

## Minutes of a meeting of the Methodist Council held on 2-4 April 2016 at Woodland Grange Conference Centre, Leamington Spa

**Present:** The President, the Vice-President and 43 voting members as follows:  
The Revd Caroline R Ainger, Ms Janet Baker, the Revd J A Jade Bath, Mrs Carole Burgess, the Revd Helen D Cameron, the Revd Olufemi R W Cole-Njie, Ms Gill Dascombe, the Revd Linda Day, Mr Jack Delbridge, the Revd Graham M Edwards, Dr Martyn C Evans, the Revd Ruth M Gee, the Revd Graeme J Halls, the Revd Dr Paul Hill, the Revd Jacqueline A Horton, the Revd Kenneth G Howcroft, Professor Peter D Howdle, the Revd Eleanor G Jackson, Mr Sandy Laurie, Mrs Carolyn Lawrence, Mr Dean Lawson, the Revd Henry Lewis, Professor David R Matthews, the Revd Edwin T Myers, Mrs Anita Nicholson, the Revd Lionel E Osborn, the Revd Gareth P Phillips, the Revd Gareth J Powell, the Revd Keith A Reed, the Revd Peter D Sheasby, the Revd David Shirliff, the Revd Dr Joseph B Suray, Mr Doug Swanney, the Revd Timothy A Swindell, Dr Alan Sykes, Dr Val Turner, the Revd Dr Roger L Walton, Mr Ian White, the Revd Dr Stephen D Wigley, Mr R Arfon Williams, the Revd Dr Andrew D Wood, Mrs Helen Woodall, the Revd Michaela A Youngson.

**Apologies:** Mr Mike Anderson, Deacon Andrew Carter, the Revd Catherine Gale, the Revd David M Goodall, Ms Rachel J Lampard, Dr Daleep S Mukarji, Mrs Idy Osibodu.

**Substitutes:** The Revd Dr Sheryl M Anderson, Ms Ruth Hall, the Revd Rosemarie Clarke, Mr Brian Park, Mr Steve Rogers.

**Observers:** Mr Martin Ashford, Ms Jude Levermore, Mr Nick Moore (members of the senior leadership group of the Connexional Team), Mr John Chastney (Chair of the Audit Committee), Mr Craig Gaffney (Youth President), Mrs Louise C Wilkins (Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice), Mr Alan Yates (URC observer).

**In attendance:** Ms Jane Bates (Minutes), Mr Andy Jackson (Director of Publications and Communications), Mr Michael Ivatt (Media), Ms Louise Taylor (Administration).

The Council agreed to send a letter to the Revd David M Goodall and his wife, Tara, on the birth of their son.

### 16.2.1 Minutes of the Council

The minutes of the Council held on 27-28 January 2016 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

### 16.2.2 Matters Arising [MC/16/33]

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/16/33.

**33/1.** *The Council noted the report.*

**33/2.** *The Council delegated to the Chair of the Council and the Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee authority to agree the terms of reference for a review of the extension and application of SO 955(6) and, if necessary, to appoint a working party to undertake the review.*

### 16.2.3 Decisions made by the Council [MC/16/34]

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/16/34.

**34/1. The Council received the report.**

**16.2.4 Report from the Strategy and Resources Committee [MC/16/35]**

The Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC) presented MC/16/35.

**35/1. The Council received the report.**

**16.2.5 Connexional Team Report [MC/16/36]**

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/16/36.

**36/1. The Council received the report.**

**36/2. The Council agreed that the work directed by Notice of Motion 2015/214 can be considered completed.**

[Confidential minute]

**16.2.6 Research Response to NM 2015/204 'Impact of Mapping a Way Forward: Regrouping for Mission [MC/16/37]**

The Revd Stephen Skuce, Director of Scholarship, Research and Innovation, presented MC/16/37.

**37/1. The Council received the report.**

**16.2.7 Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) and the Church of Scotland [MC/16/52]**

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/16/52.

