

## 30. Nominations for the 2021-2026 Quinquennium of the World Methodist Council

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<b>Resolutions</b>	See below

### Summary of content and impact

<b>Subject and aims</b>	Appointment of representatives to the World Methodist Council for the 2016-2021 quinquennium.
<b>Main points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What the World Methodist Council is and does.</li> <li>● Criteria for selection and nominations to the Conference.</li> </ul>
<b>Impact</b>	Enables the British Methodist Church to engage fully with the World Methodist Council.

### Introduction

1. Founded in 1881, the World Methodist Council is an organisation that works to bring together 80 member churches spanning the entire Wesleyan tradition. In essence, the Council works as a United Nations for Methodism – we provide a global table for all churches in the Methodist family to come to while respecting the autonomy of individual organisations. Its main objective is to produce a coherent and prophetic voice on the Church’s role in the challenges that its parishioners face in an ever-changing and increasingly globalized world.
2. The World Methodist Council addresses these issues through its standing committees, which seek to bring together voices from our member churches to discuss and create official policy on a wide range of issues including education, evangelism, social justice and the role of youth and young adults within the Church.
3. The Council is also the only global organisation within the Methodist family that relates to other ecumenical bodies. The World Methodist Council has engaged in dialogues with the Catholic Church, The Salvation Army and the Orthodox Church, and with each of these dialogues comes a better understanding of our faith as well as a sincere hope for peace and justice.
4. The World Methodist Council works as an instrument holding together a vision for Methodists throughout the world. It has a distinct convening role within the Wesleyan family to give voice, form community and to bear common witness as we respond to a bruised and broken world.

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5. At this historical juncture, the Council stands on a strong foundation and has a new and dynamic future: more creative, diverse and ripe with possibility than any have yet imagined.
6. As the world grows and changes at a seemingly faster pace than ever before, the World Methodist Council is determined to be there as a steadying force, as a guiding hand and as a champion of integrity.
7. The final meeting of the 2016-2021 quinquennium will happen immediately before the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Methodist Conference in Gothenburg 18-21 August 2021 and the first meeting of the 2021-2026 quinquennium immediately following it, thus enabling both outgoing and incoming representatives to attend the Conference. The Conference appoints representatives to the World Methodist Council but the World Methodist Conference itself is open to any Methodist from across the globe who wishes to attend.
8. *Standing Order 335(3)(ii)* charges the Global Relationships Committee with the task of overseeing arrangements for the participation of the British Methodist Church in the World Methodist Council.
9. The Methodist Church in Britain (MCB) has been allocated eight seats on the Council for the next quinquennium, this represents a substantial reduction from the 20 that we held for the current quinquennium.
10. Historically the representation from MCB was created by an advertising and nomination process which tried to ensure a wide representation from the Connexion. With the reduction in allocated seats, it is proposed that a different approach is adopted to ensure that the spaces are used to the maximum effect for our strategic engagement with partners around the world.
11. Therefore, rather than naming individuals the proposal is that the seats would be used *ex officio* to enable a continuity of connections to various bodies in the life of the Church and the maximum ability to share the work of the Council through our own structures. It also means that if people move on from those roles during the quinquennium their representation can transfer to the person replacing them and ensure continuity for the governance bodies of the Church.
12. The recommended roles for making up the MCB's representation are:
  - i. The Secretary of the Conference
  - ii. The Assistant Secretary of the Conference
  - iii. The Connexional Secretary
  - iv. The Chair of the Global Relationships Committee

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- v. The Director of Global Relationships
- vi. The Head of Mission
- vii. Two representatives of 3Generate

### **World Methodist Conference**

- 13. The Committee has already previously noted that as the Conference happening in Gothenburg, it means that it is taking place as close to these islands as it may be for some time. It is an excellent opportunity for a strong representation from across the Connexion to attend and meet with Methodists from all over the world.
- 14. Indicative costs for attending the Conference for the weekend are approximately £325 per adult registration fee and approximately £150 flights from London; yet to be released are the costs of accommodation. This could lead to a projected cost of about £750 per person to attend.
- 15. It is proposed that money be made available for each District to have one paid representative at the Conference and to make that money available from the World Mission Fund to aid British Methodist engagement in this significant event.
- 16. The President and the Vice-President of the Conference will also attend the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Methodist Conference.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

- 30/1. The Conference receives the Report.**
- 30/2. The Conference appoints those officers named in paragraph 12 as representatives to the World Methodist Council for the 2021-2026 quinquennium.**
- 30/2. The Conference agrees that funding be made available for one person from each District to attend the World Methodist Conference in 2021.**