

## Youth President Role Review – interim report

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| <b>Resolutions</b>              | 40/1. The Council receives the report.<br>40/2. The Council approves an extension to the review period, with a final report brought to the Conference in 2022.<br>40/3. The Council agrees that the task group may co-opt one or more new members for the remainder of the review period. |

### Summary of content

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| <b>Subject and aims</b>     | To present the work undertaken and findings to date, and to request an extension to the review period and permission to co-opt new members of the task group as needed.  |
| <b>Background documents</b> | 1. MC/11/23 Youth Presidency Review report of Working Party for Council April 2011<br>2. Notice of Motion 2019/201<br>3. MC/19/67 Response to Notice of Motion 2019/201: Review of the Role of Youth President |

### Introduction

1. The 2019 Conference passed Notice of Motion 2019/201 (see Appendix 1), directing the Methodist Council to appoint a task group to review the role of Methodist Youth President, and to report and bring recommendations to the Methodist Conference no later than 2021.
2. The October 2019 meeting of the Council appointed a task group and agreed terms of reference for the group<sup>1</sup>.
3. This report outlines the research and consultation undertaken by the task group and proposes a way forward to complete the work.

### Research and consultations

4. The task group considered the following documents in undertaking the review:
  - i. MC/11/23 Youth Presidency Review report of Working Party for Council April 2011
  - ii. The report to the 2005 Conference, titled, "The Nature of Oversight: Leadership, Management and Governance in the Methodist Church in Great Britain"<sup>2</sup>
  - iii. The current job description, person specification and related recruitment documents for the Youth President
  - iv. Standing Order 250, relating to the children and youth assembly and the role of the Youth President
5. The task group undertook the following consultations to inform the review:
  - i. A questionnaire available online and via the 3Generate app to survey children and young people

<sup>1</sup> MC/19/67: [https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/15108/counc\\_mc19-67\\_youth-president-review\\_oct\\_2019.pdf](https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/15108/counc_mc19-67_youth-president-review_oct_2019.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> A copy can be downloaded from the Methodist website: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-reports/conference-reports-2005/>

- ii. A questionnaire sent to the past Youth Presidents who had served between connexional years 2010/2011 and 2018/2019
- iii. A consultation meeting with the Youth Representatives
- iv. Receiving a written reflection from the Head of Mission
- v. Receiving a written reflection on the term “presidency” from the then-Vice President of the Conference, Professor Clive Marsh
- vi. Receiving a written reflection from the Faith and Order Committee

### **Interim findings**

6. The consultation and research undertaken so far has highlighted seven key areas of interest for review, namely: purpose of the role and responsibilities, title of the post, location and base, support and training, recruitment, length of service and terms and conditions, and key relationships and partnerships. It is in these seven key areas that further research will be undertaken.

### **Further areas for consideration**

7. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated government lockdown has significantly impacted the work of the task group. The 3Generate gathering did not occur in 2020 and engaging with children and young people digitally has proven difficult. Consultations with other denominations, those who have hosted Youth President visits, key Connexional Team staff members, and children and young people not associated with 3Generate are also required.
8. Furthermore, the remit of this role review includes making recommendations on how to develop the role for the next decade. However, ways of working have changed dramatically in the past year, so that the current Youth President is working in a very different way to any of her predecessors (ie working from home and not undertaking any visits). The significance of this has yet to be fully understood.

### **Proposed extension**

9. In order to complete the remaining consultations and allow more time to understand the impact of home-working on the role, the task group proposes to extend the review period by one year, with a final report and recommendations brought to the Conference in 2022.

### **Task group membership**

10. One member of the task group has stepped down, due to personal reasons. It is proposed that the task group be permitted to co-opt one or more new members, as it deems necessary, for the remaining year of the review period.

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

**40/1. The Council receives the report.**

**40/2. The Council approves an extension to the review period, with a final report brought to the Conference in 2022.**

**40/3. The Council agrees that the task group may co-opt one or more new members for the remainder of the review period.**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Notice of Motion 2019/201: Review of the role of Youth President**

The Conference notes the positive impact of the 2008 Youth Participation Strategy, especially the position of the Youth President. The Methodist Church, 3Generate and the Connexional Team have gone through an enormous amount of change in the past 11 years.

Recognising these changes, the Conference directs the Methodist Council to appoint a task group (to include at least 1 past Youth President, 1 past President or Vice-President of the Conference, 1 local youth worker, 1 former youth representative, 1 current youth representative and 2 other persons):

1. in consultation with 3Generate and former Youth Presidents to review the job description, person specification and other relevant aspects of the role of Methodist Youth President, and to present recommendations on how to develop the role for the next decade.
2. to report and bring recommendations to the Methodist Conference no later than 2021.