

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Methodist Council held on 29-30 January 2020 at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon**

**Present:** The Vice-President and 50 voting members as follows:  
Mrs E Jill Baker, Mr Tim Baker, the Revd Paul H Booth, Ms Roxanne Bromley, the Revd Dr Adrian Burdon, Mr David Burton, the Revd Linda J Catlow, Ms Sue Draper, the Revd Mark Dunn-Wilson, Mrs Aileen Fox, the Revd Dr Andrew M Fox, the Revd Ruth M Gee, Mr Bala Gnanapragasam, the Revd Jeremy H A Hackett, the Revd Novette S Headley, the Revd Beverly Hollings, the Revd Dr Jennifer A Hurd, the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, the Revd Dr Vincent Jambawo, the Revd Philip J Jackson, the Revd Ermal Kirby, Mrs Carolyn Lawrence, Mrs Heather Lovelady, Mr Andrew Lowe, Deacon Karen McBride, Mr Alister McClure, Professor David Matthews, Deacon Jonathan Miller, Professor Ken Mortimer, Dr Daleep S Mukarji, the Revd Gillian M Newton, the Revd Leslie M Newton, Mrs Helen Norton, the Revd Richard Ormrod, the Revd Michael Parker, the Revd Rachel E Parkinson, the Revd Mary M Patterson, the Revd Malcolm Peacock, the Revd Stephen J Poxon, Mr Peter Prescott, Mrs Anne Pryke, Mr Michael Pryke, Mr Graham Russell, the Revd Billy Slatter, Mr Doug Swanney, the Revd Timothy A Swindell, the Revd Richard J Teal, Miss Margaret Webber, Mr Richard Wills, the Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle.

**Apologies:** The President, the Revd David W Hookins, the Revd Michaela A Youngson

### **Apologies were also received from the following non-voting members:**

Mr Ted Awty (Connexional Treasurer), Ms Thelma Commey (Youth President), Ms Jude Levermore (Head of Mission), the Revd Dr Andrew D Wood (Head of Ministries)

**Observers:** Mr Richard Hood (interim General Counsel and Company Secretary), Mr Alan Kershaw (chair of the Audit Committee) [for items 20.1.1-20.1.8], The Revd Dr Nicola V Price-Tebbutt (Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee), Mr Peter Pay (the United Reformed Church), Mr Matthew Tattersall (Director of Finance and Resources)

**In attendance:** Ms Jane Bates (Minutes), Ms Jillian Moody (Director of Communications), Ms Louise Taylor (Administration)

**Letters:** The Council sent letters of greeting and concern to the Revd Dr Andrew Wood, Ms Jude Levermore, the Revd Dr Barbara C Glasson.  
The Council sent a letter of congratulation to the Revd Dr John B Taylor and Mrs Margaret Taylor.  
The Council sent a letter of gratitude to the Joseph Rank Trust and to Methodist Insurance.

The Chair informed the Council that, since it last met, Mrs Louise Wilkins had left her post as Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice. She paid tribute to the work which Mrs Wilkins had undertaken during her time with the Connexional Team and indicated that she would be writing to her to express the Council's thanks.

### **20.1.1 Minutes of the Methodist Council held in October**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14-15 October 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.

### **20.1.2 Nomination of the Secretary of the Conference [MC/20/1]**

The chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee presented MC/20/1, which the Council considered in closed session.

- 1/1. In accordance with Standing Orders 114 and 313 the Council agreed to nominate to the Conference the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler to serve as Secretary of the Conference from 1 September 2020 for a period of six years.**

In considering the process by which the nomination for the Assistant Secretary of the Conference would be brought, the Council agreed the following resolution:

***The Council delegates to the Strategy and Resources Committee the oversight of the process by which a nomination for the Assistant Secretary of the Conference is brought to the Council.***

#### **20.1.3 Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2019 [MC/20/2]**

Mr Matthew Tattersall, Director of Finance and Resources, presented MC/20/2. The Council noted that, on page 42 of the accounts, table 3a, the total donations in 2019 should read £8.765m not £8.756m.

