of Jesus are called to listen for, speak of, and live out the good news from their own experience, theology, and perspective. While some have been given particular spiritual gifts for communicating the gospel, we are all called to witness to God’s goodness in word and deed. Responding to this calling does not require a personality transplant or the adoption of a theological stance with which we do not resonate. Being an evangelist means starting authentically from where we actually are.

The Everyone An Evangelist strategic area of *God For All* is focused on expanding the evangelistic capacity and desire of Methodist people. It aims to:

- Help everyone talk naturally about what God is doing in their lives.
- Build everyone’s confidence to invite people to explore following Jesus and to discover Christian community.
- Create a visible and compelling Methodist presence at major public events.

**Expected outcomes**

Methodist people will:

- Regularly practise and experience lay testimony as a key dimension of worship and discipleship.
- Be better able to encounter, form relationships with, and invite new people in their communities.
Table 2: Five-year funding requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Embedding a Culture of Testimony</td>
<td>£50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipping the Whole Church for Evangelism</td>
<td>£250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and Releasing Dedicated Evangelists</td>
<td>£400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist National Evangelistic Witness</td>
<td>£375,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,075,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Programmes:

➢ Embedding a Culture of Testimony

**Description:** Sharing testimony – our stories about being part of God’s story – praises God, increases our experience of God, builds participation in the Body of Christ, and describes faith to new people. Drawing on 2019/2020 Year of Testimony (called for by 3Generate and Methodist young people) and the launch of The Story Project, Embedding a Culture of Testimony provides individuals and churches with continuing resources and encouragement to build public testimony into worship and the whole of church life.

**How to engage:** Individuals will be able to access practical guidance on how to develop testimony through online and print resources. Events will be held to help individuals and churches prepare. Churches will be encouraged to promote these resources and events as they commit to experimenting with testimony in a sustained way, eg throughout an entire season.

**Funding:** Funding will be devoted to resources and events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020/2021</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021/2022</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022/2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023/2024</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2024/2025</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funding</strong></td>
<td><strong>£50,000</strong></td>
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</table>

➢ Equipping the Whole Church for Evangelism

**Description:** Equipping the Whole Church for Evangelism focuses on helping all Methodists to develop theological rooting, spiritual confidence, and practical skills for sharing faith sensitively and effectively in their networks and communities.
How to engage: Districts, Circuits, and churches will be able to access a foundational training package for local use, planning help for hosting training and outreach events, and trainer presence for such events.

Funding: Funding will be devoted to developing training materials, hosting events, and trainer costs.

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<td>£50,000</td>
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Total funding £250,000

Training and Releasing Dedicated Evangelists

Description: While all are called to be evangelists, some lay people and ministers have particular spiritual giftings for evangelism. Training and Releasing Dedicated Evangelists will establish an ongoing programme of robust training and learning communities to raise up, challenge, and release theologically diverse leaders to engage evangelistically and apologetically with the diverse cultures of contemporary British society in creative and compelling ways.

How to engage: Any individual can apply at any time using the online application form to start the next season. District Chairs, Circuit Superintendents, District Mission Enablers, and Regional Learning Network Officers will identify individuals with calling, interest and/or promise, and encourage them to apply.

Funding: Funding will be devoted to training conferences, learning community gatherings, publicity, and creating training materials.

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<td>£90,000</td>
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Total funding £400,000

Methodist National Evangelistic Witness

Description: The Methodist Church should be known nationally as a Church that proclaims the saving good news of God for all and a Church for all. With apologetic sensitivity, cultural relevance, and a Methodist distinctiveness, we will build a National Evangelistic Witness at major events and festivals and alongside major issues of faith and society, which will connect to specific related evangelistic outreach in local communities.
How to engage: Individuals can offer to serve on the design team for the envisaged national campaign. Districts, Circuits, and churches will be able to access strategy and planning packages for planning parallel campaigns in their own contexts.

Funding: Funding will be devoted to project planning, creative resource and branding development, team training, event partnership/entry costs, and attendance at events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020/2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021/2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022/2023</td>
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<td>£100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2024/2025</td>
<td>£125,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£375,000</strong></td>
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</table>

Good news story: “I was with a group of young people and we were sharing stories about our lives. I was asking what people see when they look at us, what we will tell people if they ask, and what were our hopes and dreams for the future. One young person came out as LGBTQ and said they wanted to learn more about God every day. In a large plenary session I was leading, a woman shared a story from her life experience, which she’d shared in a small group of three. She’d been the first to speak in the “big group” and came up afterwards to say she didn’t know how she had found the confidence to speak, as she’s quite shy, but somehow she did. She was affirmed, uplifted, grew in confidence and glowed with satisfaction as a result of people’s laughter.” Barbara Glasson and Clive Marsh, President and Vice-President of the Conference 2019/2020

Quote: “I am passionate about evangelism because I long to see personal lives changed by the love and grace of God in Christ Jesus, who in turn influence society to make it just, fair, and equal for every person. Evangelism is an orientation to the Kingdom of God.” Richard Teal, President-designate of the Conference 2020/2021

Key connexional partners: Cliff College, Communications team, Engagement team

Key ecumenical partners: The Arthur Rank Centre, HOPE Together

Evangelism and Growth team staff contact for Everyone An Evangelist
Evangelism and Contemporary Culture Officer (to be appointed)

3. TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP #TransformationalLeaders

A renewed focus on evangelism and growth in the Methodist Connexion will necessarily involve a great deal of change – and great change requires great leaders. Like evangelism, leadership can be expressed faithfully in a variety of ways. Transformational leaders long to see their churches and communities flourish and start to look more like the kingdom of God.
4. God For All: The Connexional Strategy for Evangelism and Growth

This has its challenges, however: there is so much to do right now that it can feel impossible to think about the future. Transformational leaders are able to bring people together to pray, to seek God’s vision of a preferred future, and to work toward it as a team. They understand that change can cause conflict and non-reactively welcome it, hold it, and help the Church to address it graciously so that the conflict can be a meaningful part of transformation.

The Transformational Leadership strategic area of God For All is focused on deepening healthy, Christ-shaped use of prayer, power, servanthood, and influence in Christian communities to see God’s kingdom come. It aims to:

- Equip lay and ordained people to lead churches, Circuits, and Districts through change.
- Coach leaders and teams to move from vision into action.

Expected outcomes

- Church and circuit teams lead churches to embrace change skilfully and with confidence.
- Time, energy and money are used where they can reach the most people with God’s good news.
- Lay and ordained people have more energy and vocational fulfilment as they share the work and grow in discipleship.
- Leaders operate effectively within existing structures.

Table 3: Five-year funding requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transformational Leadership Learning Community</td>
<td>£275,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaching for Transformation</td>
<td>£300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Training for Transformational Leadership and Evangelism</td>
<td>£300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£875,000</strong></td>
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Programmes:

- **Transformational Leadership Learning Community**

Description: A programme of learning communities will be established. Teams of lay and ordained leaders who work together at church and/or circuit level will receive training, opportunities to dream and plan together, and regular coaching over a one- to three-year period. Twice a year they will gather with other teams for input from transformational leaders, mutual learning and accountability, and time set aside to create realistic and specific plans for positive action. This offers a shared learning experience as well as time carved out to identify with colleagues how to put their learning into practice.
How to engage: Any church or circuit team can apply at any time using the online application form to start the following year. District Chairs, District Mission Enablers, and officers in the Learning Network to identify church/circuit teams who would benefit and encourage them to apply. Churches/Circuits to release key leaders to set aside time to attend gatherings (two weekends a year) and work with coaches (once a month for 90 minutes).

Funding: Funding will be focused on training conferences and the establishment of learning communities.

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<tr>
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Total funding £275,000

> Coaching for Transformation

Description: Where it is not possible or appropriate to participate in the transformational leadership learning community with a church or circuit team, Coaching for Transformation offers ministers a year of monthly coaching as an important complement to the practice of supervision. The aim of this will be to accompany them through a transformation process in their Circuit or one of their churches, reflecting on their practice, setting concrete action goals, and troubleshooting any issues. Coaching will be provided in one of two ways. We will pay professional coaches to work with our people. We will also offer bursaries for Methodists who want to train as coaches in exchange for their offering free coaching to others.

How to engage: Ministers can approach the Evangelism and Growth team directly at any time to request a coach (and go on a waiting list if need be). The Evangelism and Growth team will actively encourage ministers whom it feels would benefit (eg Superintendent ministers) to consider coaching.

Funding: Funds will be focused on training ministers and employing professional coaches.

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Total funding £300,000

> Ministerial Training for Transformational Leadership and Evangelism

Description: Partnering with The Queen’s Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education and the Ministries: Vocation and Worship team, an appointment will be made of a full-time
tutor/officer in transformational leadership and evangelism for an initial five-year exploratory period. Working in concert with the Ministries: Vocation and Worship team, this tutor/officer will expand the work already being done at Queen’s in these areas by shaping the Mission and Evangelism module in initial ministerial training, inputting into the formational modules and projects undertaken as part of probation studies, building on the current provision of Community Organising training, and developing the focus of church placements. This tutor/officer will lead also in our continuing work to identify, equip, and train future leaders across the Connexion, who will serve as Superintendents, Chairs, Connexional Team members and in other key positions.

**Funding:** Funding will be focused on stipend/salary, housing, and on-costs of the tutor/officer.

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**Good news story:** Blaydon Methodist Church, a very small church in urban Gateshead (South West Tyneside Circuit, Newcastle District) experienced rapid growth due to the transformational leadership of a Methodist deacon. Tracey Hume led the church into many different forms of involvement in the local community, such as campaigning against benefit sanctions, giving out Christmas hampers, and providing space for community groups to meet. She built a team of mostly retired people as well as welcoming the involvement of those who were not yet members of the church. Tracey also led changes in Sunday worship, introducing a monthly café-style service with breakfast, crafts and discussion. Her leadership and the example she set of passionate engagement in the local community are key factors in the growth this church has experienced.

**Quote:** “I have come to believe that the single greatest detriment to our church going to the next level is not about facilities, new staff, or new ministry initiatives, though these are important issues, but rather how I lead.” Jorge Acevedo, United Methodist minister and Lead Pastor of Grace Church, Florida

**Key connexional partners:** The Queen’s Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education; the Children, Youth, and Family Ministry team; the Ministries: Vocation and Worship team

**Evangelism and Growth team staff contact for Transformational Leadership**
Emma Nash, Mission and Community Engagement Officer: nashe@methodistchurch.org.uk
Nigel Pimlott, Transformational Leadership Associate: transform@methodistchurch.org.uk
4. NEW PLACES FOR NEW PEOPLE #NewPlacesForNewPeople

New Places For New People are projects whose primary goal is to start, build, and reproduce new Christian communities among unaffiliated people. These include church plants, pioneering communities of faith, fresh expressions, missional communities, and other new faith communities in rural, estate, urban, inner city, suburban, and village contexts. New Places for New People are the most effective means of connecting new people, new groups, and new residents to Christian exploration and community. In addition, they bring learning from experimental ‘research and development’, identify and strengthen emerging leaders, and help the whole Church reflect on and examine its calling.

The New Places For New People strategic area of God For All is focused on equipping the Methodist Church to plant and pioneer, grow, and reproduce new Christian communities among unaffiliated people. It aims to:

● Centre starting new Christian communities as a normal and prioritised practice of district and circuit mission/strategy.
● Support diverse pioneering models and planting approaches that share a common practice of building relationships with and discipling new people right where they are, taking missional risks, and growing ecclesial communities.
● Help existing churches experiment with fresh expressions of church.
● Develop a robust discernment and training pathway for pioneers and planters.

Expected outcomes

● Every District will launch at least one significant, sustainable, and replicating New Places For New People project that will inspire, influence, and shape future projects across the Circuits of the District.
● 80% of Circuits will fund, support, and resource a New Places For New People project with the goal of growing ecclesial communities that plant a second community within the first five years.
● The Methodist Pioneering Pathway becomes a thriving constellation of 300+ diverse planters, pioneers, and those exploring pioneering and planting that is trusted across the Connexion to staff and resource the flourishing movement of New Places For New People.
Table 4: Five-year funding requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships with Districts and Circuits to Plant New Churches</td>
<td>£5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanding the Methodist Pioneering Pathway</td>
<td>£900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiplying Fresh Expressions</td>
<td>£715,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£6,615,328</strong></td>
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Programmes:

➣ **Partnerships with Districts and Circuits to Plant New Churches**

**Description:** Working in close partnership with Districts, the Evangelism and Growth team will provide accompaniment in prioritising New Places For New People in district mission policies, support in developing a particular and contextual strategy for new Christian communities in Circuits across the District, and a programme of significant match-funding enabling every District over the next three years (2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023) to plant at least one strategically significant New Places For New People project, which will subsequently model and effect future planting/pioneering practice. These match-funded strategic, significant district projects will be places of learning and training that encourage and equip future planting in Circuits. Flowing from district commitments, within five years, by 2025/2026, every Circuit will prayerfully consider the geographical area or human population from which a new church can be planned, funded, and staffed, and will take steps to launch.

**How to engage:** Districts will self-select into one of the first three years of this partnership (2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023) based on their official living mission strategy, missional readiness, identification of planting context and readiness to plant, and current human and financial assets. A robust application process in which Districts work closely in partnership with Circuits and the Evangelism and Growth team will ensure (1) funded projects meet essential criteria identified from fruitful practices in pioneering and planting and (2) future circuit applications are aligned.

**Funding:** Funding will be focused on significant, coordinated, strategic grants to Districts and their Circuits.

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<td><strong>£5,000,000</strong></td>
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Expanding the Methodist Pioneering Pathway

**Description:** Expanding the Methodist Pioneering Pathway is a multi-levelled commitment to clarify, strengthen, and expand this foundational community of pioneering discernment, training, and reflection so that it can support the flourishing New Places For New People movement in the Methodist Church.

The Methodist Pioneering Pathway will offer:

- **A clear, understandable, and accessible pathway** with defined entry points, an articulated direction of travel, training resources, and reflective communities of practice. It will include the following legs of the pathway:
  
  - **Calling:** discernment and exploration of individual pioneer calling, interest, and giftedness.
  
  - **Equipping:** practice and theology for pioneers, including an entry-level Pioneer/Planter short course, EDI training, core skills, and cross-context tools.
  
  - **Planting:** focused planning, praying, strategy, and guidance for the work of sustainably planting a particular New Places For New People/Church at the Margins community.
  
  - **Coaching:** matching for every planter/pioneer in active planting/pioneering with a coach who has hands-on experience of planting/pioneering.
  
  - **Connecting:** National, regional, and virtual communities of learning for practitioners.

- **Church Planting Intensive:** A regularly-offered, multi-day intensive training experience with a bias for action, contextual reflection, and planning for planters and planting teams in the first season of a significant project will ensure that New Places For New People projects have the best chance of reaching sustainability and maturity.

- **Planter/Pioneer Recruitment:** Focused campaigns in and outside of the Methodist Church will create a culture of invitation to planting/pioneering and connect emerging and experienced pioneers to New Places For New People projects.

- **Coaching:** Intentional relationships will be fostered between planter and coach towards conversations that empower the planter to fully live out God’s calling, reflect on context and draw out possibilities, prioritise engaging new people, and clarify concrete next steps with a bias for action.

- **Curating and Measuring the Movement:** Telling stories of faithful risk from diverse New Places For New People projects will inspire others to take missional risks. Developing metrics that measure effectiveness in honest, non-distorting ways will help the planting/pioneering teams doing the work. Both curating and measuring the right things will be crucial in order to understand how the New Places For New People movement is emerging and to develop a sound analysis and true narrative for future endeavours.
We must learn from the wisdom of new ecclesial communities that reach maturity and of faithful experiments that do not.

**How to engage:** Any individual, church, or circuit can investigate the pathway online and start the discernment process by filling out a questionnaire and then being connected for an initial conversation with the designated Methodist Pioneering Pathway staff person in the Learning Network.

**Funding:** Funding will be focused on hosting frequent training gatherings, the support of learning communities, and coaching.

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<tr>
<td><strong>Total funding</strong></td>
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<td>£135,000</td>
<td>£180,000</td>
<td>£225,000</td>
<td>£270,000</td>
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**Multiplying Fresh Expressions**

**Description:** Small, volunteer-led fresh expressions have already had a significant impact on the Methodist Church. Micro-grants will be available to churches and Circuits with limited financial resources that want to start new fresh expressions. In partnership with Fx Resourcing, the multiplier program will increase both the numbers and effectiveness of these projects. Six to eight teams in the early stages of beginning a fresh expression will join together around a shared focus on the fresh expressions journey, just-in-time training using the new Godsend app, learning communities, peer support, and expert coaching for a two-year period. By working with teams, not just with leaders, the programme will identify potential leaders for future projects and its impact will be much wider.

**How to engage:** Three to four Districts will begin the process in the connexional year 2020/2021. District Mission Enablers and Learning Network Officers will help to identify projects. Other Districts will be offered the opportunity to participate in subsequent years.

**Funding:** Funding will focus on micro-grants, facilitating community gatherings, and providing coaching, alongside supporting the ecumenical Fresh Expressions movement.

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<tr>
<td><strong>Total funding</strong></td>
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<td>£170,834</td>
<td>£115,000</td>
<td>£135,000</td>
<td>£150,000</td>
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</table>
Good news story: Locking Castle Church was begun in the 1990s as a four-partner ecumenical community on a new housing estate and is now a healthy viable church with its own building. Weston-Super-Mare continues to grow and, building on the positive experience of Locking Castle, each of the partners (Methodist, Anglican, Baptist, and URC) has either begun or is planning a new congregation on new estates as they are built. This is not addition but multiplication planting and pioneering in action.

Quote: “I’m thrilled that a commitment to developing ‘New Places For New People’ is gaining momentum across our Connexion. The strapline is new, but the priority it represents is as old as our movement. Methodism was born as people reached out in new ways to those who had not yet received the Gospel. I’m praying that every part of our church will work together to ensure that this priority once again shapes our patterns of ministry and our use of resources.” Leslie Newton, Chair of Yorkshire North and East District

Key connexional partners: The Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee; the Global Relationships Committee; the Engagement team.