**52/1. The Council agreed the full and permanent membership of the Church of Scotland in the Joint Public Issues Team.**

**16.2.8 Proposed Code of Conduct for Ministers [MC/16/41]**

The Assistant Secretary of the Conference presented MC/16/41.

**41/1. The Council received the report.**

**16.2.9 Flexible working for ministers in appointments in the control of the Church [MC/16/42]**

The Assistant Secretary of the Conference presented MC/16/42.

**42/1. The Council received the report.**

**42/2. The Council, subject to some minor modifications on paragraph 2 which will be approved by the Chair of the Council and the Secretary, directed that the guidelines contained within the report should be published on the Methodist Church website.**

**16.2.10 Connexional Central Services Budget for three years commencing 1 September 2016 [MC/16/38]**

The Chair of the SRC introduced MC/16/38. The Council engaged in discussions in groups.

**38/1. The Council agreed to offer to the Conference the following three options for calculating the Methodist Church Fund assessment: a 1% increase, a 1% decrease and a freeze at the 2016/17 level.**

- 38/2. The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference that the Methodist Church Fund assessment should increase by a fixed amount of 1% per annum for the three years commencing 1 September 2017.**
- 38/3. The Council adopted reserves levels over and above grant commitments of £10m for the World Mission Fund as set out in paragraph 34 of the report.**
- 38/4. The Council approved the creation of an additional Safeguarding Case Worker post and directed that recruitment for the post should commence immediately.**
- 38/5. The Council endorsed the proposed budget and recommended it to the Conference.**

#### **16.2.11 Connexional Central Services Budget 2016/17 – District Allocations [MC/16/39]**

The Head of Support Services presented MC/16/39.

- 39/1. The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference the District allocations of the assessment to the Methodist Church Fund set out in the paper.**

In the light of the Council's discussions about the proposed Connexional Central Services Budget, the Council agreed that further work should be undertaken in the area of strategic planning and the use of resources. Such work should pay particular attention to contemporary articulations and expressions of connexionalism. The Council committed itself to spend time considering this at its next meetings, resourced by the SRC and the Connexional Team.

#### **16.2.12 Ministries Committee [MC/16/40]**

The Chair of the Ministries Committee, the Revd Leo Osborn, presented MC/16/40.

- 40/1. The Council received the report.**
- 40/2. The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference that the maximum length of deferral of training should not normally exceed seven years between acceptance as a candidate and reception into full connexion.**
- 40/3. The Council agreed to recommend the revised Selection Criteria for ordained ministry (as set out in paragraph 4) to the Conference.**

The Council noted that, following Notice of Motion 2015/203, work is underway to review those Standing Orders that relate to the candidating process so as to include reference to the selection criteria.

The thanks of the Council were expressed to Leo Osborn, as he completes his period of service as Chair of the Ministries Committee.

#### **16.2.13 M20 (2015) Authorisation of Small Property Works [MC/16/50]**

The Head of Support Services presented MC/16/50.

- 50/1. The Council received the report.**

#### **16.2.14 Sale of Swaythling Methodist Church [MC/16/44]**

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/16/44. The Council welcomed Mark Tosderin, circuit steward from the Southampton Circuit, for this item.

- 44/1. The Council approved the sale of Swaythling Methodist Church under Model Trust 20 to City Life Church subject to the agreed overage provisions.**

**44/2. The Council agreed that the decision in respect of the sale of Swaythling Methodist Church is not intended to and does not establish a precedent in respect of sales at an undervalue pursuant to Model Trust 20.**

**16.2.15 Mission Alongside the Poor in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century [MC/16/43]**

The Chair of the Connexional Grants Committee presented MC/16/43.

**43/1. The Council received the report.**

**43/2. The Council endorsed the recommendations contained within the report and agreed to commend them to the Conference.**

**16.2.16 Redevelopment of 24 Somerset Road, Birmingham: Request to increase budget provision [MC/16/45]**

The Chair of the Network Committee presented MC/16/45.