The Council expressed its concern about the level of remuneration within one of the self-accounting entities, as declared in note 12 to the consolidated accounts; it was assured that this matter has been raised and that the concern of the Council will be fed back.

- 2/1. In accordance with SO 212(1), the Council adopted the consolidated accounts for the year ended 31 August 2019, and directed that a unified statement of connexional finances be presented to the Conference as required by SO 360.**

#### **20.1.4 Annual Report of the Connexional Audit Committee [MC/20/3]**

Mr Alan Kershaw, chair of the Audit Committee, presented MC/20/3.

- 3/1. The Council received the report of the Audit Committee.**  
**3/2. The Council authorised the Chair of the Council to sign the Letter of Representation addressed to the external auditors, and the Trustees Report within the financial statements.**  
**3/3. The Council mandated the Secretary of the Conference to oversee a review of the oversight and governance of the Self-Accounting Entities and ensure that a report is brought to a future meeting of the Council.**

Terms of reference for the review to which resolution 3/3 refers will be brought to the next meeting of the Council.

#### **20.1.5 Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme – Single Employer Status [MC/20/4]**

The Director of Finance and Resources presented MC/20/4.

- 4/1. The Council resolved that all current and former "sector" employers as defined under the Rules of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme, shall not be liable of any section 75 debt that has arisen or might arise in the future in respect of Methodist ministers or probationers who are or have been members of the scheme.**  
**4/2. The Council resolved that it shall fund any section 75 debts that arise from "sector" employment from the Pension Reserve Fund.**  
**4/3. The Council directed that the Rules of the Scheme be amended so that the scheme no longer admits or enables future accrual of pension benefits to ministers employed by "sector" employers and only ministers in Full Connexion or probationers in an appointment within the control of the Methodist Conference can be members of the Scheme.**  
**4/4. The Council appointed a working group, delegating authority to it to agree the detailed requirements with the Pension Trustees to bring effect to these resolutions as follows: the**

***Connexional Secretary, the Assistant Secretary of the Conference, the Connexional Treasurer and the Director of Finance and Resources.***

**20.1.6 Methodist Pension Schemes [MC/20/5]**

The Director of Finance and Resources presented MC/20/5.

***5/1. The Council received the report.***

***5/2. The Council approved the Procedure for Appointment of Member-Nominated Directors of the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church as set out in the report.***

***5/3. The Council noted that the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme Long Service Award is to close with effect from 1 September 2020, and recommended that the Conference be informed of this decision.***

**20.1.7 Connexional Team update [MC/20/6]**

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/20/6.

The Council expressed pastoral concern for the Connexional Team, and for the pressures being carried by the senior members of the Team.

***6/1. The Council noted the update from the Connexional Team.***

**20.1.8 Input from Bishop Ivan Abrahams**

The Council heard a presentation from Bishop Ivan Abrahams, General Secretary of the World Methodist Council, to which the Council (through its Chair) responded warmly.

**20.1.9 Reaffirming *Our Calling*: Trustee Structure [MC/20/9]**

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/20/9, which the Council discussed in groups. The feedback from the groups will be considered along with feedback from the Connexional Leaders' Forum, the Faith and Order Committee and the Law and Polity Committee. A paper will be brought to the March meeting of the Council, which will have been consulted on in advance of the meeting.

***9/1. The Council received the report.***

**20.1.10 Methodist Council objectives [MC/20/7]**

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/20/7.

***7/1. The Council received the report.***

**20.1.11 Context of establishing the Connexional Central Services Budget for three years commencing with 2020/2021 [MC/20/8]**

The Director of Finance and Resources presented MC/20/8.