Key ecumenical partners: Fresh Expressions Ltd; Church of England Gregory Centre for Church Multiplication; the Arthur Rank Centre.

Evangelism and Growth team staff contact for New Places for New People
Matt Finch, Pioneering and Church Planting Officer: finchm@methodistchurch.org.uk

5. CHURCH AT THE MARGINS #ChurchAtTheMargins

A distinct, crucial, and inextricably connected part of the New Places For New People strategic area is a commitment to be Church at – and from – the margins. The potential for transformation, new life, and new leaders exists in all marginalised communities. The Church must learn from and be led by our indigenous leaders, who already have deep knowledge and wisdom about their communities. From that leadership, people across socio-economic classes can imagine new ways of being Church and community together.

The Church at the Margins strategic area of God For All is focused on equipping the Methodist Church to steward the majority of planting and pioneering resources with a faithful and preferential bias for people and communities experiencing marginalisation. It aims to:

- Start a movement of new Christian communities led by those at the margins.
- Work alongside people experiencing poverty to deepen community engagement.
- Build on the biblical connection between evangelism and social justice.
Expected outcomes

- A significant increase in the number of Circuits and churches directly involved in seeking justice and community organising in their localities.
- New Christian communities strategically seeded, led, and rooting amongst the marginalised areas of every District.

Table 5: Five-year funding requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church at the Margins</td>
<td>£6,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for Shared District Staffing</td>
<td>£2,150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£8,650,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Programmes:

➢ **Partnerships with Districts and Circuits to Start Church at the Margins New Christian Communities**

**Description:** Working in close partnership with Districts, the Evangelism and Growth team will provide accompaniment in prioritising Church at the Margins in district mission policies, support in developing a particular and contextual strategy for new Church at the Margins Christian communities in Circuits across the District, and a programme of significant match-funding enabling every District over the next three years (2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023) to plant at least one strategically significant Church at the Margins new Christian community, which will subsequently model and effect future engagement and practice. These match-funded strategic, significant district projects will be places of learning and training that encourage and equip future planting in Circuits. Flowing from district commitments, within five years, by 2025/2026, every Circuit will prayerfully consider the geographical area or human population from which a new Church at the Margins Christian community can be planned, funded, and staffed, and will take steps to launch.

**How to engage:** Districts will self-select into one of the first three years of this partnership (2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023) based on their official living mission strategy, missional readiness, identification of planting context and readiness to plant, and current human and financial assets. A robust application process in which Districts work closely in partnership with the Evangelism and Growth team will ensure that (1) funded projects meet essential criteria identified from fruitful practices in pioneering and planting and (2) future circuit applications are aligned.
Funding: Funding will be focused on significant, coordinated, strategic grants to Districts and their Circuits.

- Five years of match funded Church at the Margins projects costing £6,250,000.
- Support Local Churches to engage with issues of justice in their communities, costing £50,000 per annum.

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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total funding</strong></td>
<td>£6,500,000</td>
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Staffing

Description: Offering district funding for shared New Places For New People/Church at the Margins coordinating staff to support groups of Districts working together. Appointing two full-time Project Officers to oversee project management in this major expansion of pioneering and planting and to help design, implement, and manage development systems for metrics, narratives, and other data.

Funding:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>£430,000</td>
<td>£430,000</td>
<td>£430,000</td>
<td>£430,000</td>
<td>£430,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funding</strong></td>
<td>£2,150,000</td>
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</table>

Good news story: Freedom Community Project (Bolsover and Stavely Circuit, Sheffield District) helps homeless people find housing, provides long-term support for people struggling with addiction, offers counselling on mental health, benefits, debt issues – and is discipling people and creating Christian community in the midst of it all.

Quote: “I want to be part of a Church that offers hope even in a credit crunch, welcomes asylum seekers, throws parties for prostitutes, longs and works for justice, listens to those no one else wants to listen to, believes in transformation not preservation, makes and nurtures disciples of Jesus; where every person takes responsibility for sharing the Good News.” Deacon Eunice Attwood, Vice President of the Conference 2010/2011 and designated Church at the Margins Officer.

Key connexional partners: The Global Relationships team; Methodist Diaconal Order; Methodist City Centre Network; Pioneers/Planters in marginalised communities
Key ecumenical partners: The Joint Public Issues Team; Church Action on Poverty; the Arthur Rank Centre

Evangelism and Growth team staff contact for Church at the Margins:
Eunice Attwood, Church at the Margins Officer (from September 2020)

6. EVERY CHURCH A GROWING CHURCH  #EveryChurchGrowing

Churches which build real relationships in their communities, prioritise making new disciples, and steward their time, energy, and money to reflect these priorities, will grow. They will experience spiritual growth, missional growth, and, the great majority of the time, numerical growth.

The Every Church A Growing Church strategic area of God For All is focused on equipping Districts, Circuits, and churches who want to grow and are willing to change in order to grow. It aims to:

- Enable every Circuit and church to write and implement a living mission plan.
- Empower every church to build local community relationships.
- Embed the core practices of growing churches throughout the Connexion.

Expected outcomes

- More Methodist churches growing than declining, ie 22% or 940 churches move from decline or stasis into growth.
- Every Methodist church aiming to see people encounter God and grow as disciples of Jesus, including those who are coming to faith for the first time (even if this growth happens within overall decline).
- Every Methodist church releasing resources for mission.

Table 6: Five-year funding requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission Hubs</td>
<td>£370,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Planning Training and Grants</td>
<td>£500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership with Leading Your Church into Growth</td>
<td>£30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core practices of growing churches</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£900,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Programmes:

➤ Mission Hubs

Description: Churches, Circuits, Districts, or Methodist organisations involved in significant, purposeful, sustained mission and intentional discipleship will be recruited to become ‘mission hubs’. These hubs will share their learning with others in the Methodist Connexion in order to encourage intentional mission activity in every Methodist church. By becoming exposed to approaches to mission and evangelism which may be unfamiliar and being encouraged to reflect on their experience, participants will be prompted to experiment and take risks in mission.

How to engage: Any individual or church/circuit/district team can sign up to attend a mission hub event – either a one-day event or an ‘immersive experience’ of several days. Visitors will be encouraged to apply their learning to their own context – to do something different as a result of their mission hub experience.

Funding: Mission hubs will only work if significant effort is put into publicising them and actively recruiting participants. Funding allows hubs to pay for admin support and/or to offset ministerial or lay worker time, and permits greater accountability between the hubs and the Evangelism and Growth team.

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<tr>
<td>£30,000</td>
<td>£60,000</td>
<td>£80,000</td>
<td>£100,000</td>
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</table>

Total funding £370,000

➤ Mission Planning Training and Grants

Description: Circuits will be inspired, equipped and incentivised to begin mission planning with a two-pronged strategy: district-based training days for Superintendents and circuit mission planning grants. District Chairs will be offered mission planning training sessions, to take place at Superintendents’ gatherings, in order to build skills and energy for mission planning. The aim will be to get to every District by 2025.

In addition, Circuits will be offered the opportunity to apply for small mission planning grants to kick-start a new mission initiative. This will incentivise circuit teams to set aside time for prayerful discernment, reflection and action planning. A consultant recruited and trained by the Connexional Team will also be allocated to provide help with mission planning. The grants will not be large enough to pay for any staffing needs but could be used for the purchase of equipment, the renovation of a meeting space, or for training courses for ministers, staff or
volunteers, for example. Wealthy Circuits that would not be eligible for a mission planning grant can still apply for a consultant’s help with mission planning.

**How to engage:** District Chairs to be approached by the Evangelism and Growth team to schedule mission planning training. Circuits can apply for a small mission planning grant of £500-£5,000 and/or consultant’s time.

**Funding:** The availability of lots of small grants will provide a prompt and incentive for a large number of Circuits to get started with mission planning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2020/2021</th>
<th>2021/2022</th>
<th>2022/2023</th>
<th>2023/2024</th>
<th>2024/2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
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<td>£100,000</td>
<td>£100,000</td>
<td>£100,000</td>
<td>£100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funding</strong></td>
<td><strong>£500,000</strong></td>
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</table>

- **Partnership with Leading Your Church into Growth**

**Description:** Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) is run by an ecumenical group of practitioners who seek to equip ordinary local churches to grow. They run conferences and training days which are open to groups from all Christian denominations, provide resources and work with Districts, Synods, Dioceses, and other denominational judicatories to promote numerical and spiritual growth in the Church. We will partner with LYCiG by block-booking their annual residential conference; by recruiting teams from Methodist Circuits to attend; by supporting those teams to see growth in their Circuits; and by entering a conversation with the LYCiG team about the specific context of Methodist churches.

www.leadingyourchurchintogrowth.org.uk

**How to engage:** Circuits can approach the Evangelism and Growth team directly at any time to request places (and go on a waiting list if need be). Evangelism and Growth team actively to recruit circuit teams for LYCiG whom we feel would benefit.

**Funding:** This funding will enable us to send four Circuits’ teams of five people per year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2020/2021</th>
<th>2021/2022</th>
<th>2022/2023</th>
<th>2023/2024</th>
<th>2024/2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>£6000</td>
<td>£6000</td>
<td>£6000</td>
<td>£6000</td>
<td>£6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funding</strong></td>
<td><strong>£30,000</strong></td>
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</table>
Core practices of growing churches

Description: We want to see fundamental culture change within the Methodist Church in Britain whereby decline is no longer the default expectation and doing things the way they have always been done is no longer an option. We want Methodist churches – of every theological location; large and small; urban, suburban, and rural; wealthy and cash-strapped – all engaging in meaningful community engagement and intentional evangelism in contextually appropriate ways.

How to engage: Core practices of growing churches will be communicated at every opportunity, such as on the Evangelism and Growth section of the Methodist Church website, at Synod presentations, via workshops offered at conferences and mission days.

Funding: Nothing extra – this will be woven into the work of existing Evangelism and Growth team members.

Good news story: Brighouse Central Methodist Church (Calderdale Circuit, Yorkshire West District) is involved in a range of community engagement initiatives, including a Music Academy that is now financially self-sustaining. The church has seen growth over the past five years, with around 80 new people joining, half of whom are under 40, and 28 fresh faith commitments expressed in adult baptism or confirmation. Some have been drawn by engagement in quality Sunday worship. Others have been impressed by the church’s engagement with poor and marginalised people in the community, such as through its food bank and its delivery of food packages during school holidays for children who receive free school meals.

Quote: “I do not for one second believe that God has done with the Methodist Church just yet, and I am not at all ready for the funeral.” Loraine Mellor, in her Presidential address to the Methodist Conference, 2017.

Key connexional partners: the Global Relationships and Property Development Committees.

Key ecumenical partners: Leading Your Church into Growth.

Evangelism and Growth team staff contact for Every Church a Growing Church
Emma Nash, Mission and Community Engagement Officer: nashe@methodistchurch.org.uk

7. YOUNG EVANGELISTS, PIONEERS AND LEADERS #YoungFaithLeaders

We know that faith commitment happens for many people when they are young. We want to become again a Church that is fuelled by the full participation of young people, so that their
imaginations and faith formation are nurtured and supported – but also so that the Church can be challenged and converted by them.

The Young Evangelists, Pioneers and Leaders strategic area of God For All is focused on helping the Methodist Church to prioritise faith formation and evangelism with children and young people and to equip children and young people as evangelists, pioneers, and leaders. It aims to:

- Challenge churches to help children and young people encounter Jesus Christ and to invest in experiential faith formation that is meaningful and relevant to their lives.
- Equip young people to engage and share faith with their peers and networks in a relevant and authentic way.
- Invite and welcome the gifts and perspectives of young people to transform the Church and the world.

**Expected outcomes**

- Every region of the Methodist Church will have a growing cohort of young evangelists equipped for building relationships and exploring faith with unaffiliated people.
- 25% of Methodist pioneers will be aged 18-35.
- The majority of Circuits will have a consistent discipleship programme for children and young people.

**Table 7: Five-year funding requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Evangelist Movement Training</td>
<td>£125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internships in Evangelism, Pioneering, and Leadership</td>
<td>£425,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£550,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Programmes:**

- **Young Evangelist Movement Training**

**Description:** An ongoing programme of in-person and online training will be established for young people who are exploring their identity and calling as evangelists, including training materials, learning communities, twice-yearly large gatherings, and concrete experiences of sensitive evangelistic practice at Methodist children and young people events.

**How to engage:** Individuals will use online forms to apply during the relevant application season. Youth and Children’s Workers, Ministers, District Chairs, District Mission Enablers,
and Learning Network Officers will identify young people who would benefit and encourage them to apply.

**Funding:** Funding will be focused on training gatherings, resources, and the establishment of learning communities.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>£25,000</td>
<td>£25,000</td>
<td>£25,000</td>
<td>£25,000</td>
<td>£25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funding</strong></td>
<td><strong>£125,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>£125,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>£125,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>£125,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>£125,000</strong></td>
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</table>

**Internships in Evangelism, Pioneering, and Leadership**

**Description:** Supporting the creation, refining, and significant expansion of internship or training programmes for young people that centre on starting new Christian communities, evangelism and faith sharing, and leadership for church renewal and change (e.g., The Cliff Year, Methodist Interns, Methodist Pioneering Pathway, Young Leaders Training, etc.)

**How to engage:** Using online forms during the relevant application season, any individual can apply for internships that start the following year. Youth and Children’s Workers, Ministers, District Chairs, District Mission Enablers, Learning Network Officers, and leaders at large youth and evangelism events to identify young people who would benefit and encourage them to apply.

**Funding:** Funding will be focused on internship costs.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>£85,000</td>
<td>£85,000</td>
<td>£85,000</td>
<td>£85,000</td>
<td>£85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funding</strong></td>
<td><strong>£425,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>£425,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>£425,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>£425,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>£425,000</strong></td>
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**Good news story:** Natalie Manning, a Cliff Year evangelist intern, was full of doubt as she went to 3Generate to engage intentionally with young people on the fringe of the event – dressed as a unicorn! She was surprised by what she experienced. One teenage boy was able to relate his story to Natalie’s story of moving home a lot and she was able to offer encouragement to him that God is everywhere and ahead of where we go. There was also a very excited young girl who rushed to show Natalie her unicorn t-shirt which said, “I’m born to sparkle”; they then had a conversation about how she is unique and precious in God’s eyes, too. Looking back on this, Natalie says “it was a really good experience to share what my faith means to me as I heard the young people’s stories.”
Quote: “I believe Jesus’s love is for all – for every community, for every language, and for every person. That’s the single most valuable truth of my Christian faith. Even when we didn’t know God and didn’t really care about God, God loved us! God doesn’t love us because we do things right or we do things wrong, God just loves us – God loved us first. Before you even start loving God, God already loves you.” Thelma Commey, Youth President of the Methodist Church 2019/2020

Key connexional partners: Children, Youth, and Family Ministry team; Cliff College

Evangelism and Growth team staff contacts for Young Evangelists, Pioneers and Leaders
Tom Donoghue, Cliff College Evangelist: t.donoghue@cliffcollege.ac.uk
Evangelism and Contemporary Culture Officer

8. DIGITAL PRESENCE: DIGITAL AGE MISSION #DigitalEvangelism

In the digital age of communication, the internet is our parish – particularly for younger generations who spend 15+ hours a day online but also for those who are isolated, housebound, or far from home. There is need for a digital and social media transformation in how the Church relates to iGen/Gen Z and all of those whose lives are inextricably connected in this way. Approaches are needed to online evangelism and Christian community that are not simply digital versions of those offline.

The Digital Presence strategic area of God For All is focused on igniting the Methodist Church to understand, explore, and innovate around what it means to be followers of Jesus in digital space. It aims to inspire and equip Methodists to:

- Embrace the internet as a crucial terrain for evangelism.
- Create online Christian communities to explore and expand faith.

Expected outcomes

- The majority of Methodist churches having simple, attractive, authentic websites and a regular social media presence.
- Digital gospel media campaigns awakening curiosity about God among unaffiliated people and connecting them to welcoming Methodist communities, both online and in person.
- Regular innovation events for creatives providing space and learning for experimenting with new e-forms of evangelism, communication, and community.
- Methodist leaders growing as public communicators, advocates, and catalysts for evangelistic and theological engagement, helping the Methodist Church to listen, learn, and articulate a relevant Gospel message for the public square.
4. God For All: 
The Connexional Strategy for Evangelism and Growth

Table 8: Five-year funding requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Social Media and Website Training</td>
<td>£125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Evangelism Campaigns</td>
<td>£375,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Pioneering and Innovation Initiative</td>
<td>£250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£750,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Programmes:

➤ Basic Social Media and Website Training

**Description:** The creation of a training platform, training team, and event roadshow that equips local churches in the basic and best practices for using digital space to reach their local communities; the development of an online channel with training videos, ideas, and basic online guidance hosted by a fresh face. The development of the “Find a Church Near Me” capacity on the Methodist Church website.

**How to engage:** Core resources will be found online on the Methodist Church website. Church/circuit/district teams can contact the connexional Communications team to plan and coordinate on-the-ground training for their contexts.

**Funding:** Funding will be focused on supporting training gatherings.

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>£25,000</td>
<td>£25,000</td>
<td>£25,000</td>
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</table>

➤ Digital Evangelism Campaigns

**Description:** Developing a yearly cycle of significant, far-reaching, and multiple-platform digital evangelism campaigns that speak creatively – in different seasons, to different people groups – to the wider world about God and engage unaffiliated people in conversations about spirituality and faith. Develop capacity for quick-response, focused campaigns that engage directly with emerging contemporary events, stories, and questions – including the arts, pop culture, and political life.
How to engage: Each season’s campaign materials, including core messages, images and videos, and basic guidance will be shareable on social media and accessible from the Methodist Church website.