**45/1. The Council approved the budget of £3.665m + VAT to be met from the Fund for Training for the redevelopment of 24 Somerset Road, Birmingham.**

**16.2.17 Pension Consultation with members of Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme [MC/16/46]**

The Lead Connexional Treasurer presented MC/16/46.

**46/1. The Council noted the summary of responses to the consultation and agreed to recommend to the Conference the following:**

- **that increases to pensions payment in relation to both past and future service be linked to the Consumer Price Index rather than the Retail Price Index with effect from 1 September 2018.**
- **that any reduction in contributions rates from 1 September 2018 be evaluated as part of the 2017 actuarial valuation with the aim of reducing contributions in proportion to the current contribution rates if the funding position could support such a reduction in contribution rates.**
- **that consideration be given to awarding discretionary increases on or after 1 September 2018 if the funding position could support such an increase and subject to consultation with the MMPS actuary and agreement between the Trustee and the Conference.**
- **that consideration be given to using the Pension Reserve Fund to cover the cost of the financial impact of continuing using Retail Price Index for pension increases awarded on 1 September 2016 and 1 September 2017.**

**16.2.18 Resourcing Leadership [MC/16/47]**

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/16/47.

**47/1. The Council adopted the report.**

**47/2. The Council directed the Connexional Secretary to keep the implementation of the recommendations by the Team under review so as to ensure that they complement and inform other pieces of work in the area of vocational development.**

**16.2.19 Confidential Item**

**16.2.20 Apologetics**

The Secretary of the Conference and the Chair of the Council introduced a session concerned with the task of Christian apologetics. The Council engaged in discussions in groups, the outcomes of which will feed into the Council's considerations in October.

#### **16.2.21 Confidential Item**

#### **16.2.22 Safeguarding [MC/16/49]**

The Connexional Safeguarding Adviser presented MC/16/49.

**49/1. *The Council received the Report.***

**49/2. *The Council commended resolutions 1 and 3 as set out in paragraph 6 to the Conference.***

The Council agreed the principle that Districts should have adequate and appropriate levels of safeguarding advice and support. The Council agreed that it should indicate this principle in strong terms to the Conference. In agreeing this principle, the Council agreed to direct the Team, in consultation with District Chairs and District Safeguarding Officers, to undertake work on the practical and financial implications of that. The Team will bring reports back to the Council as part of the budgeting process for next year, enabling clear recommendations to be made to the 2017 Conference.

#### **16.2.23 Re-shaping the Yorkshire Districts [MC/16/68]**

The Assistant Secretary of the Conference presented MC/16/68.

**68/1. *The Council received the report.***

#### **16.2.24 Marriage and Relationships Task Group [MC/16/69]**

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/16/69.

**69/1. *The Council received the report.***

**69/2. *The Council appointed Ms Gill Dascombe, the Revd Peter Sheasby, the Revd Eleanor Jackson to undertake scrutiny on the composition and membership of any working party or task group, should it be recommended that the Conference appoint a working party or task group to undertake further work arising out of recommendations made by the task group on marriage and relationships.***

#### **16.2.25 Replacement Projects – guidance on classification**

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice updated the Council on the work in this area. Work is ongoing and updated guidance will be brought to the Council during the next connexional year.

#### **16.2.26 Property Development Committee [MC/16/51]**

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/16/51, noting that the Connexional Leaders' Forum will be asked to consider SO 962 and what might be possible in terms of district development plans.

**51/1. *The Council received the report.***

**51/2. *The Council established the Property Development Committee with the terms of reference as set out in the report.***

The Council noted that appointments to the Committee will be made by electronic vote, so that work can begin quickly.