***8/1. The Council received the report.***

***8/2. The Council noted that the current budget assumption is a 2.5% average salary increase from 1 September 2020. The actual salary uplift will be proposed by the Pay and Remuneration Sub-committee and reflected in the final budget.***

***8/3. The Council directed that the draft budget for the three years commencing 1 September 2020 be compiled based on the parameters outlined within the paper including proper use of reserves where necessary.***

***8/4. The Council approved the revised approach to the setting of budget allocations as detailed in the paper.***

**8/5. The Council approved the proposal to provide funding for the pilot project with Place for Hope, noting that resources will be reallocated during 2019/20 and that it will be budgeted for in the years 2020/21 and 2021/22.**

**20.1.12 Report from the Strategy and Resources Committee [MC/20/10]**

The chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee presented MC/20/10.

**10/1. The Council received the report.**

**10/2. The Council directed the trustees of the various Connexional Funds to set out their plans for their funds, demonstrating how these achieve the purposes of the funds; meet a presumption of spend and not save, and where appropriate contribute to Our Calling.**

**10/3. The Council directed the Global Relationships Committee to revise the reserve levels of the World Mission Fund Committee to £3.5m excluding the property held within the fund.**

**20.1.13 Property Development Committee Annual Report [MC/20/11]**

The chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee presented MC/20/11, on behalf of the chair of the Property Development Committee.

It was noted that the Council had previously asked whether it would be possible for the hotel at Oxford Place to include a few low-cost rooms to be used by those who needed access to nearby hospitals. The Connexional Secretary indicated that this would be passed to those responsible for the business plan to see whether this could be incorporated without making a material difference to the projections. If it is possible to do so, it will be included and the Council will be informed at its March meeting.

The Council expressed some concern about the size and import of this work and the lack of clarity over funding, particularly as it relates to the Wesley brand and the Connexional Secretary and the Secretary of the Conference were encouraged to continue those conversations with the chair of the Property Development Committee.

**11/1. The Council received the report.**

**20.1.14 Special Resolution submitted by the 2019 Conference to the Methodist Council [MC/20/12]**

Richard Hood, interim General Counsel and Company Secretary, presented MC/20/12.

**12/1. The Council approved the Resolution.**

**20.1.15 Report from the Faith and Order Committee: The office of Vice-President [MC/20/13]**

The Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee presented MC/20/13.

**13/1. The Council received the report.**

**13/2. The Council directed the Secretary of the Conference and the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order to consider the further steps to be taken in the light of this report, and to report to the next meeting of the Council.**

**20.1.16 Report from the Faith and Order Committee: Mission and Ministry in Covenant [MC/20/14]**

The Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee presented MC/20/14 and the Connexional Ecumenical Officer offered a reflection on the conversations which have taken place with the Church of England since the last meeting of the Council.

**14/1. The Council received the report.**

**14/3. The Council directed the Faith and Order Committee to explore interchangeability of ministry with the Church in Wales and the Scottish Episcopal Church.**

Resolution 14/2 was declined.

**20.1.17 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE**

**20.1.18 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE**

**20.1.19 Decisions made, Documents signed and Action taken [MC/20/19]**

**19/1. The Council received the report.**

**20.1.20 Matters arising [MC/20/20]**

**20/1. The Council received the report.**

**20.1.21 Joseph Rank Trust grants to Methodism [MC/20/21]**

**21/1. The Council noted with thanks the grants provided by the Joseph Rank Trust in 2019 as detailed in the report.**

**20.1.22 Appointments [MC/20/22]**

**22/1. The Council appointed the Revd Dr Helen E Jenkins to the Authorisations Committee (SO 011).**

**22/2. The Council appointed the Revd Dr David H Mullins to the Presbyteral and Diaconal Reinstatements Panel (SO 761(4)).**

**22/3. The Council appointed the Revd Dr R F Leão Neto as Co-Secretary to the Methodist-Anglican Panel for Mission in Unity.**

**22/4. Acting on behalf of the Conference, the Council appointed Mr Michael Rickard as a member of the Audit Committee.**

**22/5. The Council appointed the Revd Keith A Reed to the group established by resolution 10/11 of the 2019 Conference.**

**22/6. The Council received the report.**

**22/7. Under Standing Order 136(1C), the Council appointed the Revd Sonia M Hicks and Deacon Tracey J Hume to the Conference Business Committee for the 2020 Conference.**