Funding: Funding will be focused on creative development and the costs of targeted social media and online campaign placement.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£75,000</td>
<td>£75,000</td>
<td>£75,000</td>
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</table>

Total funding £375,000

Digital Pioneering and Innovation Initiative

Description: Forming a core working team of creatives and innovators with an accompanying extended network of practitioners that explores, shares learning, champions, designs experiments, runs events, and builds strategy for digital evangelism, including faith-sharing, online pioneering and Christian community formation, and digital discipleship trends.

How to engage: A description of the working team/network’s goals will be publicly available online and shared widely so that individuals can express interest and be recruited.

Funding: Funding will be focused on gatherings and seed costs for experiments.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£50,000</td>
<td>£50,000</td>
<td>£50,000</td>
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Total funding £250,000

Good news stories: The Story Project, a digital experiment in The Year of Testimony, has not only publicly showcased the rich diversity of stories of disciples across the Connexion, it has also begun to make a difference in Local Churches as well. One minister shared: “This project has already produced a change in the spiritual atmosphere of the church I look after, as church members have shared stories of God being with them in times of struggle and pain that haven’t necessarily been resolved yet.”

Also, an expanding digital presence for the contemplative prayer and imaginative spiritual meditation programme called Take Time is bringing people into experiential contact and transformational relationship with Jesus in unexpected places as diverse as prisons and music festivals.
**Quote:** “We live in an increasingly digital age and the opportunities are greater than ever for us to reach people with our message where they are: online. As a young adult, I believe our methods must change to reach my generation, and I’m passionate about equipping churches to use both websites and social media for this purpose. Now, more than ever, the church must strive to explore how we can use these digital tools for evangelism.” Elliot Crippen, Digital Communications Enabler, Yorkshire North and East District

**Key connexional partners:** the Communications team, Cliff College

**Key ecumenical partners:** The Christian Enquiry Agency

**Evangelism and Growth team staff contacts for Digital Presence**
Ali Johnson, Cliff College Digital Evangelist: a.johnson@cliffcollege.ac.uk
Evangelism and Contemporary Culture Officer (to be appointed)

**Section D – Funding summary, conclusion and resolutions**

**Funding summary**

In addition to the funding needs outlined in sections B and C, there are also current staffing and programme costs, already included in the existing Connexional Team budget. These are outlined below.

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>£542,581</td>
<td>£551,686</td>
<td>£560,955</td>
<td>£570,285</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total funding</strong></td>
<td><strong>£2,754,291</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The next table summarises the full funding requirements for the first five years of the *God For All* strategy.
Table 9:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Area</th>
<th>Five-year total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategy Events</td>
<td>£300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centred in God</td>
<td>£248,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone an Evangelist</td>
<td>£1,075,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformational Leadership</td>
<td>£875,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Places for New People</td>
<td>£6,615,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church at the Margins</td>
<td>£8,650,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Church a Growing Church</td>
<td>£900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Evangelists, Pioneers, and Leaders</td>
<td>£550,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Presence: Digital Age Mission</td>
<td>£750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current staffing and programme costs</td>
<td>£2,754,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£22,717,619</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*God For All* will be funded in the following ways:

- £2,754,291 represents the current staffing and programme costs, already in the existing Connexional Team budget.
- £1,500,000 per annum (£7,500,000 total) will be allocated from the Mission in Britain fund.
- £1,900,000 will be allocated from legacies left to MCB.
- £2,000,000 will be allocated from donations to MCB.
- A portion of the annual grant to Cliff College will be refocused, to deliver £350,000 towards the funding of the strategy.
- The Methodist Church Fund, Connexional Priority Fund, and Epworth Fund are all budgeted to be above their reserve levels at the end of 2021/2022. In line with the policy of reducing fund balances to reserve level, this £2,900,000 will be allocated to the strategy.
- The One Intern and One Programme Participants (OPPs) programmes (funded from the CPF and Epworth Fund respectively) will be refocused, delivering £2,000,000 towards the cost of the ‘Young Evangelists’ and ‘New Places for New People’ strategic areas.
- The remaining £3,313,328 of funding is yet to be identified.

**Review, reporting, and oversight**

As part of the connexional network of mutual accountability, the Evangelism and Growth team will coordinate regular (monthly, quarterly, and yearly) reporting and robust measurement streams, both qualitative and quantitative, for all key programmes in order to monitor progress, be attentive to emerging challenges and learning, and make strategic pivots in
the first seasons of the strategy. It will also report annually to the Conference and within the connexional year to the Methodist Council, Strategy and Resources Committee, Ministries Committee, and any other official body required by the Conference.

Conclusion

Over the past two years, there has been a growing enthusiasm for a deeply embedded commitment to evangelism and growth in the present and future life of the Methodist Church. We are grateful for the freshness of this commitment, but we know that it is the fruit not only of the past two years but much more of the past several decades of witness, wisdom, and leadership from so many who have come before: Fresh Expressions Missioners; Evangelism, Spirituality, and Discipleship staff; Venture FX Pioneers; District Missioners; and innumerable leaders in Circuits and churches across the Connexion. The shoots of life and hope that we are starting to see as a Connexion are growing in large measure because of the prayers prayed, visions cast, and seeds planted by those faithful people.

That awareness helps us claim the truth that this is long-term, life-long work. This strategy is not built on any quick fixes, magic resources, or short initiatives: it signals a direction of travel for deep gospel transformation not only for the next three to five years, but also for the long-term future of our mission and whole life together. This expansive strategy will require much soul-searching, courageous decision-making, and significant structural change in the years ahead. Left to our own power, this work will be exhausting and impossible. Dependent on the power of God, it might just be life and joy for the Church and the world alike.

***RESOLUTIONS

4/1. The Conference receives the Report.
4/2. The Conference agrees to the allocation of funds as outlined in the Report, and directs the Council to identify a source for the remaining funding yet to be identified.
4/3. The Conference agrees the programme plans as outlined in the Report, and directs the Council to monitor progress against the ‘Expected Outcomes’ annually, reporting back to the Conference on this in 2025.
Appendix: Description of Terms

We commend the beautiful and extensive theological reflection present in the Methodist catechism and many Conference reports including Called to Love and Praise. The following descriptions are offered as a shorthand for commonly used terms in this paper; they are meant to complement the official theological work of the Methodist Church in Britain.

Evangelism

Evangelism is sometimes referred to as “the E-word”. For a variety of reasons, some have been suspicious of it and reluctant to meaningfully engage it. This resistance, much of it understandable, may begin to be relieved by a fuller description of what we mean by “evangelism”.

At a foundational level, we hold that evangelism is an orientation to the good news in all of our life together. It is not limited to techniques or practices of inviting or speaking (though it includes those) but is a cross-current in every aspect of mission and ministry. Flowning from that general orientation, evangelism can then be understood as set of practices that introduces and inaugurates people into the kingdom of God for the first time (W Abraham, The Logic of Evangelism). A particular and particularly important practice of evangelism is intentionally proclaiming the goodness of God as known in the person of Jesus Christ. This proclamation involves three dynamics: (1) speaking of the goodness of God; (2) listening for the goodness of God in the voices of others; and (3) living out the goodness of God. Fully-engaged evangelism necessarily involves all three.

As we expand our commitment to evangelism across the Connexion, we look for these markers:

- Evangelism is an intentional orientation to the good news in all of life – not only our beliefs and ideas, not only our practices, not only our relationships, but a holistic integration of all three. Evangelism serves as the foundation and matrix of all of our discipleship – our living out, listening for, and speaking of the goodness of God. As such, evangelism is not merely a list of invitation techniques or communication skills but a way of reflecting on all we are and do as Church. If we are committed to authentic evangelism, we review our mission and ministry and ask, “How is this activity orientated to the good news (or not)”? Our crucial commitments to social justice, beautiful worship, small groups, youth and children’s work, property development, hospitality, etc., find deeper life with that question in mind and heart. (See Evangelism for Non-Evangelists, Mark Teasdale. IVP Academic: Grand Rapids, 2016.)
- Evangelism is thoroughly relational. It invites depth, vulnerability, curiosity, and joy in relationships between church participants themselves and between the Church and neighbours in its community.
● Evangelism seeks both to reach new people in new places and to convert nominal Christians in existing churches.
● Evangelism brings spiritual joy and spiritual growth to those who practise it.
● Evangelism is not theologically or strategically monolithic. It can be expressed in diverse ways across the broad theological/ecclesial/human spectrum. We value creating a tapestry of approaches rather than pitting approaches against each other.
● Evangelism always seeks to do good and to do no harm; it requires a positive, non-shaming commitment to build up gospel life in individuals and communities. Some understandably resist evangelism because the word conjures images of coercion, fear, shame, and judgmental attitudes. The Methodist Church absolutely rejects those kinds of destructive tactics. The word “evangelism” comes from a Biblical Greek word, ευαγγελιον, which literally means “good news”. So if we are properly evangelistic, we are committed to good news – not bad news – in all of our motivations, relationships, words, and actions.
● Evangelism is hyper-contextual, expecting different approaches for different people groups, eg for people who speak Christianity as a ‘first language’ and for those who, if they embrace Christianity for the first time, will be learning it as a ‘second language’. As evangelists, we need to learn new ‘languages’ too, as we listen with people in diverse contexts to discover why Christianity is good news for them, and commit to journey with and learn from each other.
● Evangelism resists false dichotomies and lives in the realm of the ‘both/and’. For example, the following commitments are faithfully held together:
   ● Church spiritual/missional growth and Church numerical growth
   ● Inviting people to church and creating new expressions of church and new relationships outside of the church building, in the community
   ● Evangelism and social justice
   ● Pointing to the Kingdom/expanding the ecumenical movement and starting/growing more particularly Methodist Christian communities
   ● Missio Dei and missio Ecclesiae: God’s Mission and Our Mission/The Church’s Mission
   ● Evangelism is energised by a synergy of our theological statements about God and our encounter with and experience of God.
   ● Evangelism is enhanced by learning from deep relationships with people of other faiths and of no faith.

Prayer

● Prayer is essentially about being in relationship with God, so that like Jesus we can say “Abba” to God. As God’s much-loved children we can respond by expressing our love and appreciation of God, by wanting to be honest about ourselves to God, by asking for things that we and others need, by uttering “sighs too deep for words” (Romans 8:26) or by simply being silent in the presence of the One who has called us into this relationship. Prayer is all these things and more.
Discipleship

- Discipleship is first of all our response to the God who calls us and draws us into the same kind of relationship which Jesus has with the One whom he calls “Abba”. It is about us growing into maturity as God’s children as we learn to open ourselves increasingly to the life and the Spirit of God. Discipleship requires us to work out that commitment as followers of Jesus in this world as we do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.
- A discipleship pathway involves all the ways in which a Christian community provides for its people to move from their first exploration or encounter with faith and with Church in the direction of ever-deepening Christian maturity. This requires those various ways of challenging and supporting people’s growth to be intentionally planned, communicated, and organised so that they contribute to an ongoing process of development as disciples of Christ. A discipleship pathway will offer entryways both to newcomers and to those who have a longstanding involvement in Church.

Church growth

- Church growth patterned on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit is not a capitalistic enterprise of addition for the sake of addition. It is a process of grace, honesty, letting go even into death, and focused attention that effects deeper spiritual and missional growth. While faithful church growth is not obsessed with numerical growth, it is absolutely attentive to it because numbers represent people. We want to see more people exploring faith and encountering grace, more people coming to a living faith in Jesus Christ, more people growing in faith and discipleship, and more people becoming committed members of Methodist churches. For this reason, we welcome and celebrate the growth of every relationship and gathering which represents a step on that journey.

New Places For New People

- New Places For New People are projects whose primary goal is to start, build, and reproduce new Christian communities among unaffiliated people. These include church plants, pioneer projects, Fresh Expressions, missional communities, new worshipping communities, etc.

Pioneering and Planting

- These terms are often used interchangeably to refer to the process of starting a new Christian community, which involves the adventure of building relationships with unaffiliated people, listening for and discovering God’s call in a particular community, learning to speak compellingly and sensitively about the gospel in that context,
evangelism, casting vision and drawing people together in teams around vision and mission, discipling people into faith, and forming an ecclesial community or church. Described distinctives between these terms often have to do with approach (pioneering might start with one person beginning a completely new faith community with an innovative or unexpected form of church; planting might start with groups of people beginning a new community that replicates or adapts an existing form of church) and “cultural distance” (pioneers may be understood to venture further than church planters into communities, people groups, and subcultures with greater distance from “meaningful engagement of the Gospel”). We understand both terms to be foundationally about helping unaffiliated people encounter God, creating pathways for discipleship, and building new Christian communities that grow towards being ecclesial communities.

Fresh Expression

- Small organic forms of church, often lay-led, that seek to listen to people and enter their culture, serve those outside the reach of the existing church, make discipleship a priority, and intentionally form church.

Missional or neo-monastic community

- A small group of people who identify as an intentional, committed Christian community and who unite and share life together around a common calling to service and witness to a particular neighbourhood, human population, or network of relationships. They often have a rule or pattern of life or practice that is marked by prayer, communal life, hospitality, and practical engagement with people who are poor or marginalised.

New worshipping community

- A term which could encompass any of the above terms, but also may refer to a new kind of worship gathering or service within an existing church, or a parallel congregation that starts with a conscious connection to the ministry of an existing church, whether it meets in the same space or a different space as that church.
A. Future Conferences

The Methodist Council is required to print annually the plan for the locations of future meetings of the Conference. The venue is shown where known.

2021 Birmingham (24 June – 1 July)

***RESOLUTION

5/1. The Conference adopts the Report.

B. Associate Members

***RESOLUTION

5/2. The Conference invites the following Conferences, Churches and Christian bodies to appoint associate members of the Conference in 2021:

- The Church of England
- The United Reformed Church
- The Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales
- The Scottish Episcopal Church
- The Russian Orthodox Church
- The Cherubim and Seraphim Council of Churches

Africa:
- Eglise Méthodiste du Togo
- Methodist Church Nigeria
- Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
- Iglesia Metodista de Guinea Ecuatorial
- Methodist Church Southern Africa

Asia/Pacific:
- Church of South India
- Methodist Church Sri Lanka
- Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga
- Church of Pakistan
- Methodist Church in Malaysia
Europe:
Two of the following UMC partners: UMC Central & Southern Europe, UMC Northern Europe & Eurasia, Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche
Igreja Evangelica Metodista Portuguesa
Opera per le Chiese Evangeliche Metodiste in Italia (OPCEMI)
Iglesia Evangelica Española

Latin America and the Caribbean:
Methodist Church in Brazil
Iglesia Metodista en Cuba
Iglesia Metodista de Mexico
Iglesia Metodista del Uruguay
Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas

C. Presbyteral Session

1. The Presbyteral Session defines by resolution who may normally be present at closed sessions. Attendance when it sits as a court of appeal is governed by Standing Order 1145(7).

2. For the sake of accuracy, it is desirable that the Presbyteral Session delegates to the Representative Session the responsibility for adopting the Record of its Sessions, thus allowing time for members to check its details.

***RESOLUTIONS

5/3. (Presbyteral Session) The Presbyteral Session of the Conference resolves that whenever it goes into closed session its membership, except when Standing Order 1145(7) applies, or the Conference otherwise resolves, shall be confined to presbyters who are entitled to vote on the business under consideration, with the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice and Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee in attendance as appropriate.

5/4. (Presbyteral Session) The Presbyteral Session of the Conference delegates to the Representative Session the adoption of the printed and written portions of the Daily Record for both days of its meeting.

5/5. (Presbyteral Session) The Conference directs that the total time available for the Presbyteral Session of the Conference of 2021 shall not be less than eight hours.
5/6. (Presbyteral Session) The Conference invites the Vice-President of the Conference of 2020/2021 to attend the Presbyteral Session of the 2021 Conference, apart from any closed sessions, with the right to speak but without a vote.

5/7. In accordance with Standing Order 105(1A) the Conference directs that the following Districts shall each elect at least one deacon to be a member of the Conference of 2021:

Birmingham, East Anglia, Manchester and Stockport, Newcastle upon Tyne, Lancashire, Nottingham and Derby, Northampton, Southampton, Yorkshire West, Bedfordshire Essex Hertfordshire, London, South East.

Reserves: Wales Synod, Plymouth and Exeter, Yorkshire North and East
6. Special Resolution

Contact name and Details
Richard Hood, Interim General Counsel and Company Secretary
hoodr@methodistchurch.org.uk

Special Resolution submitted by the 2019 Conference to the Methodist Council under Standing Order 126(1)(c)

Under Standing Order 126, special resolutions of the Conference require to be confirmed the following year after appropriate consultation before they can become effective. For the purpose of consultation, they are either referred to the Methodist Council (unless moved on the Council’s behalf, in which case they are referred to the Law and Polity Committee) or dealt with as provisional legislation under Standing Order 122 and submitted to the Synods and the Law and Polity Committee.

The bodies consulted may approve or disapprove the resolution but may not amend it.

The 2019 Conference referred one such resolution to the Methodist Council. The background information and proposed amendments to the Model Trusts and Deed of Union are set out below.

1. The Law and Polity Committee has noted, following communication from the Charity Commission, that there were examples across the Connexion of managing trustees being appointed to paid roles and/or as lay employees without the consent of the Charity Commission having been obtained. At the moment should any managing trustee body wish to appoint one of its trustees to a paid role it would be necessary, in the Charity Commission’s view, to obtain its consent (or potentially the consent of another relevant authority if outside England and Wales) before being able to make such an appointment. It should be noted that reference to a ‘paid role’ within this section does not include a minister who is being appointed to an appointment within the control of the Church. This section is mainly concerned with managing trustees or persons connected with them being appointed as lay employees within a Local Church, Circuit or District.