#### **16.2.27 Nominations and Appointments [MC/16/53]**

**53/1. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 320(1)(ii), nominated to the Conference the following persons as members of the Ministerial Candidates' Selection Committee:***

The Revds Joanne Archer-Siddall, Peter E Barber, Rachel A Burgess, Richard J Byass, Jane H Carter, Molly Chitokwindo, Deborah A Cornish, David R Emison, Matthew R Finch, Vivienne M Gasteen, Susan J Griffiths, Gareth J Higgs, Dr David Hinchliffe, Christine M Howe, Ian J K Hu, Dr Jonathan R Hustler [SO 320(1)(i)], Philip J Jackson, Graham R Jones, Prof Teddy Kalongo, Susan M E Lawler, Dr Jane Leach, Julie A Lunn, Jonathan E Mead, Andrew C Moffoot, Dr Ian D Morris, Nicholas A Oborski, Stephen E Robinson, Barbara T Routley, Dr Calvin T Samuel, Kathryn Stephens, Neal H Street, Dr Joseph B Suray, Nutan Sandhya J Suray, Rose A S Westwood, Susan J Wigham, D Paul Wood [SO 320(1)(i)], Ian J Worsfold

Deacons P Jane Gibson, Richard D Goldstraw, Eleanor Griffin, Sylvia R Phillips, Myrtle A Poxon, Ann Shephard, Angela Shereni, Janet Stafford, Lynne R Sylvester-Tonge, Janet H Thomas

Miss Victoria Aggasild, Mrs Akua Agyepong, Mr Richard Armiger, Mr Rob Cooper, Ms Sarah Dixon, Mrs Janet Dobinson, Mrs Sylvia Gnanapragasam, Mrs Glenna Griffin, Mrs Elaine M Grout, Mrs Christine Haigh, Ms Sylvia Hart, Mrs Veronica Hickox, Miss Sharon Lam, Mr Rene Lamisere, Mr Phil Langdale, Mrs Dorothy Lumley, Mrs Hayley Moss, Mrs Grace Penn-Timothy, Mr Alfred Philpott, Mrs Maxine Scott, Dr Rachel Starr, Mrs Karen Stefanyszyn, Dr Margaret Williams, Dr Bart Woodhouse

The Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order has the right to attend but not to vote.

**53/2. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 321(5)(b), nominated to the Conference the following persons as Oversight Tutors:***

***The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham:***

\*The Revds Dr Jane V Craske, Dr Jonathan Dean, Gary P Hall, Dr Paul Nzacahayo, Dr Judith A Rossall

Deacons Eunice Attwood, Kerry R Scarlett

**53/3. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 212(7), nominates to the Conference representatives for appointment as follows:***

(a) Churches Together in Britain and Ireland: Annual General Meeting

Mr Michael King

(b) Churches Together in Britain and Ireland: Senior Representatives' Forum

Mr Michael King; The Revd Neil A Stubbens

(c) Churches Together in England: Enabling Group

The Revds Richard J Teal, Neil A Stubbens

(d) Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS): Members' Meeting:

The Revd Dr David P Easton; Mr Alan Henderson

Alternate: The Revd T Alan Anderson

(e) Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales): Enabling Group

The Revd Jennifer A Hurd

Proxies: The Revds Dr Ian D Morris, Phillip A Poynor

**53/4. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 213(2), nominated to the Conference the following persons as members of the Strategy and Resources Committee of the Council:***

Professor Peter D Howdle (Chair), Ms Janet Arthur, the Revd David M Goodall, Mr Robert J Harrison, the Revd Susan Keegan Von Allmen, Dr Daleep S Mukarji, the Revd Michael D Parker, Mrs Heather Shipman, the Revd Timothy A Swindell, Mr Edward Awty (Connexional Treasurers), Mrs Helen Woodall, the Revd Dr Andrew D Wood, the Revd Loraine N Mellor

Non-voting members: the Revds Gareth J Powell, Helen D Cameron, Mr Doug Swanney, Mr Martin Ashford, Ms Jude Levermore, Mr Nick Moore