**20.1.23 Notice of Motion 2018/210: Fasting [MC/20/23]**

**23/1. The Council received the report.**

**20.1.24 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Council Data 2019/2020**

**24/1. The Council received the report.**

**20.1.25 Southlands Liaison Group – Additional Members [MC/20/25]**

**25/1. The Council received the report.**

**25/2. The Council appointed the Southlands Liaison Group as set out in the report.**

**20.1.26 Ministerial Covenant [MC/20/26]**

**26/1. The Council received the report.**

**20.1.27 Connexional Allowances Committee [MC/20/27]**

**27/1. The Council received the report.**

**27/2. The Council adopted the report and recommendations for presentation to the Conference.**

**20.1.28 Modern Slavery Act 2015 – Transparency Statement [MC/20/28]**

The following amendments were made to the first paragraph of the statement:

The Methodist Church is committed to working in partnership with others to see the eradication of modern-slavery. As such, the Methodist Church has procurement-processes in place that **validate, insofar as it is reasonably practical, ensure that no that any** part of the Methodist Church **only**

contracts with any organisations that does not pay their staff ***the statutory new living wage or preferably*** the living wage according to the Living Wage Foundation.

Throughout the statement (unless referring to the Modern Slavery Act):  
*for modern slavery read slavery.*

***28/1. The Council received the report.***

***28/2. The Council adopted the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for 2019/2020, as set out in the report.***

***28/3. The Council continues to underline its strong commitment to pursuing the objectives of the Act.***

#### **20.1.29 Authorisations and Delegations [MC/20/29]**

***29/1. The Council receives the report.***

***29/2. The Council approved the list of authorisations and delegations with effect from 30 January 2020.***

#### **20.1.30 Good Practice Guidelines for Churches: Sexual Harassment [MC/20/16]**

Mrs Jill Baker presented MC/20/16.

***16/1. The Council directed Mrs Jill Baker to oversee the continuing work relating to sexual harassment and to bring draft guidelines to the March Council.***

#### **20.1.31 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Task Group**

The Secretary of the Conference provided the Council with an update on the work of the Task Group which the Council had established. The group will bring a full and final report to the March meeting of the Council. The recommendations are likely to include:

- Minimum standards for EDI throughout the Connexion, with sanctions available where the standards are not met.
- EDI becoming more securely embedded in the life of the Church, eg through district officers.
- Moving towards resource groups of specialists rather than an EDI Committee as it is currently constituted.

#### **20.1.32 Membership and the Methodist Way of Life [MC/20/17]**

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/20/17. The Revd Dr Roger Walton introduced the work on the Methodist Way of Life on which the Council offered comments, which will be fed into the ongoing work.

***17/1. The Council received the report.***

***17/2. The Council commended the work on the Methodist Way of Life and affirmed the proposal to launch the Way of Life at the Conference in 2020 as a personal expression of Our Calling for members of the Church and others.***

***17/3. The Council directed the Methodist Way of Life working group to continue to report to the Faith and Order Committee on the development of material and any feedback from discussions and experience of those endeavouring to follow the Way of Life during 2020/2021.***

***17/4. Subject to consultation with the Faith and Order Committee, the Council directed that the wording of the 2020 membership ticket include the commitments of membership agreed by the 2002 Conference and that material relating to the Methodist Way of Life be circulated with but not on the membership ticket.***

***17/5. The Council directed the Faith and Order Committee to consider as part of its work on Membership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century the proposals for a Methodist Way of Life and their relation to the understanding of the duties and privileges of membership and the role of the class meeting and the class leader.***

**17/6. *The Council asked both the Methodist Way of Life working group and the Faith and Order Committee to report to the next meeting of the Council.***

**20.1.33 Review of the Memorials Committee [MC/20/18]**

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/20/18, noting that the precise wording of a revised Standing Order will be referred to the Law and Polity Committee.

**18/1. *The Council received the report.***

**18/2. *The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference a revision to SO 138 as proposed in paragraph 9 of the report.***