2. A charity may, however, at least in England and Wales, include within its governing documents a power to appoint charity trustees or a connected person to a paid role for the charity without the need to obtain Charity Commission consent so long as conflicts (particularly when voting) are appropriately managed. The amendments below propose the inclusion of such a power in the Model Trusts. The opportunity has also been taken to make clear that an existing employee who becomes a managing trustee is entitled to retain the benefit of any improvements in his or her terms and conditions of employment made subsequently, and to clarify the position in relation to ministers.
3. Finally, the opportunity has been taken to propose the inclusion of an express power for managing trustees to engage in transactions with one of their number or a connected person, while recognising expressly that such transactions require the authority of the Charity Commission in England and Wales and may require the authority of a regulator in other jurisdictions.

4. It is proposed to amend the Deed of Union so that the same provisions apply when the business under consideration is not Model Trust business.

5. There is clearly the potential for many members of the Conference to have a conflict of interest when exercising their vote in respect of the proposed amendments to the Model Trust and Deed of Union. Details on how any conflicts will be managed when voting at the Conference will be contained within a report of the Conference Law and Polity Sub-Committee.

6. The proposed amendments to paragraphs 2 and 16 of the Model Trusts and insertion of a new Trusteeship section and new clause 42A to the Deed of Union are special resolutions and will therefore need to be submitted to the Methodist Council for approval or disapproval in accordance with SO 126(1)(c).

Model Trusts

2 Managing trustees. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Part of this Schedule, so long as any model trust property or any part thereof shall be held, used or applied so as to fall within any category mentioned below, the managing trustees of such property or such part thereof shall be the body of persons or the person or persons (or such of those persons as shall have attained full age) specified immediately after such category as follows:

(a) – (e) [unchanged]

(2) Employees of managing trustees may become members of the body constituting those trustees ex officio or by election or appointment on the same basis as if they were not employees and may retain any increased benefits resulting from a subsequent change or changes to their terms of employment as if they were not trustees.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, a person may be a trustee and exercise trustee functions under sub-paragraph (1) above notwithstanding the fact that he or she is a minister, exercises those functions as part of his or her ministerial responsibilities and is also in receipt of a stipend and other benefits as a minister.

16 General powers of managing trustees. (1) Subject to any statutory restriction and to the provisions of this Schedule, the managing trustees may –
6. Special Resolution

(a) – (o) [unchanged]

(p) subject to compliance with Standing Orders as to conflicts of interest:

(i) employ or engage the services of any managing trustee or connected person at remuneration and on terms not more preferential than would be accorded to a member of the public with the same qualifications and experience;
(ii) subject to any obligation to obtain a necessary consent, buy or sell land or goods from or to any managing trustee or connected person on terms not more preferential than would be accorded to a member of the public for the same transaction.

(2) In sub-paragraph (p) the expression “connected person” has the meaning given by section 188 of the Charities Act 2011 and the expression “necessary consent” means:

(i) in England and Wales, the consent of the Charity Commission if required by statute;
(ii) in other jurisdictions, the consent of any person or body whose consent is required under the law of the relevant jurisdiction.

Deed of Union

Section 10A Trusteeship

42A Benefits to trustees. The provisions of paragraphs 2(2) and (3) and 16(1)(p) and (2) of the Model Trusts shall apply, with any necessary changes, to all Church Courts and their members when acting as charity trustees, notwithstanding that they may not be transacting Model Trust business.

The Methodist Council approved the Resolution.

***RESOLUTION

6/1. The Conference confirms the amendments to the Model Trusts and the Deed of Union as set out above.
### Contact name and details
Ruby Beech,  
Chair of the Connexional Allowances Committee  
beechr@methodistchurch.org.uk

### Resolutions
- **7/1.** The Conference receives the Report.
- **7/2.** The Conference adopts the Report and the recommendations in sections 1, 2 and 3.

### Summary of Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject and aims</th>
<th>The report covers the Committee’s established portfolio of matters related to stipends, allowances and other financial provisions, grants made and its other activities.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Main points      | Section 1 covers stipends, allowances above stipend and other allowances, fees, rates and expenses for 2020/2021.  
Section 2 reports on the funds and trusts managed by the Committee.  
Section 3 summarises other work and activities in which the Committee has been and will be involved. |

### Summary of Impact

| Financial | Paragraphs 1.3 and 1.4, on stipends and allowances above stipend, impact Circuits and other employing bodies, though the figures have been published in advance for budget purposes.  
Paragraphs 1.17 and 1.18 on sabbaticals and computers in ministry impact Circuits and other employing bodies and again the figures have already been published.  
Paragraph 1.26 on the living wage impacts any body within the Church which employs lay people. |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
The Connexional Allowances Committee’s report to the 2020 Conference covers the customary update on stipends and allowances, includes progress reports on other work and activities in which the Committee has engaged, and is presented with the approval of the Methodist Council.

The report is divided into three sections, as follows.

2. Report on Funds and Trusts within the Committee’s remit.
3. Other matters of report from the Committee.

The Committee’s new recommendations this year are highlighted in the text.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES 2020/2021

1.1 The Committee makes the following recommendations, taking into account past resolutions of the Conference on Stipends and Allowances and data available from HM Government.

Standard stipend

1.2 The resolutions of the 2012 Conference fixed the stipend increase formula for the period until 31 August 2015 and were renewed for periods of three further years by the Conferences of 2015 and 2018. The formula will therefore be used until 31 August 2021 and reviewed in the year 2020/21.

1.3 Using the index numbers published in October 2019, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) movement for the period September 2018 to September 2019 was +1.7% and the Average Weekly Earnings Index movement for the period August 2018 to August 2019 was +3.6%; the average of these is 2.7%. In accordance with the decision on the stipend review formula by the 2018 Conference (as in paragraph 1.2), the annual standard stipend for the year beginning 1 September 2020 is therefore increased by 2.7% to £25,524 (rounding up to the next highest figure divisible by 12), to give a monthly stipend of exactly £2,127.

Additional allowances

1.4 The following allowances are applied for ministers for 2020/2021, in the light of the decisions taken by the 2018 Conference. Whilst it is anticipated that the percentages will apply for the foreseeable future, these amounts are for 2020/2021, based on the standard stipend in paragraph 1.3. The implementation timescale was set in 2018 as follows: where the new scale of allowances gave a
postholder an increase it was applied from 1 September 2019; existing postholders whose allowances decreased retained the previous percentage until the term of their appointment ends; those newly appointed from 1 September 2019 onwards receive the new allowances percentage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role, post or office held</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The President of the Conference</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Secretary of the Conference</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connexional Secretary (see paragraph 1.5)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated District Chair</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synod Secretary (see paragraph 1.6)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal of Training Institution</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other ministers in appointments as defined in paragraph 1.7</td>
<td>0, 10 or 20</td>
<td>0, 2,552 or 5,105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.5 This category includes the Assistant Secretary of the Conference and, when the posts are held by ministers, the Connexional Secretary and the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice.

1.6 The 2016 Conference agreed that the Synod Secretary’s allowance be gradually withdrawn. It is retained by existing incumbents until their appointment ceases but does not apply to new appointments.

1.7 This category includes ministers serving in the Connexional Team or stationed to appointments within the control of the Methodist Council, staff members of Training Institutions, and the Deputy Warden of the MDO. As per the decision of the 2018 Conference, these allowances will be allocated by the Remunerations Committee, having regard to the lay salary structure for such (or comparable) posts.

1.8 In addition to the above allowances related to roles, the Committee affirms that the allowances and other financial provisions agreed by the 2016 Conference based on location continue to apply. These include an additional allowance of 16% of stipend for all ministers stationed in the Shetland Islands, the Scilly Isles, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

1.9 The Committee advises that the provision made in its report to the 2016 Conference (page 50, paragraph 20) in respect of the Malta appointment (which was invoked during the year 2016/2017, following the Brexit referendum) and consequent fall
in the value of the pound sterling against the euro, remains in place. The same arrangement was applied to the Rome appointment, for the same reason, as from 1 September 2017. These situations will continue to be kept under review.

**Relocation allowance**

1.10 The Committee recommends that the maximum allowance payable by the receiving Circuit (or other responsible body) to ministers upon moving manse remains at £600. In the case of two ministers sharing the same manse, it is one payment of £800. It is clarified that this payment is in addition to the full cost of travel and removals, as defined in SO 528. Receipts must be provided – otherwise this is a taxable benefit.

1.11 The Committee affirms the decision of the 2015 Conference, through Notice of Motion 103, to the effect that this relocation allowance shall also apply to ministers (in appointments in the control of the Church) upon becoming supernumeraries. The costs shall be met from the Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons (FSPD), as are their removal costs. It is affirmed that this provision made be invoked once only, in situations (increasingly) where supernumerary ministers move and continue in active work before final retirement.

1.12 The Committee affirms that this provision applies to the widows or widowers of ministers who die in service upon their removal to their new home, in addition to the payment of their removal costs.

**Travel allowances**

1.13 The Committee continues to recommend that the maximum rates as prescribed by HMRC’s ‘approved mileage allowance payment scheme’ (AMAP) be observed. If alternative mileage rates exceeding those allowed by the appropriate tax authority are paid locally then it is necessary for this income to be declared to the tax authority and it will give rise to a tax liability on the individual concerned. It is emphasised that this should be regarded as a personal liability – involving the individual and HMRC – and not require handling by the Church’s officers, centrally or locally. Any changes to HMRC approved rates will be considered by the Committee and presented to the Conference for approval before implementation, so as to avoid unexpected cost increases mid-year.

1.14 The Committee continues to remind the Methodist Church of our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint, and wishes to encourage people to use public transport and share cars wherever possible.

1.15 The following travel expense rates will apply to ministers, supernumeraries, lay employees in churches, Circuits and Districts and lay volunteers:
7. Connexional Allowances Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Allowance Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car: up to 10,000 miles</td>
<td>45p per mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over 10,000 miles</td>
<td>25p per mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycle</td>
<td>24p per mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>20p per mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional passenger rate</td>
<td>5p per mile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.16 The Committee recommends that the travel allowance (taxable) for ministers during a time of sickness remains at £315 for each complete period of three months. It is further clarified that this grant applies during periods of recuperation from ill health for up to one year.

Sabbatical expenses and levy

1.17 The Committee affirms that the sabbaticals annual levy is maintained at £100 and the maximum expense level retained at £1000, following the decisions of the Conference of 2018. It is envisaged that both levy and expense levels will be sustained until 2021-22. The Connexional Allowances Committee will continue to monitor the financial position of the sabbaticals fund.

Computers in Ministry scheme

1.18 Following the adoption by the 2017 Conference of a revised Computers in Ministry scheme offering financial support to ministers, the Committee recommends that the allowance be increased to £169 for the year 2020/2021, ie by the same CPI % used in the stipend adjustment.

1.19 Student ministers beginning training, or, if they choose to wait, probationer ministers at the start of their first appointment receive an additional allowance of four times the annual amount. The first annual payment (as per paragraph 1.18) is made in the month of October at the start of ministry.

Initial grants and loans to ministers

1.20 In accordance with SO 804(2) in respect of loans and grants to ministers appointed “for the first time to a station in the home work” the Committee recommends that the maximum loan available amount continues to be set at £6,000, interest-free, repayable over a maximum of 5 years (ie £100 per month).

1.21 The 2015 Conference agreed to the Committee’s recommendation that, as from September 2016, a maximum flat-rate means-tested initial grant be set at the level of £3,000, and the Committee clarifies that this now applies irrespective of the age
of the minister as the circumstances in which the age limit was originally set have changed significantly. It is further clarified that this is instead of, and not additional to, the relocation allowance which applies to subsequent moves (as per paragraph 1.10). Therefore, receiving Circuits do not pay the relocation allowance to ministers in their initial appointment (though they do pay the travel and removal costs as per SO 528(2)).

1.22 During their active ministry, loans may be made to ministers but only in the most extreme and exceptional personal and financial circumstances. It is recommended that the same policy is used, ie a maximum of £6,000 repayable interest-free over a maximum of 5 years, unless there are specific reasons to offer a greater amount for a short period of time.

1.23 Whilst all loans and grants under this heading have historically been made from the Methodist Church Fund, the Committee has reviewed this and agreed that they will be made from the Fund for Support of Presbyters and Deacons (FSPD) from 2020/2021 in the same way that similar grants or loans are made at any other times during active ministry.

**Preaching fees and expenses for supernumerary ministers**

1.24 Circuits are reminded that it is their responsibility to pay preaching fees and expenses, even if and when churches assist with the preaching plan preparation: the church is only responsible for payment when the supernumerary minister preaches at the church by specific invitation, typically for a special occasion.

1.25 The 2019 Conference approved the recommendation of the Committee (1) that the principle of the supernumerary minister’s preaching fee be retained for the foreseeable future, (2) that the amount remain at £25 for two years until 31 August 2021, ie the end of the year 2020/2021 and (3) that the preaching fee amount be reviewed thereafter. **This section reflects the decisions also made by the 2019 Conference related to the report The Theology and Ecclesiology Underpinning the Diaconate and the Methodist Diaconal Order by moving to referring to supernumerary “ministers” rather than “presbyters”**.

**Lay employees recommended hourly rates**

1.26 The Committee advises that the latest Living Wage rates, published in November 2019 by the Living Wage Foundation (LWF), are **£10.75 per hour for London and £9.30 for all other regions**. The LWF figures, applicable to employees aged 18 years and over, will always be adopted as the Methodist Church’s recommendations. Methodist employing bodies are reminded of the resolutions of the 2010 Conference regarding the mandatory implementation of these rates.
1.27 The Committee reminds the whole Church of the resolution of the 2015 Conference that the implementation of the Living Wage is now mandatory in all but the most extreme and exceptional circumstances, and that all outstanding exceptions must continue to be reviewed by the appropriate District Policy Committee.

1.28 Further updated figures, expected to be announced by LWF in November 2020, will be published on the Methodist Church website, and can also be accessed on the LWF website which gives further relevant details: guidance on implementation timing was given in the Committee’s Report to the 2012 Conference.

2. REPORT ON FUNDS AND TRUSTS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE’S REMIT

2.1 The Committee acts as the Trustees for seven funds or trusts which are available to ministers, and may, in some cases, be used to give financial assistance to dependent close family members as well as themselves. The seven funds and trusts are:

- The Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons (FSPD), previously known as the Auxiliary Fund (of the Ministers’ Retirement Fund)
- The Methodist Ministers’ Children’s Relief Association (MMCRA)
- The Methodist Ministers’ Children’s Fund (MMCF, otherwise known as the Trinity Hall Trust – THT)
- The Methodist Medical Benevolent Fund (MMBF)
- The Benevolent Fund – Deaconesses (BFD)
- The Aspinall Robinson Trust (ART)
- The Auxiliary (Special Purposes) Fund (ASPF)

The Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons

2.2 The objects of the FSPD, ie the purposes for which its resources may be used, were widened by the decision of the 2011 Conference to amend SO 364(1). This has continued to prove a helpful move in enabling the Committee to offer financial support to those in need in a variety of circumstances (see 2.6).

2.3 While the Church continues to be immensely grateful for the generosity of donations to the FSPD, for some years there has been less emphasis on advocacy as its resources were regarded as more than adequate for its purposes. However, in the light of demands and the widening of its objects, the Committee continues the active advocacy of the fund within the Church and is always grateful to receive donations.

Methodist Ministers’ Children’s Fund (Trinity Hall Trust)

2.4 The maximum annual grant is £300 per child per year. In view of the positive annual balance of income over expenditure in the Fund, the Committee increased the
maximum qualifying household income level from 1.5 to 2 times standard stipend as from September 2018. This particularly benefits households in which both parents are ministers.

Analysis of grants from funds and trusts

2.5 The Committee gives summary information on the pattern of grant-making in its report to the Conference each year. We are pleased to do this, as below, for 2018/2019. Any differences between the grant expenditure totals given in this report and the audited accounts of the funds arise from the exceptional cases when grants are refunded, when they are no longer needed, or payments initially allocated from different funds or accounts or retrospective transfers are made between funds when grants are incorrectly allocated.

Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons

2.6 The FSPD is by far the largest of the funds and receives substantial income from donations and legacies as well as investments. It is used in a wide variety of ways in pursuit of its objects and in 2018/2019 made grants amounting to £545,746. In summary, these were distributed as follows, giving the number of grants in each category in brackets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of grants</th>
<th>Total amount (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants to enable ministers to continue in ministry and manse adaptations (39)</td>
<td>134,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants to ministers for acute financial emergencies (23)</td>
<td>71,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants for retired ministers health needs, nursing and residential care (14)</td>
<td>45,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal costs and relocation grants on retirement</td>
<td>147,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas gifts to widows and widowers (700+) and other miscellaneous grants</td>
<td>55,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants for own property expenses and general financial support (10)</td>
<td>57,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants to MMHS¹ for property acquisitions and special adaptations</td>
<td>35,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>545,746</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ This amount includes expenditure on properties owned by the FSPD and occupied by retired ministers and their dependants which MMHS manages on the Committee’s behalf.
Trinity Hall Trust

2.7 In 2018/2019, £21,154 was paid in grants to ministers to help fund costs of educational activities for their children. The table below shows the pattern of grant amounts to ministers in 2018/2019, noting that most were for £600 or less.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant amount in £s</th>
<th>Number of ministers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300 or less</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301-600</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>601-900</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>901+</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Methodist Ministers’ Children’s Relief Association

2.8 In 2018/2019 the MMCRA made grants amounting to £8,900 to 16 ministers and dependants to give financial help mainly to support the care of adult dependent children. This fund provides limited support from its income which relies on the collections made at District Synods. The Committee is grateful to the 23 District Synods who contributed £7,626 in 2018/2019.

Methodist Medical Benevolent Fund

2.9 In 2018/2019, the MMBF made 23 grants of varying amounts totalling £17,843 to 22 ministers and paid a further £25,790 to providers of various forms of counselling services. This fund provides support from within its income, derived mainly from investment, and it is used wherever the need is related to physical and mental health conditions. The Committee wishes the Conference to note again the sustained level of expenditure on counselling and related support for ministers, including while they are students and probationers.