- 53/5. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 322, nominates to the Conference the following persons as members of the Stationing Committee:***  
Mr Andrew R Owen (Chair), the Revds Gareth J Powell and Helen D Cameron, the Revd Jennifer A Impey, Ms Jenny Jackson, the Revd Dr David Hinchliffe, Mrs Biddy Bishop, the Revd Ian Howarth, Mrs Pamela Lavender, the Revd Stephen J Burgess, Mr Michael Prince, the Revd A Peter Hancock, Ms M Frances Hopwood, the Revd Dr Sheryl M Anderson, Mr Iain S A Henderson, the Revd Stephen J Lindridge, the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, the Revd Jennifer A Hurd, the Warden or deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order, the Revd Peter E Barber, the Revd Stephen J Poxon, the Revd Anne E Brown, with two places to be confirmed.
- 53/6. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 213A, nominated to the Conference the following persons as members of the Audit Committee:***  
Mr Rodney Betts, Mr John Chastney (Chair), Mr Peter Mills, Mr David Stubbs, Mr Andrew Whitley
- 53/7. *Pursuant to Standing Order 136(1)(i), the Methodist Council nominated Mr David S Walton to the Conference as the next Chair of the Conference Business Committee: Representative Session for the Conferences of 2017, 2018 and 2019.***
- 53/8. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 244(1)(iii), nominated to the Conference the following persons as trustees of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust:*** The Revd John Barrett, Mrs Veronica Knight
- 53/9. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 116B, appointed the Revd Ian J Worsfold to be the Precentor for the Presbyteral and Representative Sessions of the 2016 Conference.***
- 53/10. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 116B, appointed the Revd Alan Ashton to be the letter-writer for the Presbyteral and Representative Sessions of the 2016 Conference.***
- 53/11. *The Methodist Council, acting under Deed of Union Clause 14(4)(d) and Standing Order 107(3), appointed the following two associate members of the Conference as (full, voting) members of the 2016 Conference:***  
The Revd Purity Malinga (The Methodist Church of Southern Africa)  
Mr Edzaire Paul (The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas)
- 53/12. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 107, directed that the following church be invited to appoint a representative to be an associate member of the 2016 Conference:*** Church of Pakistan [substitute for the United Mission to Nepal]
- 53/13. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 138(1), appointed the Memorials Committee for the 2016 Conference as follows:*** Mr Mike King (Chair), the Revd Dr Roger Walton, Ms Rachel Lampard, the Revd Gareth Powell, Mr Doug Swanney, Mr Martin Harker, Mr Michael Noble, Mr Craig Price, the Revd Gavin Hume, Mr John Heard, Mr Keith Walton, Mr Mike Anderson, Ms Irene McKay, Mr Ron Jordan, the Revd Ros Hollingsworth, Mrs Mary Williams, Mr Adam Sanders, Mr David Pendle, the Revd Dr David Hinchliffe, Mr Graham Kay, the Revd Eleanor Jackson.  
In attendance: The Revd Helen Cameron, Mrs Louise Wilkins, the Revd Colin Smith, the Revd Jenny Dyer, the Revd Nicola Price-Tebbutt, Mr Nick Moore, Mr Martin Ashford, Ms Jude Levermore.
- 53/14. *The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 136A, appointed the Financial Committee for the 2016 Conference as follows:*** The Revd Timothy A Swindell (Chair)

(ex-officio), Mr Doug Swanney (ex-officio), Professor David Matthews, the Revd Eleanor G Jackson, Ms Helen Woodall

**53/15. The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 107, directed that the following twenty other autonomous conferences, other Methodist churches and united churches in which Methodists have joined be invited to appoint a representative to be an associate member of the 2017 Conference:**

The Methodist Church Sri Lanka, Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, United Church in PNG,

Methodist Church Sierra Leone, Igreja Evangelica Metodista Portuguesa, Free Methodist Church Rwanda, Union of Methodist and Waldensian Churches: Italy, Iglesia Metodista del Perú, United Church of Zambia, Iglesia Metodista del Uruguay, Iglesia Metodista en Cuba, Methodist Church Ghana, MCCA, UMC – Central and Southern Europe (1 Episcopal Area), UMC – Germany (1 Episcopal Area), UMC – Northern Europe and Eurasia (2 Episcopal Areas), Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, Iglesia Metodista de México, The Korean Methodist Church, The Uniting Church in Australia.