Benevolent Fund – Deaconesses

2.10 In 2018/2019 no grants were made from this fund.

Aspinall Robinson Trust

2.11 In 2018/2019, 7 grants were made, for various purposes, amounting to £17,061 in total. The Committee asks the Conference to note that the Benevolent Fund – Deaconesses and the Aspinall Robinson Trust are always used when the beneficiary
is a deacon or the dependant of a deacon, as their objects and purposes mirror those of the FSPD.

**Auxiliary (Special Purposes) Fund**

2.12 In 2018/2019, two grants were made amounting to £20,584 in total. This fund provides for up to 50% of annual stipend to be paid to the spouse when a minister’s marriage breaks down or for specific expenditure to be reimbursed if the part-stipend is not requested. The Fund is well endowed to cater for all probable needs.

**3. OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE**

3.1 The Committee continues to engage in reviews of several topics for which it has responsibility and is grateful for the support of the Connexional Team staff, especially in the Finance, Human Resources & Development, Mission, Ministries and Conference offices, in all that they do.

3.2 As a result of discussions held during the year 2016/2017 with HMRC and the Church’s advisors on taxation the Committee and Finance officers are ensuring that policies and procedures related to allowances and grants are properly aligned with current HMRC regulations and guidelines. It is imperative that the Church is fully compliant in these matters and that their implementation is consistently achieved throughout the Connexion. The changes and clarifications required were communicated through the Quarterly Letter to ministers and circuit stewards and the standard grant application forms were amended as necessary. It is noted that this does not affect decisions to offer allowances or grants but applies only to their treatment for tax purposes.

3.3 The Committee keeps a record, for its own guidance and purposes, setting out the policies and precedents for dealing with the wide variety of these special requests for financial assistance. This enables the Committee always to be consistent and fair in the application of criteria for assessing need. The Committee is also called upon from time to time to advise on the interpretation of Standing Orders related to Circuits’ financial obligations and provisions for ministers in a rich variety of circumstances.

3.4 Part of the forward plan for the Committee is to consider how awareness of the grants available can be raised. This work will also include a review of the reserves position of the various funds and projections about future calls on the funds. The Committee recognises that the generosity of donors over the years has been crucial in supporting grant giving and that to be effective stewards of these resources means keeping the fund balances under review.
7. Connexional Allowances Committee

3.5 The Committee gratefully acknowledges a grant of £35,000 from a trust managed by TMCP to cover the Christmas gifts to ministers’ widows and widowers.

3.6 The Committee notes the resolutions of the Methodist Council following a review of the arrangements for ministers stationed to the non-UK jurisdictions who have children at university. The resolutions direct the Committee to consider grant applications from the FSPD (or other funds as appropriate) from ministers who are significantly financially disadvantaged as a consequence of being stationed in non-UK jurisdictions. The Committee is given discretionary authority to agree the grants figure for university funding for the children of ministers, taking into account the minister’s circumstances and the university funding arrangements at the time.

3.7 The Committee considered the situation regarding grants given to ministers from outside of the UK who are unable to claim child benefits due to their immigration status. Due to the complexity of the benefits system, the Committee agreed to a fixed sum to be made available related to the number of children in the family. This gives more certainty to ministers coming from overseas on the funding available.

3.8 The Committee expresses its gratitude to various members of the Connexional Team who have served on it and moved to pastures new in the last year or so and we have duly welcomed their successors.

3.9 The Chair of the Committee wishes to record her immense gratitude to its members, past and present, who have given their unfailing support and attention to the Committee’s work at all times. They bring a rich variety of experience and expertise as well as representing different constituencies within the Church.

***RESOLUTIONS

7/1. The Conference receives the Report.

7/2. The Conference adopts the Report and the recommendations in sections 1, 2 and 3.
8. The Trustees for the Bailiwick of Guernsey
Methodist Church Purposes

The following appointed Trustees, together with the Chair of the Channel Islands District (the Revd Dr David Hinchliffe) served during the year.

Secretary: Mrs M Lewis

Trustees: Mrs E Male, Mrs C Teed, Mrs W Le Tissier, Messrs C Falla, J Sharratt and N Lewis

The Revd Howard Stringer was welcomed as the newly appointed Superintendent Minister for the Guernsey Circuit from September 2019.

1 Delisles Methodist Church was sold in September 2019.

2 The Trustees continue to exercise their responsibilities according to The Methodist Church (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1987.

***RESOLUTION

8/1. The Conference receives the Report.
The appointed Trustees, together with the Chair of the Channel Islands District Synod (the Revd Dr David Hinchliffe) and the Superintendent of the Jersey Circuit (the Revd Danny Wheadon) are: Mr R J L Le Maistre, Mrs S Edwards, Mr D Speight, Mrs L Wheeler and Miss M A Lee (Secretary).

1. On 8 March 2019, the Trustees sold an old manse called “Acierto”, garden and land to Mr and Mrs S J Kinsella; a replacement manse was bought in 2018.

2. The Trustees were pleased to note the care and maintenance of Methodist Church property in the Island and expressed their appreciation to those concerned.

3. The Trustees are discharging their duties under The Methodist (Jersey) Church Law, 1986.

4. The Trustees extend their thanks to the Revd Dr David Hinchliffe for his leadership of the Trustees for Jersey Methodist Church Purposes during his ministry in the District, especially as he was based in Guernsey until July 2019 and has then discharged his duties from his new District in the UK. His leadership has been evident not only in his encouragement to the Trustees in remaining pragmatic in ensuring that circuit property serves the needs and mission of Methodist people in the Island but also in his diligence in attending meetings and attention to detail with the written records.

***RESOLUTION

9/1. The Conference receives the Report.
1. This year British Forces have continued to be deployed to several areas of risk, as well as for training purposes, and at times this includes the deployment of Forces’ chaplains. The military has also been called to Military Aid to Civilian Authorities (MACA) to assist with the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has added additional challenges for chaplains who continue to offer spiritual and pastoral care to military personnel and their dependants, including those who have been separated even though the deployment is within the UK. All three services continue to recruit ordained ministers to serve as chaplains to the Armed Forces.

2. We have a total of 29 full-time chaplains: six Royal Navy, 13 Army, nine Royal Air Force and one full-time Army Reserve.

3. The Methodist Forces Board commissioned the Revd Ric Stott to produce six pieces of art to support chaplains in teaching the moral component of the British Army Core Values (Courage, Discipline, Respect for Others, Integrity, Loyalty, and Selfless Commitment). The Board published 20,000 booklets to help chaplains draw out the experiences of soldiers and make comparisons between the Core Values and the life and ministry of Jesus. We are grateful for the support of the Chaplain General in bringing this project to fruition and for his involvement in the launch.

4. The Board commissioned and published 4,000 hardback copies of a storybook, Underneath the Sea, which helps young people understand the work of their loved ones who serve in the Submarine Service. It is based on a story written by the spouse of a US Navy submariner. We were delighted to welcome service families and Command to the launch at HMNB Clyde. We are grateful to the Chaplain of the Fleet for his support in providing this book to the Royal Navy.

5. The Secretary was privileged to accompany the President and Vice-President of the Conference on the annual visit to the Forces, which this year was to the Royal Air Force. The President was welcomed to RAF College Cranwell and RAF Coningsby and had a number of briefings and searching conversations at these locations. We were glad to welcome the President to the Methodist Tri-service Forces Chaplains’ Conference at Amport House in February. This was an inspiring and thought-provoking visit which was greatly appreciated. We were joined for this conference by the Revd Cathy Bird, who presented two sessions titled ‘Finding God in the Shadows’. The Revd Ruth Gee led a session on Methodist collaborative working, Doug Swanney led a session on current
issues facing the Methodist Church, and Richard Armiger led a session called ‘Pastoral Supervision – Being a Supervisee’.

6. The Forces Board continues to be thankful to the Aldershot Methodist Military Trust for its excellent financial support. It is this provision that has allowed the Board to continue to fund a range of projects including:

- a children and youth work project within the Aldershot garrison town;
- two part-time pastoral workers to support the chaplaincy at the tri-service Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) in Northwood;
- a full-time community pastoral officer at RAF Benson;
- a project for a families’ worker at RNAS Culdrose in Cornwall;
- a lay families’ worker at RAF Marham;
- a part-time lay families’ worker at Hamworthy Barracks; and
- a full-time lay families’ worker at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham.

Initial conversations have also been held exploring the possibility of a unified body to act on behalf of the Methodist Church with respect to its engagement with the Armed Forces, and the Conference is asked to direct that proposals be brought to the 2021 Conference.

7. The Projects Officer has been instrumental in the production of the British Army Core Values artwork and its travel to various military establishments during this year. A number of other projects are in various stages of progression to support chaplains, including the provision of journals for service personnel and raising awareness of Methodist involvement in Armed Forces chaplaincy.

8. The Board offers a range of small grants to chaplains for activities within the Forces’ communities.

9. Following the Methodist Church’s signing of the Armed Forces Corporate Covenant, the Board is continuing to seek ways of encouraging the Church to express its commitment to our military personnel and their families.

10. The Forces Board continues to express to the Conference its thanks for the prayerful support given to all our chaplains and encourages anyone who would like to know more about Forces Chaplaincy to speak to members of the Board.

11. The Board is grateful for the ongoing diligence and commitment of its Secretary to the ministries of the chaplains and the Board.

12. Members of the Methodist Forces Board for 2020/2021 will be: the Revds John Alderdice, David Barrett, Andrew De Ville, William Gates, the Revd Dr Chrissie Howe
10. Methodist Forces Board

(convener), the Revds Paul Mellor, Timothy Wilkinson, the Revd Dr Andrew Wood, Mr Peter Green, Cdr Mark Barton, Lt Cdr (retd) Shirley Hewitt, Ms Jude Levermore, Mrs Liesel Parkinson, Mr Mark Powell, Mr Doug Swanney (Chair), Mrs Sue Walters.

***RESOLUTIONS

10/1. The Conference receives the Report.

10/2. The Conference directs the Methodist Forces Board and Aldershot Methodist Military Trust to bring a proposal for a unified body for Methodist engagement with the Armed Forces to the 2021 Conference.
11. Methodist Homes (MHA)

| Contact name and details | The Revd Dr Chris Swift  
| Director of Chaplaincy and Spirituality  
| chris.swift@mha.org.uk |

1. General report

1.1 As a national charity, rooted in the values of its Methodist foundation, MHA enables people to live later life well. Through 90 specialist care and nursing homes, 70 thriving retirement living and 62 vibrant community groups and befriending, we inspire the best care and wellbeing at every stage of later life. With over 75 years’ experience, we put people at the heart of everything we do in all our homes and schemes across Britain. All our donations and any surplus we generate is invested into the services we provide for our 18,500 residents and members. We have over 7,600 dedicated colleagues, supported by over 4,000 generous volunteers.

1.2 During the year, MHA and the Methodist Church signed a significant ‘expression of commitment’ to work together so that people can live later life well. This statement underscores the crucial relationship of the Church and MHA to meet the needs of older people within our communities in body, mind and spirit. The text of the commitment may be found here: bit.ly/mha-better

1.3 We have been delighted to work with Hope Siesage, placed with MHA for 12 months as part of the Methodist Church’s Intern programme. Hope has assisted with a number of projects, including the WELL training (see paragraph 1.5) and the development of our special services, including chaplaincy and music therapy. Hope is also working on another project to explore the recorded talks and writings of the Revd Walter Hall, MHA’s founder.

1.4 In 2019 MHA launched a new five-year strategy built round the concept of ‘One MHA’ and designed to relate our services more strongly within a number of geographical communities. We are looking to work more closely with local churches and faith groups in order to maximise the care and support we can bring to people in our local communities who are in later life.

1.5 In the autumn, six training events were provided for worship leaders who visit homes and schemes outside MHA provision. This extends our commitment to improve the care of people in later life, whether or not this is in an MHA facility. Called ‘Worship Engagement in Later Life’ (WELL), the training was followed by detailed analysis to assess its impact. This revealed a very positive benefit to those able to take part. The training includes guidance on how to lead services in a context of mixed cognitive
ability and includes a demonstration of ‘Biblical Yoga’. WELL events can still be requested from MHA, and are supported locally where there is sufficient demand.

1.6 The biennial MHA Chaplains’ Conference was held at Swanwick in June. Over 100 chaplains attended, along with CEO Sam Monaghan and MHA Chair John Robinson. The residential event enabled chaplains to engage with the new MHA strategy, share in worship and focus on areas of practice development for spiritual care.

1.7 Throughout the year MHA continued its commitment to pay all staff a minimum of the real living wage.

1.8 Other notable successes for the year include:

- Our music therapy service was highlighted in the BBC One documentary Our Dementia Choir with Vicky McClure and was also part of BBC’s Music Day in September 2019 as part of our Moment of Joy campaign to raise awareness of the importance of music therapy;
- More care homes were judged to be ‘outstanding’ bringing MHA to a total of nine. Out of the total figure of inspections, 89% of care homes and 93% of retirement living schemes were judged to be either ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’;
- MHA Mickle Hill retirement living in Pickering, Yorkshire, became our first housing with care scheme to be judged as ‘outstanding’ by the CQC;
- Residents continued to be enabled to live later life well through our ‘Seize the Day’ initiatives, on occasions making last wishes come true;
- Our ‘Live at Home’ schemes now support more than 12,000 older people, tackling loneliness and isolation;
- Methodist Homes Sunday was again a highlight of the year in our work with the Methodist Church.

1.9 MHA launched a new annual lecture named after the founding figure in the creation of the charity, the Revd Walter Hall. The inaugural Walter Hall Lecture was given by Lord Willetts at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Exploring inter-generational responsibility for the funding of care, Lord Willetts provided a dynamic presentation of the challenges facing society as ‘baby boomers’ begin to retire.

1.10 Music therapy continued to be a valued service for people living in our specialist dementia care homes. We now employ 26 music therapists, with more than 800 individuals benefitting from one-to-one sessions. Our work in the field was noted as we were part of the Commission on Music and Dementia. The report, called What would life be – without a song or a dance, what are we? highlights how important a service it is. (https://ilcuk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Commission-on-Dementia-and-Music-report.pdf)
1.11 Methodist Homes Sunday in 2019 raised over £183,000, for which we offer grateful thanks. In 2020, the official date for the Sunday is **6 September** although it can be moved to suit local needs. Our theme for worship is ‘**kindness**’ and a range of materials linked to the Book of Ruth is available to download from our website (www.mha.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/mha-sunday/)

1.12 In addition to its 7,000 members of staff, MHA benefits from the contribution of over 4,000 volunteers. These volunteers add a vital dimension to the work of MHA supporting all elements of our operation, including Chaplaincy. Many volunteers come from Methodist congregations and help us retain our links with the Church.

1.13 The latest audited accounts are available on request from our website or from Epworth House. Our Annual Impact Statement, which tells the story of MHA’s activities, is also available on the website or from Epworth House.

1.14 During the year there were several changes to the membership of the Executive Leadership Team. Following some structural changes we were delighted to welcome Dan Ryan as Director of Operations. Andy White and Victoria Parkinson, two existing members of MHA staff, joined as Director of Property and Director of Finance, respectively.

1.15 The Trustees who oversee the work of the charity continue to offer excellent advice and guidance, sharing between them considerable expertise across the range of MHA’s activities. The focus of MHA’s holistic approach to care is at the root of their willingness to serve as Board members and they bring a range of spiritual and belief commitments to the role.

2. **Covid-19**

2.1 At the time of preparing this report the world is grappling with the impact and consequences of a novel coronavirus. With our responsibilities for the welfare of the older people in our care, along with MHA colleagues and volunteers, the arrival of the virus has presented an unparalleled challenge to our services. MHA has acted rapidly to secure our position, making temporary and far-reaching changes to the operation of our central co-ordination, and is working closely with Government, local authorities and partner organisations.

2.2 The rapid development of the pandemic has led to a pause in the development of our strategy and this temporary interruption will be kept under regular review.
3. **Church appointment to the Boards of MHA**

3.1 Through our Governance Committee we continue to strengthen the Charity’s Board with new members bringing wide experience, particularly in the areas of marketing and social care.

***RESOLUTIONS***

11/1. The Conference receives the Report.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact name and details</th>
<th>Thelma Commey, Youth President <a href="mailto:youthpresident@methodistchurch.org.uk">youthpresident@methodistchurch.org.uk</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resolutions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/1.</td>
<td>The Conference receives the Report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/2.</td>
<td>The Conference commends the resource <em>Engaging with the 3Generate Manifesto</em> to all Methodist churches for prayerful study and action (<a href="http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/15216/engaging-with-the-3gen-manifesto-final.pdf">www.methodist.org.uk/media/15216/engaging-with-the-3gen-manifesto-final.pdf</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/3.</td>
<td>The Conference urges every Church Council to include the ‘Eco Church challenge’ on its agenda during the next connexional year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/4.</td>
<td>The Conference directs the Ministries Committee, in conversation with the Queen’s Foundation, to explore how the Mental Health First Aid course can be included in presbyteral and diaconal training and to report on progress to the 2021 Conference via the Methodist Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/5.</td>
<td>The Conference directs the Council to ensure that there is one Mental Health First Aid trainer in each Learning Network region and to report to the 2021 Conference via the Methodist Council.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Introduction**

1. 3Generate is the children and youth assembly of the Methodist Church. Children and young people, from all across the Connexion gather to share fellowship and engage in dialogue about issues that are important. This is an action-packed, inspirational weekend for all.

**Attendance**

2. With 1,079 delegates, aged 8-23, 272 volunteers, 339 group leaders, 11 One Programme Participants (OPPs) and 11 3Generate Representatives, a total of 1,947 people were a part of 3Generate 2019, making it our largest event yet.
Themes

3. This year 3Generate embodied two themes – “Where is God in my story?” and “Jesus Loves All”.

4. The theme “Where is God in my story?” was birthed from the overarching Year of Testimony requested by the young people at 3Generate in 2017. This was a call to encourage our Church to be more confident in speaking of our faith.

5. “Jesus Loves All” was the Youth President’s theme which focused on encouraging young people to share the story of God’s love in creative ways.

Overview of programme

6. The programme reflected diverse ways of storytelling. Young people had opportunities to tell their own story through music, arts and crafts, dance, sports, dialogue and other media. There were also multiple opportunities to recognise God in their story such as in collective worship experiences, silent reflection spaces and group Bible studies and prayer.

7. At the heart of all this, young people were encouraged to engage in dialogue and have a voice in the bigger story of the Church and world as a whole. 3Generate built a wall of bricks (see paragraph 11) which listed individual and collective voices on a variety of issues that the young people believe to be important.

Elections

8. The following people were elected as 3Generate representatives at the 2019 event:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth President 2020/2021</td>
<td>Phoebe Parkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Representatives</td>
<td>Martha Rand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gemma Curtis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conner Dickens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Representatives</td>
<td>Charlotte Hambly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Youth Council Representatives</td>
<td>James Jenkins</td>
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<td></td>
<td>James Carver</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ben Andrews</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victor Kuyeli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isaac Nketia-Boateng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecumenical Representative</td>
<td>John Forsdick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verity Wild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Justice Representative</td>
<td>Mary Sharples</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. These representatives will join Roxanne Bromley, Roxanne Bainbridge, Emily Roe and Michael Pryke on the 3Generate representative team. They will serve as the Youth President’s Advisory Group, under Standing Order 250(9).

**The 3Generate Manifesto**

10. The manifestos and resources are produced to equip the whole Church to be in continuous dialogue with children and young people. The children and young people are empowered to work together to take action, with their local community, in a relevant way.

11. At 3Generate 2019, the attendees built the manifesto in a visual way – using cardboard bricks that were added to an ever growing wall. Children and young people were invited to add statements about issues they cared about to a brick and then add this to the wall, where others were able to add stickers to indicate if they agreed or disagreed with the statement. During the weekend we gathered 112 individual statements on bricks and had overwhelming engagement with regards to the sticker voting.

12. The statements ranged widely in subject matter, from the environmental crisis to the participation of children and young people in the Church. Each brick represented a deep and serious conversation between the individual proposing the issue and the team working on the wall (made up largely of 3Generate Youth Reps).

13. Whilst some of the key themes – the environment, equality and diversity, mental health, and relationships – were to be expected, there was also an overriding sense that children and young people were desperate for deeper connection with each other and with the adults who formed part of their church community; this (along with more inclusive churches) was more important to them than the style of worship music on offer or the youth group programme. A summary of these conversations is represented in this year’s manifesto.

**Future of 3Generate**

14. It is with great joy that we are relocating to the NEC in Birmingham as a response to an ever-growing number of participants.

15. 20/20 Vision means being able to see clearly. We have taken this on as our theme for 3Generate 2020. We want to refocus on what God’s vision is for us as the Church in the world, this year and beyond. We are seeking clarity of vision by:

- Encouraging children and young people to listen to God
- Expecting God to speak
- Noticing what our individual role is in God’s vision
12. 3Generate 2019 - Methodist Children and Youth Assembly

- Supporting young people in taking action on what God is calling them to do
- Sharing God’s vision and encouraging the wider Church to join in.

Resolutions

16. One of the manifesto statements was a call from children and young people to “make churches more eco-friendly”. In January 2016, the Eco Church Award scheme was launched by A Rocha, with support from a connexional grant. The 2016 Conference adopted Notice of Motion 2016/206, stating, “The Conference... invites all Methodist congregations to take the Eco Church challenge.” In January 2018, the Methodist Council endorsed proposals for Eco Circuit and Eco District schemes (MC/18/16). A parallel scheme – Eco Congregation – runs in Scotland and was recognised and commended by the Conference in 2019 via Memorial M54 from the Stamford Circuit. As of April 2020, 305 Methodist churches (out of 4,271) are registered with the scheme: 68 have bronze awards, 22 have silver awards, and one church, Stratford-Upon-Avon, has won an Eco Church Gold Award. In Scotland, 7 Methodist churches are registered with the Eco Congregation Scheme.

17. We commend the work that has been done so far. We want to reissue the challenge made by the Conference in 2016, inviting all Methodist congregations to take the Eco Church challenge. To facilitate that, we call on every church council to include the topic on their agenda at some point in 2020/2021.

18. Another key manifesto point, and one that has been included consistently over the years, is resourcing to support those with mental health issues. Part of Our Calling is to be a good neighbour to people in need. While the Church is not a healthcare provider, we believe the Church does have a role to play in this area. We are advocating for more Methodists to undertake the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course.

19. Specifically, we are calling on the Ministries Committee and the Queen’s Foundation to include the MHFA course in presbyteral and diaconal training pathways. Furthermore, we are calling on the Learning Network team to train one officer per region as a MHFA trainer, so that they can lead courses in their region for ministers and lay people in pastoral roles.

***RESOLUTIONS

12/1. The Conference receives the Report.

12/3. The Conference urges every Church Council to include the “Eco Church challenge” on its agenda during the next connexional year.

12/4. The Conference directs the Ministries Committee, in conversation with the Queen’s Foundation, to explore how the Mental Health First Aid course can be included in presbyteral and diaconal training and to report on progress to the 2021 Conference via the Methodist Council.

12/5. The Conference directs the Council to ensure that there is one Mental Health First Aid trainer in each Learning Network region and to report to the 2021 Conference via the Methodist Council.
The CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE at 3Generate 2019 have spoken out

THIS IS WHAT WE CARE ABOUT,

SO LET’S TAKE ACTION TOGETHER TO...

- Make sure God is in our conversations and decisions
- Be kind, helpful and respectful
- Build an inclusive and welcoming church
- Change the stereotype of churches being
BORING AND MODERNISE THEM

- Make churches more eco friendly
- Be better resourced to support mental health issues, particularly issues that young people face
- Challenge people in power about climate change, poverty and world peace

There’s much more to this conversation. Find out more about what we said at

www.methodist.org.uk/3genmanifestos
13. Unified Statement of Connexional Finances

| **Contact name and details** | The Revd Timothy A Swindell  
Connexional Treasurer  
Tim.Swindell@methodist.org.uk |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resolution</strong></td>
<td>13/1. The Conference receives the Report as the Unified Statement of Connexional Finances required by SO 360.</td>
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**Summary of content**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Subject and aims</strong></th>
<th>Summary extracts of the full consolidated accounts of the Methodist Church for 2018/2019 which were adopted by the Methodist Council and are presented to the Conference as the unified statement of connexional finances required by Standing Order 360.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main points</strong></td>
<td>These accounts consolidate figures for a wide variety of Methodist activities and entities.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Background context and relevant documents** | When the Methodist Church was registered with the Charity Commission it was agreed that the accounts of the registered charity would be those of the Methodist Council. The full consolidated accounts were presented to the Council and adopted by the Council under SO 212(1). They are available for scrutiny on the Methodist Church website and in printed form from the Finance and Resources Team at Methodist Church House.  

Under SO 360 the Council is required to present to the Conference a “unified statement of connexional finances ... so as to give an overall view of those moneys and other assets for which the council is responsible”.  

This Report consists of extracts from the full consolidated accounts which provide a summary of them to meet that requirement. It is submitted to the Conference as the trustee body of the registered charity. |

1. **Link to the financial statements**  
The accounts can be viewed online at: www.methodist.org.uk/trusteesreport
2. **Strategic objectives, aims and purposes of the Methodist Church**

The activities covered in these accounts fall within the work of the Methodist Church. The strategic objectives of the Methodist Church are directly linked to its aims. They are:

- Worship – to increase awareness of God’s presence and to celebrate God’s love;
- Learning and Caring – to help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care;
- Service – to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice; and
- Evangelism – to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

3. **Public benefit requirement**

The trustees of the Methodist Church had due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in compliance with its duties under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. This guidance sets out two key principles:

- the organisation must have an identifiable benefit;
- the benefit must be to the public or a section of the public.

The Church exists, inter alia, to:

- increase awareness of God’s presence and to celebrate God’s love;
- help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care; and
- be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice.

The trustees consider that for these reasons the charity meets these public benefit requirements.

4. **Organisation of the work**

In 2018/2019 the Methodist Church, in response to its calling and in pursuit of the strategic objectives (worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism), organised its work in the following key areas:

- **Equipping the Church to engage with society**
- **Empowering the ministry of overseas partners**
- **Formation, training, development and resourcing**
- **Advocacy and education**
5. **Financial review**

The activities covered in these consolidated financial statements are those under the oversight of the Methodist Council. The Methodist Church in Great Britain is the registered charity and the Charity Commission has agreed that these financial statements can properly serve as the financial statements of the charity.

The net income for the year was a surplus of £3.33m (2018: £0.24m), including net investment gains of £3.8m (2018: £6.5m).

Other recognised losses for the year were £5.6m (2018: £11.1m recognised gains). A £5.4m loss arose from the actuarial revaluation of the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of The Methodist Church.

### Income

The total income for the year was £49.1m (2018: £43.4m) an increase of 13.1% compared to the previous year. This increase was mainly due to additional investment income and grant income. The donation figure included an amount of £3.5m reflecting the transfer of a property at Oxford Place, Leeds to Connexional Funds at ‘fair value’.

### Expenditure

Total expenditure decreased slightly to £49.6m (2018: £49.7m). Of this, £41.2m was spent on direct charitable activities (2018: £41.3m). This includes all amounts spent in furtherance of our mission including grants and direct programme activities. Spending from restricted funds (after transfers) was greater than income by £4.8m. This reflects the policy to use excess reserves in a planned manner over three years.
6. **Investments**  
As at 31 August 2019, the Church held fixed asset investments with a fair value of £194m (2018: £189m). The Investment Committee regularly reviews the investment portfolio and performs an annual review of the investment policy. The Church’s investment objective is to seek an optimal return from income and capital combined. The Investment Committee is satisfied with the overall performance of the investment portfolio against agreed benchmarks.

7. **Consolidated statement of financial activities – see over**

8. **Consolidated balance sheet – see over**
### Income and endowments from:

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### Expenditure on:

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### Other recognised gains and losses:

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### 13. Unified Statement of Connexional Finances

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Notes

- Unrestricted
- Restricted
- Endowment

**Income and endowments from:**
- Donations and legacies: £4245, £7,911, £-12,156, £1,206, £6,123, £-7,329
- Charitable activities: £13,440, £500, £13,940, £13,466, £516, £13,982
- Investments: £1,663, £4,157, £5,820, £1,487, £3,788, £7,329
- Other trading activities: £8,105, £1,474, £9,579, £7,650, £1,636, £9,286
- Capital levies: £5,656, £-5,656, £5,484
- Grants: £2, £936, £938, £6, £565, £571
- Miscellaneous income: £660, £399, £1,059, £786, £665, £1,451

Total income: £33,771, £15,377, £-3,109, £3,337, £1,401, £984, £1,165

Expenditure on:
- Raising funds: £7,028, £1,337, £17, £8,382, £6,816, £1,515
- Charitable activities: £12,535, £4,097, £16,632, £13,183, £5,857
- Formation, training, development and resourcing: £6,018, £6,154, £12,172, £7,172, £3,448
- Empowering the ministry of overseas partners: £1,672, £7,111, £8,783, £1,707, £6,868
- Advocacy and education: £2,717, £743, £3,460, £2,413, £672
- Net loss on the disposal of tangible fixed assets: £166, £44, £210

Total expenditure on charitable activities: £23,108, £18,149, £-12,156, £41,257, £24,475, £16,845

Total expenditure: £30,136, £19,486, £17, £49,639, £283,920, £16,845

Net gains on investments: £3,047, £1,000, £-219, £3,828, £2,607, £2,925

Net income: £6,682, £-3,109, £-236, £3,337, £2,733, £-320, £1,165

Transfers between funds: £1,455, £-1,679, £224, £1,332, £-1,513, £181

Net income after transfers: £8,137, £-4,788, £-12, £3,337, £2,733, £-320, £1,165

Other recognised gains and losses:
- Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension scheme liability: £-5,418, £-139, £-5,557, £11,024, £139
- Gains on revaluation of charitable properties: £1,118, £782, £1,900

Net movement in funds: £3,837, £-4,145, £-12, £-320, £13,757, £-3,516, £1,165

Total funds at 1 September: £96,130, £167,985, £20,125, £284,240

Total funds at 31 August: £99,967, £163,840, £20,113, £283,920

Conference Agenda 2020
### 13. Unified Statement of Connexional Finances

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<th>2018</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts falling due within one year</td>
<td>16a</td>
<td>(17,489)</td>
<td>(16,789)</td>
<td>(15,262)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>8,766</td>
<td>10,382</td>
<td>7,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets less current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>301,399</td>
<td>295,768</td>
<td>265,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creditors</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts falling due after more than one year</td>
<td>16b</td>
<td>(10,311)</td>
<td>(9,667)</td>
<td>(5,353)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets excluding pension liability</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>291,088</td>
<td>286,101</td>
<td>259,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defined benefit pension scheme liability</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>(7,168)</td>
<td>(1,861)</td>
<td>(7,168)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets including pension liability</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>283,920</td>
<td>284,240</td>
<td>252,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The funds of the charity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General funds</td>
<td></td>
<td>54,813</td>
<td>46,893</td>
<td>53,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated funds</td>
<td></td>
<td>50,388</td>
<td>49,237</td>
<td>49,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defined benefit pension scheme liability</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>(5,234)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(5,234)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted funds</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>99,967</td>
<td>96,130</td>
<td>98,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted funds</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>163,840</td>
<td>167,985</td>
<td>134,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment funds</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20,113</td>
<td>20,125</td>
<td>20,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funds</strong></td>
<td>283,920</td>
<td>284,240</td>
<td>252,721</td>
<td>251,752</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total unrestricted funds include revaluation reserve of £7.6m (2018: £6.5m) for both The Methodist Church in Great Britain and the Connexional Funds. Total restricted funds include revaluation reserve of £59.3m (2018: £58.5m) for The Methodist Church in Great Britain and £57.3m (2018: £56.5m) for the Connexional Funds (Note 24).

The notes on pages 32 to 76 form an integral part of these accounts.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 29 January 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs E Jill Baker  
Chair of the Council

The Reverend Timothy Swindell  
Connexional Treasurer
9. Statement of trustees’ responsibilities

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the group and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
b) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
c) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
e) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity’s website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditor

A resolution proposing the re-appointment of RSM UK Audit LLP as auditor to the charity was approved by the Methodist Council.

RSM UK Audit LLP has indicated its willingness to continue in office.

***RESOLUTION

13/1. The Conference receives the Report as the Unified Statement of Connexional Finances required by SO 360.
Independent Auditor’s Report to the Trustees of The Methodist Church in Great Britain

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of the Methodist Church in Great Britain (the ‘parent charity’) and its subsidiaries (the ‘group’) for the year ended 31 August 2019 which comprise the Consolidated statement of financial activities, the Statement of financial activities – Connexional Funds, the Consolidated and Connexional Funds balance sheets, the Consolidated and Connexional Funds cash flow statements and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland” (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group’s and charity’s affairs as at 31 August 2019 and of their incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion
We have been appointed as auditors under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees’ use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group’s or parent charity’s ability
to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least 12 months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**Other information**
The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the *Consolidated Report and Financial Statements* other than the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees’ Report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept by the parent charity; or
- the parent charity financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of trustees**
As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees’ Responsibilities set out in section 9, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group’s and parent charity’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or parent charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.
**Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is provided on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity’s trustees as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity’s trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor’s report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent, permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity’s trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RSM UK Audit LLP
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
St Philips Point
Temple Row, Birmingham
West Midlands B2 5AF

Date: 9 March 2020

RSM UK Audit LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.
14. Methodist Schools

| Contact name and details | Douglas Jones, Group Accountant and Company Secretary, Methodist Independent Schools Trust djones@methodistschools.org.uk |

Summary of content

| Subject and aims | Appointment of Methodist Independent Schools Trustees and Governors to three Methodist Independent Associated Schools. Appointment of Methodist Academies and Schools Trustees. Confirmation of the Wesley Trust Trustees. |

| Background context and relevant documents (with function) | The Conference is responsible for the appointment of Methodist Independent Schools Trustees and Governors to the schools named in the resolutions. The Conference is responsible for the appointment of Methodist Academies and Schools Trustees. The Conference is responsible for confirming the appointment of the Wesley Trust Trustees. |

Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST)

Appointment of Trustees of MIST and Governors to Associated Schools

Trustees of Methodist Independent Schools Trust are appointed by the Conference, normally for a three-year term. Nominations are made by the Trust, Chairs of Governors and the Methodist Council.

Under the Schemes relating to the administration of Ashville College, Kingswood School and Rydal Penrhos School, the Conference is responsible for the appointment of Governors to their governing bodies. Governors are nominated by the governing bodies and/or the Methodist Independent Schools Trust and are initially appointed for a period of three years. They may be re-appointed for a further period.
***RESOLUTIONS

14/1. The Conference adopts the nomination by the Methodist Council of Mr Stephen Holliday as a Trustee of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust for a period of two years concluding 31 August 2022.

14/2. The Conference adopts the nomination by the Methodist Council of the Revd Sir Ralph Waller as a Trustee of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust for a period of two years concluding 31 August 2022.

14/3. The Conference adopts the nomination by the Trustees of Mr John Weaving as a Trustee the Methodist Independent Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2023.

14/4. The Conference adopts the nomination by the Trustees of Lady Fiona Mynors as a Trustee of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2023.

14/5. The Conference adopts the re-nomination by the Methodist Council of Mrs Barbara Easton as a Trustee of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2023.

14/6. The Conference adopts the re-nomination by the Methodist Council of the Revd Stephen J Burgess as a Trustee of Methodist Independent Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2023.