**53/16. The Methodist Council, acting under Standing Order 105(1A), approved the following rota for diaconal representation at the Conference of 2017:**

Wales Synod, Birmingham, East Anglia, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Stockport, Newcastle, Lancashire, Northampton, Southampton, York and Hull, London Reserves: Cumbria, Darlington

**53/17. The Council, on behalf of the Conference, appointed the following to accompany the President and the Vice-President as its representatives to the Irish Conference:**

The Revd Dr Martyn D Atkins, Ms Gill M Dascombe

**53/18. The Council appoints the following with effect from 1 September 2016 or nomination to other bodies:**

i. *Methodist members of the Methodist-Anglican Panel for Mission in Unity:*

The Revds John Hellyer (Co-Chair), Graham R Kent, Neil A Stubbens; Deacon Stephen F Roe; Mrs Jenny Easson, Mr David J Phillips, Mrs Heather Shipman

ii. *Methodist members of the Methodist-United Reformed Church Liaison Group:*

The Revds Richard Teal (Co-Chair), Christopher Collins, Kavula J John, Neil A Stubbens; Mr Dudley Coates

iii. *Methodist members of the British Methodist-Roman Catholic Dialogue Commission:*

The Revds Dr Neil G Richardson (Co-Chair), Dr David M Chapman (Co-Secretary), Josette A Crane, Dr Jonathan Dean, Marian J Jones, Dr Timothy Macquiban, Ian S Rutherford, Neil A Stubbens, Dr Stephen D Wigley; Mr David Bradwell

iv. *Ecumenical Stakeholders' Forum:*

Sister Eluned Williams (Chair), Mr Roy Crowder, Mr Mike King; The Revds Dr David P Easton, Dr Ian D Morris, Richard Teal, Dr Stephen D Wigley

**Representatives to other bodies**

v. *The Commission of the Covenanted Churches in Wales:* The Revds Catherine Gale, Jennifer A Hurd; Sr Eluned Williams

vi. *The Free Churches Group:*

The Revd Neil A Stubbens, *To be nominated*

vii. *Churches' Legislation Advisory Service:* The Revd Gareth J Powell; Mrs Louise Wilkins

viii. *Women's World Day of Prayer National Committee for England, Wales and Northern Ireland:* Dr Elizabeth Burroughs

**Nominations to other bodies**

ix. *Trustee of Cytûn (2016-2019):* The Revd Dr Stephen D Wigley

**53/19. The Council, in accordance with its responsibilities under SO 342, appoints the following as trustees of the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust:**



Re-appointment 2017

(August 2014 – 2017) Mrs Lesley Brookbanks, Headteacher (Christ Church CoE Primary School)

(August 2014 – 2017) Mrs Barbara Easton, Director of Education, The Methodist Church

(August 2014 – 2017) Mrs Julie-Ann Hewitt, Headteacher (The Acorn Trust)

(August 2014 – 2017) Dr Robert Jelly, Head of Learning and Assessments, Institute and Faculty of Actuaries

Reappointment 2016 – 2019: The Revd Paul Martin, Chair of District – Bolton & Rochdale

Appointment 2016 – 2019: Mr Stephen Whittaker, Diocesan Director of Education, Blackburn Diocese

Reappointment 2015

(August 2015 – 2018) Dr Michael Day, Director of the School of Education, Roehampton University

(August 2015 – 2018) The Revd David Deeks, Chair

(August 2015 – 2018) Mr Neville Norcross, former Headteacher, SIAMS

(August 2015 – 2018) Mr James Royal, MAST Executive Officer, Headteacher

**53/20. The Council appointed the Revd Alan Ashton as its representative to the UK organising group of the World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel, to pursue the work encouraged by Conference Resolution 14/8 (2010).**