Ashville College

14/7. The Conference adopts the re-nominations by the Governors of Mr Jeremy Henderson and Mr Peter Ingham and nominations of Ms Michelle Lofthouse, Mr Jerome Saint-Marc and Ms Nicola Stamford as Governors of Ashville College for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2023.

Kingswood School

14/8. The Conference adopts the re-nominations by the Governors of Mrs Sarah Thomas, Mr Andy Lau, Mr David Humphreys, Mr Chris Stafford and the Revd Dr Jonathan H Pye as Governors of Kingswood School for a period of four years concluding 31 August 2024.
Rydal Penrhos School

14/9. The Conference adopts the re-nominations by the Governors of Mr John Wilford and Dr Huyam Abdelsalam as Governors of Rydal Penrhos School for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2023.

Methodist Academies and Schools Trust (MAST)

Appointment of Trustees to MAST

***RESOLUTIONS

14/10. The Conference adopts the re-nomination by the Methodist Council of the Revd Sally Ratcliffe as a Trustee of the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2023.

14/11. The Conference adopts the re-nomination by the Methodist Council of the Revd Paul Martin as a Trustee of the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2023.

14/12. The Conference adopts the re-nomination by the Methodist Council of Mrs Lesley Brookbanks as a Trustee of Methodist Academies and Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2023.

14/13. The Conference adopts the re-nomination by the Methodist Council of Mr David Kershaw as a Trustee of the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2023.

14/14. The Conference adopts the re-nomination by the Methodist Council of Mr John Weaving as a Trustee of the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2023.

14/15. The Conference adopts the nomination by the Methodist Council of Mr Steven Colledge as a Trustee of the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2023.

14/16. The Conference adopts the re-nomination by the Methodist Council of Mrs Annette Foster as a Trustee of the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2023.
**The Wesley Trust**

***RESOLUTION***

14/17. **The Conference confirms the nomination by the Methodist Council of Mr John Weaving as a Trustee of the Wesley Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2023.**

**Reasoned Statements**

**Mr Steven Colledge**  
Steve has held senior leadership positions in schools from 1988 onwards. Steve has worked as both a Local Leader of Education and a National Leader of Education. Former DFE Education Adviser for the RSC South West Office and an OFSTED Inspector. Steve has chaired several Schools’ Forums and the Swindon Secondary Headteachers’ Group.

**Mrs Annette Foster**  
Annette is a serving Chair of Governors. She is a solicitor and a local preacher in the Methodist Church, and is the Vice Chair of Splitz Support Services, a charity providing domestic abuse support services.

**Mr Stephen Holliday**  
Stephen is the Headmaster of Queen Elizabeth’s Hospital in Bristol, stepping down in 2020. He served as Treasurer of the Headmasters’ and Headmistresses’ Conference (HMC) in 2013–2019 and as a Board member of the Independent Schools’ Council during the same period. He is a Reporting Inspector for the Independent Schools’ Inspectorate. A local preacher, he is also Vice Chair of Trustees at Cliff College and a Governor of Kingswood School.

**Mrs Michelle Lofthouse**  
Michelle is currently Managing Director of Flip Consulting Ltd, which is her own business. Formally Director of Business Development for Ufi, and Director of Business Development and Marketing at Cambridge International Examinations, she has over 25 years’ experience in the education sector, in curriculum, qualification and assessment development, both in the UK and internationally.

**Mr Jerome Saint-Marc**  
Jerome is currently a Senior Retail Director and Manager for Wilko. He was previously a partner in a top-tier strategy consultancy and spent the last 20 years developing businesses across grocery, fashion and general merchandise with specific focus on organisational development from strategy definition to implementation.
Mrs Nicola Stamford
Nicola currently owns and runs a Harrogate-based marketing and communications agency with clients both locally and nationwide. She has 18 years’ experience in her field, primarily within the engineering sector. Nicola also spent two years as Head of Marketing at Ashville College.

Mrs Sarah Thomas
Sarah is a teacher of Classics and retired Head of Bryanston School and before that was sole Deputy Head at Uppingham School. Sarah has led and taught on a range of HMC training courses, including ‘Preparing for Headship’, and latterly lead a course on sustainable leadership.

The Revd Sir Ralph Waller
Ralph is the Director of the Farmington Institute and former principal of Harris Manchester College (1988–2018) and a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford. Ralph is a former Chair of the University of Oxford Faculty of Theology.

Mr John Weaving
John is a former Director of Finance for Methodist Independent Schools Trust and current Board Trustee for Methodist Academies and Schools Trust. ACA qualified with over 20 years’ experience as a Finance Director in a diverse range of businesses.
SECTION A
GENERAL REPORT

The Committee is charged under Standing Order 338 with the scrutiny of all new legislation which is proposed to the Conference in order to ensure its coherence with existing usage and Methodist polity. Various members of the Committee undertake this task and have commented upon all the proposals submitted to the Committee by the Methodist Council and other bodies. The Committee also seeks to ensure that Standing Orders comply with any changes in legislation or case law.

In December 2019, the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice and Secretary of the Committee Louise Wilkins left her post after nearly eight years of service in the Conference Office. The committee wishes to record its deep appreciation for her service.

Richard Hood has been appointed as Interim General Counsel & Company Secretary. He has taken on many of Mrs Wilkins’ duties while the Conference awaits a nomination from the Methodist Council for the appointment of a new Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice, under Standing Order 314(3) (the nomination can be found elsewhere in the Agenda). A Legal Counsel (Governance) post has now been filled.

After many years of distinguished service, Mr David Walton has stepped down as Chair of the Committee. The Secretary of the Conference invited Mrs Susan Howdle to act as his successor for the time being. Mrs Howdle has been a member of the Law and Polity Committee for many years and was the Vice-President of the 1993 Conference. The Conference Office is extremely grateful for her support in a time of rapid staff turnover.

The Committee’s Complaints and Discipline Sub-Committee has produced guidelines on confidentiality in Part 11 Proceedings for Complainants and Respondents, Local Complaints Officers and Connexional Complaints Team Members. These guidelines were approved by the Methodist Council at its March meeting.

The Committee voted on the Provisional Resolutions approved by the Conference further to God in love unites us: The Report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group. A Report on its opinion on the Resolutions will be submitted to the Conference as per Standing Order 122(3).
The Committee has assisted the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes in preparing instructions to Counsel on the issue of disposal of Model Trust property at undervalue to members of Local Churches who wish to leave the Connexion.

The Committee is keeping under review the progress of various pieces of work on which its input might be requested. This includes the Ministerial Covenant (formerly known as the Code of Conduct), particularly in respect of its implications for the judgment of the Supreme Court in The President of the Methodist Conference v Preston (2013), and a Review of Part 11 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD): the Church’s Complaints and Discipline Procedures.

The Committee appointed the Law and Polity Conference Subcommittee under Standing Order 338(6) as follows: the Revd Jennifer M Dyer, Miss Elizabeth Ovey, the Revd Canon Julian M Pursehouse, the Revd Ian Rutherford and the Revd Dr James N Tebbutt.

***RESOLUTION

15/1. The Conference receives the General Report.

SECTION B
THE THEOLOGY AND ECCLESIOLOGY OF THE DIACONATE 
AND THE METHODIST DIACONAL ORDER


The implications of the report are wide-ranging, and much of it awaits further work by other bodies. Resolution 25/7 directed the Law and Polity Committee “to bring recommendations for any necessary amendments to Standing Orders in respect of the decision set out in resolution 25/5 and the consideration referred to in resolution 25/6 to the 2020 Conference”.

Resolution 25/6 directed the Ministries Committee to explore what changes might be needed to the candidating, training and probation processes to equip and authorise deacons to preach, and this exploration is still ongoing [as appears elsewhere in the Agenda]. The Law and Polity Committee is therefore not yet in a position to consider whether amendments to Standing Orders will be required, and therefore seeks the Conference’s permission to report upon these at a later date.

Resolution 25/5 was as follows: “The Conference affirms that preaching is part of the ministry of deacons and directs that from 1 September 2020:
a. deacons shall no longer be listed as Local Preachers on the Plan;
b. the list of ministers on the Plan will follow the order listed in SO 785(4)(b);
c. all deacons will be members of the Local Preachers’ Meeting.”

The amendments below address each of these directions. Even within this area of work there are still outstanding questions which await policy decisions in due course, but the basic points are covered this year.

As there is some overlap between directions a and c, the necessary changes related to them are set out in section 1) below, in the order in which the Standing Orders appear. Because ministerial membership of the Local Preachers’ Meeting is largely dealt with by reference to membership of the Circuit Meeting under SO 510, opportunity has also been taken to simplify the provision as it is difficult to see any reason for distinguishing between the two types of ministers with ‘authorised’ status in the current SO 560(1)(iA) and (ii), and to correct one error in terminology.

There is currently no direction as to how ministers are listed on the Plan, so a new clause has been added to SO 521, as set out in section 2). It is assumed that the Conference erroneously referred last year to SO 785(4)(b), rather than (a).

Finally, there may need to be further consequential amendments arising from the change from the status of local preacher for deacons, but the ones which have been identified so far are listed in section 3).

1) Deacons no longer to be listed as Local Preachers, and all deacons to be members of the Local Preachers’ Meeting

552 Ex-Officio Membership. Subject to Standing Order 512B(6)(ii) the Superintendent, all ministers, probationers and persons authorised to serve the Church as presbyters or deacons under Standing Order 733 appointed to the Circuit and the circuit stewards shall, ex officio, be members of and entitled to attend all official meetings (however described) connected with the Circuit, except that deacons and circuit stewards shall not be members of the Local Preachers’ Meeting unless they are local preachers.

560 Local Preachers’ Meeting.
(1) The Local Preachers’ Meeting shall consist of:

(i) the ex-officio members specified in Standing Order 552 [see above, for the consequential amendment in SO 552];

(iA) the presbyters-ministers, presbyteral probationers, student presbyters and persons authorised to serve the Church as ministers under Standing Order 733 who are, in each case,
eligible under Standing Order 510(1)(ii) to join the Circuit Meeting, whether or not they have elected to do so and, in the case of deacons authorised to serve under Standing Order 733, who have authority to preach under clause (7)(b) thereof;

(ii) any deacons, diaconal probationers and diaconal students who are local preachers and any persons authorised to serve the Church as deacons under Standing Order 733 with authority to preach under clause (5) thereof who are, in each case, members of the Circuit Meeting; any diaconal probationers and students being eligible to be members of the Circuit Meeting but not previously admitted as local preachers, who shall be entitled to attend but not to vote;

(iii) all local preachers who are members in the Circuit;

(iiiA) any local preachers who are employed by the Circuit under Standing Order 570 to perform duties which include preaching or assisting in preaching (who shall be primarily accountable to the Local Preachers’ Meeting of the Circuit in which they are employed); and

(iv) any persons who are for the time being authorised to serve as local preachers in the Circuit under Standing Order 566B(1) or (2).

SO 566 (8) The names of local preachers who are members in the Circuit or are deacons or diaconal probationers who are members of the Circuit Meeting shall appear in the list of local preachers in the circuit plan with their year of admission as a local preacher.

2) Listing of ministers on the Plan

521 The Plan.

....

(3) The ministers’ names shall be listed on the circuit plan in the order in which they are required to appear in the stations in accordance with Standing Order 785(4)(a).

3) Consequential amendments

564 Candidates [for local preaching]. Those who wish to train to become local preachers must be and remain members. They must in the first place be recommended to the Local Preachers’ Meeting by the Church Council of the Local Church in which they are members, or by a presbyter minister, presbyteral probationer or local preacher present in the meeting. They should, before the meeting, have shared in an interview with the Superintendent, who should also have consulted as necessary with the candidate’s Local Church and the presbyter having pastoral charge of that church in such manner as he or she thinks fit.
566 Admission procedure [for local preachers]. (4) For the purposes of the second interview the person on trial:

(i) shall, during the quarter preceding the interview, conduct a full service in the presence of two preachers (one of whom should under normal circumstances be a presbyter/minister) and a church steward who is not a local preacher, who shall together prepare a report for the meeting, written on the form provided by the Connexional Team; ...

SO 1131 Preparation for Hearing by a connexional Discipline Committee.

(5) The composition of the committee must reflect the status of the respondent, so that, subject to clause (6) below:

(i) if the respondent is a presbyter, presbyteral probationer or presbyteral student, the committee must include three presbyters;

(ii) if the respondent is a deacon, diaconal probationer or diaconal student, the committee must include three deacons;

(iii) if the respondent is a local preacher (not falling within (ii) above), the committee must include three local preachers;

(iv) if the respondent does not fall within any of the preceding heads, the committee must include three lay members.

***RESOLUTIONS

15/2. The Conference receives the Report.

15/3. The Conference amends Standing Orders as set out above.

15/4. The Conference gives permission to the committee to bring any necessary further amendments required under resolution 25/7 of the 2019 Conference to a later Conference.
SECTION C
MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO CPD

Standing Order 552

A committee member drew to the Chair’s attention a minor error possibly made when SO 552 was last amended to accommodate the provisions of SO 733:

552 Ex-Officio Membership. Subject to Standing Order 512B(6)(ii) the Superintendent, all ministers, and probationers and persons authorised to serve the Church as presbyters or deacons under Standing Order 733 appointed to the Circuit, all persons authorised to serve the Church as presbyters or deacons under Standing Order 733 and appointed to fulfil presbyteral or diaconal duties in the Circuit and the circuit stewards shall, ex officio, be members of and entitled to attend all official meetings (however described) connected with the Circuit, except that deacons and circuit stewards shall not be members of the Local Preachers’ Meeting unless they are local preachers.

If adopted, this amendment would be in addition to those proposed in Section B above.

***RESOLUTION

15/5. The Conference amends Standing Order 552, as set out above.
16. Safeguarding Committee

| Contact name and details | The Revd Henry Lewis  
Chair of the Committee  
revhen89@gmail.com |

1. Overview

1.1 The Safeguarding Committee reported to last year’s Conference that not only was safeguarding integral to the mission of the Church, but “we also expect to be facing closer public scrutiny when the Government’s Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse reports next year and all these measures will help us demonstrate how seriously the Methodist Church takes our duties and witness in this area”.

1.2 What was not known last year was that the Inquiry would decide to extend its focus to a further 20 religious organisations and include the Methodist Church in this new thematic review of current safeguarding procedure and practice. This has involved producing two statements totalling over 100 pages and some 120 separate appendices detailing the different policies that have evolved over time.

1.3 The hearing began in March but was postponed after only one day. At the time of writing, therefore, it is not known what the Inquiry will recommend but it is likely there will be proposals in the following areas: training; auditing implementation of minimum standards (possibly through an independent audit body); clearer processes for supporting survivors of abuse; and reviewing the DBS scheme.

1.4 What is clear is that the work that has been undertaken in the past few years within the Church has enabled us to respond positively to the areas of inquiry. In particular, the Past Cases Review has enabled us to demonstrate the seriousness with which the Church was already responding to improving its approach and processes as well as its willingness to learn from the experience of those who have been hurt, not listened to, misunderstood or just ignored. A key aspect of this shift in culture is an understanding that the learning does not stop and there are always improvements to be made to policies and achieving consistent practice. A fundamental building block has to be a continuous feedback loop. As a church community, this idea of discerning the will of God and growing in awareness and love is a familiar one.

2. Oversight

2.1 The Safeguarding Committee has further strengthened its membership with the addition of a member of the Methodist Survivor Advisory Group along with newer professional members and senior persons to oversee the development and implementation of safeguarding work across the Church.
2.2 The Committee has streamlined its meeting schedule in order to dovetail with Methodist Council meetings so that relevant changes to safeguarding policy and/or Standing Orders can be proposed.

2.3 New risk assessment procedures introduced last year are now enabling Safeguarding Panels to work more efficiently. They also offer greater clarity in relation to how decisions are reached in the management of risk across Church work.

2.4 Further work is underway with a smaller sub group looking at safeguarding strategy; it is developing an action plan to direct the further development of the Church’s work as we move forward. The emergence of new research in safeguarding practice, growing expectations of what is now expected from all public organisations, and the Church’s own understanding of its role and function within society mean that the Church’s understanding of how it needs to deliver its responsibilities in this area does not stand still. Work has been undertaken by the Faith and Order Committee on the theology of safeguarding, and this is reported on elsewhere in the Conference Agenda.

3. Safeguarding Casework and Development work

3.1 Case statistics and Safeguarding Panels completed for 2018/2019 and first six months of 2019/2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>1/9/17 – 31/8/18</th>
<th>1/9/18 – 31/8/19</th>
<th>1/9/19 – 29/2/20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DBS cases open</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBS cases closed</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-DBS cases open</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-DBS cases closed</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Safeguarding Panels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>1/9/18 – 31/8/19</th>
<th>1/9/18 – 31/8/19</th>
<th>1/9/19 – 29/2/20</th>
<th>1/9/19 – 29/2/20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Appeals</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Appeals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictions on role and Safeguarding Contract</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleared with conditions</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safeguarding Contract ended</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resigned from role</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resigned from role</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2 The online Safeguarding Procedures are now updated on a six-monthly basis, which means that churches can be directed to the most up-to-date guidance and policy with confidence. Over the course of the next year, further model job roles will be addressed and the Safer Recruitment and DBS guidance will be revised.

3.3 In addition to clearer procedures, a more user-friendly safeguarding section of the website has been developed. It is intended that the new structure will enable the development of more accessible material in coming months including help videos. The Charity Commission requires that a safeguarding policy be displayed. However, feedback received from Local Churches was that displaying their own policy was unsatisfactory. A new safeguarding poster has therefore been introduced; this can be displayed by churches in place of individual policies.

3.4 Final approval from the Charity Commission for the new bulk reporting process is awaited. Contact has been made with Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes to start to explore the most effective ways of providing information about the role of trustees in relation to safeguarding.
3.5 Colleagues within the connexional safeguarding team are working with partners across the Church to review three further areas: Domestic Abuse Guidelines, Local Ecumenical Partnership Practice Guidance and the Safer Recruitment Policy.