**16.2.28 Home-Working Policy for Methodist Council Employees [MC/16/54]**

**54/1. The Council received this report.**

**54/2. The Council adopted the revised Home-Working Policy for Methodist Council employees.**

**16.2.29 Annualised Hours Policy for Methodist Council Employees [MC/16/55]**

**55/1. The Council received this report.**

**55/2. The Council approved the Annualised Hours Policy for Methodist Council employees.**

**16.2.30 Connexional Allowances Committee [MC/16/56]**

**56/1. The Council received the report and commended the recommendations to the Conference.**

**16.2.31 URC-Methodist Reciprocal Arrangement [MC/16/57]**

**57/1. The Council received the report.**

**57/2. The Council recommended to the Conference that it acknowledges that the Reciprocal Arrangement has come to an end.**

**16.2.32 Terms of Reference of the Finance Sub-Committee of the Strategy and Resources Committee [MC/16/58]**

**58/1. The Council approved the revised terms of reference of the Finance Sub-Committee of the SRC.**

**16.2.33 Investment Committee [MC/16/59]**

**59/1. The Council received the report.**

**16.2.34 Southlands College and the Southlands Methodist Trust: Report on Academic Year 2014/15 [MC/16/60]**

**60/1. The Council received the report.**

**16.2.35 Future Conference dates and venues [MC/16/61]**

**61/1. The Council received the report and recommended the dates as shown for the Conferences of 2017, 2018 and 2019 to the Conference.**

**16.2.36 An update on the work of the Past Cases Review Implementation Group [MC/16/62]**

**62/1. The Council received the report.**

**16.2.37 Faith and Order Committee Report to the Methodist Council 2016 [MC/16/63]**

**63/1. The Council received the report.**

**16.2.38 Exemption to DBS checks for ministers no longer exercising public ministry [MC/16/64]**

**64/1. The Council received the report.**

**64/2. The Council amended Section 11 para 13 of the Methodist Church in Britain Practice Guidance on carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks as part of Safer Recruitment for England and Wales (2015).**

**16.2.39 Connexional Grants Committee [MC/16/65]**

**65/1. The Council appointed the members of the Connexional Grants Committee, sub-committees and stream members for the connexional year 2016/17.**

**65/2. The Council allowed the Connexional Grants Committee to continue the trial period for modifications to the World Church stream structures for a further year (2016/17).**

**16.2.40 Membership of the Methodist Council [MC/16/66]**

**66/1. The Council received the report.**

**66/2. The Council recommended to the Conference that the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice should be a member of the Methodist Council and directed the Secretary of the Conference to bring the necessary Standing Order changes to the 2016 Conference.**

**16.2.41 Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme (MMPS) and Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC) [MC/16/67]**

**67/1. The Methodist Council nominated, for appointment by the Conference, Mr Ronald Calver and Mr John Wyatt, for reappointment as directors of the Trustee Board of MMPS, as from 1 September 2016.**

**67/2. The Methodist Council noted that Mr Keith Woodley OBE steps down from the Board from 1 September 2016 and that a replacement is now being sought.**

**67/3. The Methodist Council noted the re-appointment of the Revd Michael Giles as member nominated director of Methodist Ministers Pension Trust Limited, as from 1 September 2016.**

**67/4. The Methodist Council noted that Mr David Friswell was co-opted to serve as a director of MLEPTL for a term of one year from 1 September 2016.**

**67/5. The Methodist Council re-appoints, Mr Ronald Calver as a director of the Trustee Board of PASLEMC for a period of three years from 1 September 2016.**

**67/6. The Methodist Council noted that eligible ministers and Methodist Council employees who are not members of the relevant pension scheme will be re-enrolled on 1 September 2016.**

**67/7. The Methodist Council noted that the re-certification of MMPS and PASLEMC as qualifying schemes will be completed by 1 November 2016.**

**16.2.42 The President and Vice-President**

The President and the Vice-President each shared some reflections from their year of office.

**16.2.43 The Journal of the Conference**

The Journal of the Conference of 2015 was duly attested.

Thanks were expressed to those who were attending their last meeting of the Council.