3.6 Further work has been undertaken on a new case file system that can be shared with district safeguarding officers in order to streamline recording systems and aid communication. It is important that any procurement work in this area is carefully scoped and resourced and therefore the date for introducing this has been put back to allow sufficient inquiries to be made about the type of system to recommend, and to investigate if there are existing systems that may be bought, rather than funding a bespoke system.

3.7 Closer working with Mission Partners and regional World Church Coordinators to develop safeguarding policy has continued and includes offering training in child protection to the Methodist Church in Southern Africa, guidance to the Methodist Church in Hong Kong and a planned visit to the Methodist Church in Columbia. These developments have enabled greater confidence in our approach to safer working, opportunities for learning from other traditions and cultures, and the sharing of the investment British Methodism has put into safeguarding in recent years.

3.8 Work with those involved in candidates being selected for ministry has continued to develop, and we work alongside colleagues in equalities and diversity. Candidates for ministry include both applicants from Britain and from other countries and conferences.

4. **Safeguarding training**

4.1 The Safeguarding Training Group, which includes both colleagues from Safeguarding and the Learning Network, has completely re-written the Foundation Module which is now in use.

4.2 The previously reported guidance and input for volunteers on Monitoring and Support Groups (MSGs) for those with Safeguarding Contracts will include information to support safer recruitment for new MSG members. It will explain the role and include a briefing outline for DSOs to ensure consistency for new groups, and a half-day training programme for those already on MSGs and for new members.

5. **District Safeguarding Officers (DSOs)**

5.1 The annual safeguarding conference considered ‘Courage, Cost and Hope – the Report on the Past Cases Review 2013–2015’. The conference discussed what has changed in the last five years and what is still to do. It was led by Jane Stacey,
the original author of the report. DSOs, chairs of district safeguarding groups and colleague church safeguarding officers addressed what had been learned, how practice has changed and areas that still need attention and have emerged as new needs over this period.

5.2 The connexional safeguarding team has embedded casework supervision to support DSOs and Districts in their duties. This has enabled a greater focus on identifying where practice can be improved; encouraging staff, who often are working alone; and sharing best practice between different parts of the Connexion.

6. **Developing survivors’ work**

6.1 Our Survivors’ Reference Group has been renamed the Methodist Survivors’ Advisory Group and has proved instrumental in developing understanding and growth of a more informed perspective on a victim and survivor voice in all current and new development work. Indeed, the very term ‘survivor’ has been debated, with some of the group now referring to themselves as ‘thrivers’. It indicates that for some the journey is one from victim to survivor to thriving. At the same time, we recognise that this is not the story for everyone who has been hurt in some way while in our Church. The President of the Conference, Barbara Glasson, has been the facilitator of the group and we are grateful that she has been able to bring a greater focus on the survivor experience during her year of travelling the Connexion.

6.2 The review of the complaints and discipline system and where it intersects with safeguarding processes will afford us a new opportunity. We will be able to assess how well our shared procedures support victims and survivors when they take the difficult step of coming forward and expressing their concerns. We have also contributed to the early discussion on the Church’s response to sexual harassment and developing better responses to this, and similar considerations about racial harassment and bullying within the Church.

6.3 The Methodist Survivors’ Advisory Group has produced prayers that have been added to our training materials. It is also planning to produce a publication relating to *Our Calling* from a survivor’s perspective. This is being led by the Revd Helen Cameron and will be published later this year.

7. **Ecumenical working**

7.1 The Anglican-Methodist Safeguarding Group has continued to meet in regional areas across England to discuss and listen to what is working well between sister churches and where there are shared challenges in safeguarding work.
16. Safeguarding Committee

7.2 We have contributed to meetings with the Christian Forum for Safeguarding and contributed to evidence being gathered by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Safeguarding in Faith Settings, which is working towards introducing legislation to make it mandatory that ordained ministers are included in ‘positions of trust’ categories in line with professionals such as teachers.

7.3 Work is underway to look at equivalency between our Foundation and Advanced modules with sister churches. This will assist those in local ecumenical partnerships as different denominations’ safeguarding training packages can be recognised.

***RESOLUTION

16/1. The Conference receives the Report.
1. The New Room has now been open for two full years since the new visitor centre in the Horsefair Courtyard opened in 2017. The expanded facilities reinforce the multifaceted nature of the site which, in addition to the chapel and museum, offers a café, shop, library and meeting rooms as well as a courtyard garden at the Broadmead entrance. We continue to receive recognition for what has been achieved since 2017. The most recent award we received was ‘Small Attraction of the Year’ in the Bristol, Bath and Somerset Tourism Awards, which we won for the second consecutive year in 2019.

2. Our visitor numbers have doubled over the last two years to over 50,000 per annum which we believe strongly reinforces our focus on the New Room being a place of pilgrimage, worship, exploration, nourishment, community building and spiritual growth. We actively encourage visitors to offer their feedback which we receive through traditional channels as well as our social media accounts and online review platforms. The feedback is overwhelming positive, and visitors always reference the warm welcome they receive from both staff and volunteers.

3. The New Room Mission Statement begins with the words: “A light in the city since 1739...”. We seek to live this out through our partnerships with local Circuits, the District, local businesses, charities and other important stakeholders, such as Destination Bristol. These partnerships enable us to organise and host a wide range of activities.

4. One of our most popular events is the annual Easter Trail which is run in conjunction with the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit’s Ark Bus team and Bristol Shopping Quarter. The trail is an opportunity for children and adults to hunt for over 60 cardboard animals, which have been painted by local schools, around the Broadmead shopping area. When complete, we hand out a small ‘goody’ bag which includes Methodist Church booklets and New Room leaflets. The 2019 trail attracted over 1,000 participants and has become a mainstay of the Easter programme offered by the Bristol Shopping Quarter. In addition, it is wonderful to report that there is strong competition among retailers to host one of the animals in their store, which enables the Easter story to be shared with an audience who might otherwise not hear it.

5. Regular events hosted at the New Room include our Community Film Club, Chat & Craft, and our monthly ‘Folk at the New Room’ music programme. One particular exhibition that we were delighted to display last year was ‘One Chapel, Many Voices’, an oral history project undertaken by our intern, Annie Sharples. The New Room continues to attract attention from the TV and film sector and featured in ITV’s adaptation of Sanditon, the BBC’s Britain’s Easter Story and Songs of Praise in which the history of the Methodist Covenant Service was shared.

6. We are delighted to report that the weekly Friday lunchtime communion service continues to grow with a good number of regulars attending. In addition, many of our
international and domestic groups now schedule their visits in order to play an active part in the service. It provides them with a highly valued spiritual experience as they attend worship at the oldest Methodist building in the world.

7. Our challenge for the future is to sustain what has been achieved and to seek new ways to expand our offer and engagement with a local, national and international audience. The ongoing financial support from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) ends in December 2020 and we are grateful for grants that have been given by the Methodist Church for the work delivered by the staff team. In addition, there will be applications made to external charities and grant making trusts to support these income streams. There will also be a greater focus on encouraging more people to become Friends of the New Room and Michael Eavis, a born and bred Methodist and founder of the Glastonbury Festival, remains an active Patron.

8. Currently, income from venue hire and the café continues to grow although we would like to see an increase in museum admissions. It has proved to be a particular challenge moving from a free museum to one where an admission charge applies. However, those who have visited have been extremely complimentary and we have received much positive feedback on its content and layout. Visitors can enjoy free readmission for a further twelve months. The café has established itself as a delightful space in which to relax and appreciate this ‘oasis’ in the middle of the Bristol Shopping Quarter which promotes Fairtrade products and has developed a well-deserved reputation for its food and drink along with great customer service. Income streams have increased substantially since we first opened, and we have developed our in-house catering offer for venue hire users.

9. The New Room staff team is funded as follows:

Director (full-time) – Connexion: David Worthington
Education Officer (full-time) – 50% Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and 50% Bristol District: Mandy Briggs
Collections Manager & Community Engagement Officer (full-time) – HLF: Kate Rogers
Operations Manager (full-time) – HLF: Louise Wratten
Assistant Manager (part-time) – HLF: Elizabeth Worthington
Café Manager (full-time) – New Room: Ewa Littlefield
Assistant Café Manager (full-time) – New Room: Niamh Archbold-Puttock
Catering Assistant (part-time) – New Room: Rodolfo Rivas-Albrete

10. The New Room continues to recruit new volunteers, including a significant number of overseas students from the local universities. All volunteers undergo a training programme, which includes safeguarding training and teaching about the Wesleys and the early Methodist movement. Work with schools is expanding and raises awareness
with both teachers and pupils about our story and addresses such topics as slavery and abolition in Bristol. Finally, the New Room works closely with the South West Learning Network team and regularly hosts meetings and events to support their work.

***RESOLUTIONS

17/1. The Conference adopts the Report.

17/2. The Conference appoints the following as the Managing Trustees of the New Room for 2020/2021:

(i) The Secretary of the Conference or her/his nominated substitute: the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler
(ii) The Chair of the Bristol District: the Revd Dr Jonathan H Pye
(iii) The Superintendent of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit: the Revd David Alderman
(iv) Mrs Jane Allin, the Revd Josette Crane, Mr Gary Best, Mr Geoffrey Gollop, Mr John Hirst, the Revd A Ward Jones, Mrs Linda Jones, Mrs Rachel Newton, Mr Niall Philips, Mr Michael Rose, Mr John Savage (Chair), Mrs Aroona Smith, the Revd David G Weeks, the Revd Steven J Wild
### SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Fund (Unrestricted)</th>
<th>Designated Funds (Unrestricted)</th>
<th>Restricted Funds</th>
<th>Endowment Funds</th>
<th>Total 2018-19</th>
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<td>137,874</td>
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<td>Other Trading Activities</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
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<td>137,874</td>
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<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
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<td>Raising Funds</td>
<td>135,800</td>
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<td>135,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charitable Activities</td>
<td>106,097</td>
<td>172,212</td>
<td></td>
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<td>278,309</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total charitable expenditure</strong></td>
<td>241,897</td>
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<td>172,212</td>
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<td>Gains/(losses) on monetary investments</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>3,356</td>
<td>(2,308)</td>
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<td>3,848</td>
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<td><strong>Net income/(expenditure)</strong></td>
<td>87,073</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(30,982)</td>
<td>(2,308)</td>
<td>53,783</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfers between funds</td>
<td>(30,000)</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other gains/(losses)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net movement in funds</strong></td>
<td>57,073</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>(30,982)</td>
<td>(2,308)</td>
<td>53,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funds brought forward</td>
<td>104,932</td>
<td>35,823</td>
<td>291,866</td>
<td>150,955</td>
<td>583,576</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total funds carried forward</strong></td>
<td>162,005</td>
<td>65,823</td>
<td>260,884</td>
<td>148,647</td>
<td>637,359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
18. Fernley Hartley Trust

Contact name and details
The Revd Mark Rowland
Secretary of the Fernley Hartley Trust
mark.rowland@methodist.org.uk

Resolutions
18/1. The Conference receives the report.
18/2. The Conference appoints the Revd Dr Catrin Harland-Davies and the Revd Mark Rowland as trustees of the Fernley Hartley Trust with effect from 1 September 2020.

Summary of content

Subject and aims
Activities of the Fernley Hartley Trust

Main points
Update and appointment of new trustees

1.0 About the Trust

1.1 The Fernley Hartley Trust organises an annual lecture on a theological topic related to Methodism. Originally the lecture was held at the Conference and had to be delivered by a Methodist minister, but the trust has broadened its rules so that it can take place at other times and be delivered by lay people as well. The lecture is often now given in partnership with an academic department or other organisation to help with publicity and attendance. In addition to the delivery of the Fernley Hartley lecture itself, the trust can support wider work including resources relating to the lecture and the holding of additional lectures. The trust has a page on the Methodist Church website which it is working to develop.

2.0 Lectures

2.1 The 2019 lecture was delivered at Cliff College as part of a day conference on the Holy Spirit and Fresh Expressions. The lecturer was the Revd Dr Jo Cox-Darling and it was entitled ‘Discernment or direction: dancing with the Spirit as we step out in mission’.

2.2 At the time of writing, arrangements for the 2020 lecture were being made.

3.0 Appointment of trustees

3.1 The trustees notify the Conference that the six-year term of office of the Revd Dr Jane Craske came to an end in 2019. Dr Craske served the trust as Chair and the trustees
have appointed the Revd Dr George Bailey as the trust’s new Chair. The trustees also notify the Conference that the six-year term of office of the Revd Mark Rowland who serves as trustee and as the trust’s secretary expires at the end of the connexional year 2019/20. They nominate him to serve a further six-year term as trustee and have appointed Ali Stacey-Chapman as the trust’s new secretary.

3.2 The trustees nominate the Revd Dr Catrin Harland-Davies to the Conference for appointment as a new trustee. Dr Harland-Davies is co-Director of the Centre for Continuing Ministerial Development at the Queen’s Foundation, Birmingham, having previously worked as chaplain at the University of Sheffield. She has a PhD in biblical studies, exploring the ecclesiology of the New Testament church.

3.3 The full list of trustees will then be as follows: the Revd Dr George Bailey (Chair), Dr Jill Barber, Professor David Clough, the Revd Dr Catrin Harland-Davies, the Revd Dr Philip Luscombe (Treasurer), the Revd Mark Rowland, Ali Stacey-Chapman (Secretary), Anthea Sully.

***RESOLUTIONS

18/1. The Conference receives the report.

18/2. The Conference appoints the Revd Dr Catrin Harland-Davies and the Revd Mark Rowland as trustees of the Fernley Hartley Trust with effect from 1 September 2020.
Methodist Independent Schools has revised its Articles of Association to allow for the appointment of up to 16 Trustees. This is an increase on the previous maximum number (14 Trustees) and is due to the intensified workload, and to a desire to have formal connexional representation on the Trust Board in the form of a Chair of District Trustee and a Connexional Representative Trustee.

In light of the above changes to the numbers of Trustees serving on the Board, the number required for quorum is increased to six Trustees. The quorum required for Members at the General Meeting is increased to nine.

Additionally, as housekeeping points, the Articles are revised to take into account staffing changes and the departure of two schools from the Group – namely, Kingsley School Bideford and Abbotsholme School (Schedule 1).

Below are the revised sections along with the written resolution of adoption which was unanimously agreed by the Trustees of MIST.

Pending the approval of the Conference and subsequent special resolution passed by the members of MIST, the updated Articles will be filed at Companies House.

**Revised Articles**

3.2 The Trustees, when complete, consist of at least ten and not more than 16 individuals over the age of 18, all of whom must support the Objects and of whom at least 50% shall be members of the Methodist Church PROVIDED THAT at no time shall more than 50% of the Trustees be serving Governors.

3.4 The Trustees shall be appointed by the Conference and shall consist of the following:

3.4.1 the Chair;

3.4.2 three Chairs of Governors Trustees;

3.4.3 no more than five Methodist Council Trustees;

3.4.4 no more than one Chair of District Trustee;
3.4.5 no more than one Connexional Representative Trustee; and

3.4.6 no more than five Nominated Trustees

3.6 The Chair, the Methodist Council Trustees, the Chair of District Trustee, the Connexional Representative Trustee and the Nominated Trustees may be reappointed at the expiry of their terms of offices provided that no such Trustee may serve more than three consecutive terms other than in exceptional circumstances, where a Chair of District Trustee or a Connexional Representative Trustee may be reappointed for one further additional term of up to three years.

3.8.7 in the case of the Chair of District Trustee ceases to be a Chair of District of the Methodist Church and in the case of a Connexional Representative Trustee ceases to be a senior staff member within the Connexional team of the Methodist Church with responsibility or oversight of education;

4.2 A quorum at a meeting of the Trustees is at least six Trustees or one half of the Trustees (if greater).

4.7 The General Secretary and the Business Director shall be entitled to attend and speak (but not vote) at meetings of the Trustees but may be required to withdraw from any such meeting at the request of the Chair.

9.3 There is a quorum at a general meeting if the number of Members present in person or by proxy is nine.

16.2 Definitions:

Chair of District Trustee means a trustee, who is a Chair of District within the Methodist Church, who has been appointed as Trustee by the Conference on the recommendation of the Chairs of Districts of the Methodist Church or failing such recommendation on the nomination of the Charity.

Connexional Trustee means a trustee who has been appointed as Trustee on the nomination of the Charity and who is a senior staff member within the Connexional team of the Methodist Church with responsibility or oversight of education.

Schedule 1 – The Schools: removal of Kingsley School Bideford
The Acquired Schools: removal of Abbotsholme School
Special Resolution to be proposed following approval by the Conference

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of Part 13 of the Companies Act 2006, the members of the Company proposed the following special resolution which was passed unanimously.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

Subject to approval by the Methodist Conference:

(1) That the attached Articles of Association be adopted as the Articles of Association of the Company in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the existing Articles of Association.

***RESOLUTION

19/1. The Conference approves the revision to the Articles of Association for Methodist Independent Schools Trust as set out in the Report.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index to Volume One</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong> Appointment of the Secretary of the Conference, the Assistant Secretary of the Conference, the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong> Committee on Methodist Law and Polity (1) Conference Arrangements Conference Rules of Procedure Connexional Allowances Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong> Election and Induction Evangelism and Growth Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F</strong> Fernley Hartley Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>G</strong> God for All: the Connexional Evangelism and Growth Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F</strong> Forces Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M</strong> Managing Trustees of John Wesley’s Chapel, the New Room Bristol and 4–5 Charles Street Bristol Methodist: Children and Youth Assembly (3Generate) Council, part 1 Homes Independent Schools Trust: Revision to Articles of Association Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S</strong> Safeguarding Committee Special Resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T</strong> Trustees for Jersey Methodist Church Purposes Trustees for the Bailiwick of Guernsey Methodist Church Purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U</strong> Unified Statement of Connexional Finances</td>
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</tbody>
</table>