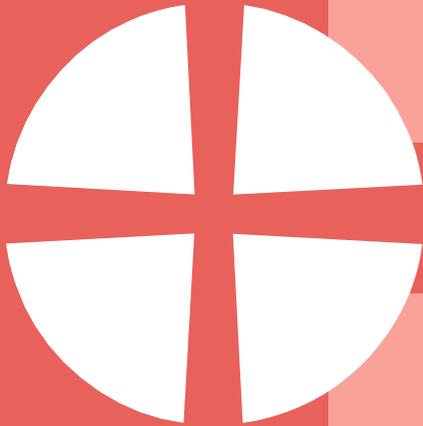


The **Methodist** Church 



Agenda **volume one**

Annual Conference 2018



# Presbyteral and Representative Sessions

Assembling in  
**Nottingham**

## **Presbyteral Session**

Thursday 28 June at 14:15

## **Representative Session**

Saturday 30 June at 14:15

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

Representatives must bring the Agenda with them to the Conference.

The Secretaries cannot supply additional copies.

Representatives may wish to bring copies of *Singing the Faith* and *The Methodist Worship Book* but, increasingly, services of worship and hymns are being printed or projected on screen.

The President and Vice-President confidently appeal to all representatives to join, so 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 seconders 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.

## Conference Rules of Procedure

(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 21.2(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;
- (ia) to identify the resolutions which it proposes shall be moved en bloc under Standing Order 134A;
- (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. Election and Induction of the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

## 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 Michaela Anne Youngson to be the President of the Conference.**

*A standing vote is taken.*

*The President says:*

I declare that **the Reverend Michaela Anne Youngson** 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 Mr Balachandren Muthualoe Gnanapragasam to be the Vice-President of the Conference.**

*A standing vote is taken.*

*The Vice-President says:*

I declare that **Mr Balachandren Muthualoe Gnanapragasam** 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:*

Michaela and Bala, 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

# 1. Election and Induction of the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

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:*

Michaela and Bala, 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:*

Michaela, 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 her successor:*

Bala, 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.*

# 1. Election and Induction of the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

## 4. THE GIVING OF SYMBOLS AND GIFTS

*The Ex-President invests the President with the Presidential Cross and hands to her John Wesley's Bible.*

*The Ex-Vice-President invests the Vice-President with the Vice-Presidential Cross and hands to him 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 her/his predecessor and presents her with a replica of the Presidential/Vice-Presidential Cross.*

*A hymn is sung and the Conference continues its business.*

## 2. First Report of the Conference Business Committee

<b>Contact name and details</b>	Mr David S Walton Chair of the Conference Business Committee dswalton@gmx.com
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### 1. **Membership of the Conference Business Committee**

The Conference Business Committee for 2018 comprises the Revd Rosemarie E G Clarke, Mr Stephen H Cooper, Deacon Jennifer A J Jones, Mrs Anna Malnutt, the Revd Stephen J Radford, Mr David S Walton (Chair) and Mr Frank Watson. The Revd Rosemarie Clarke and Deacon Jenny Jones have been appointed to serve the Business Committee for the 2018 Conference by the Methodist Council under the provisions of Standing Order 136(1C).

### 2. **Summary of the Committee's work during the year**

In addition to the Committee's general responsibilities, the Committee spent significant time considering the recommendations of the Accessibility to the Conference Working Group. As directed, the Committee presented its report to the Council, which sets out its recommendations to the Conference elsewhere in the Agenda.

### 3. **Meetings and reports**

- The Business Committee will meet on Saturday 30 June at the close of business, following the Scrutineers' briefing.
- The Scrutineers are asked to meet for a briefing on Saturday 30 June immediately at the close of business.
- The Business Committee will report each day in the Order Paper. It will indicate any variations to the outline schedule printed in the Agenda.

### 4. **Length of speeches**

It is recommended that presenters of business have four minutes and speakers three minutes. In exceptional circumstances, with the approval of the President and Vice-President, these allocations may be changed.

### 5. **Use of time**

- 5.1 Members of the Conference will want to ensure that their time is spent wisely and effectively. To this end, the Business Committee will endeavour to ensure that as far as possible, business follows the schedule published. As well as those who visit the Conference for particular debates, increasing numbers of people watch its proceedings on the internet, especially items on specific matters of interest, and rely on the published schedule being observed. Therefore, without wishing to

## 2. First Report of the Conference Business Committee

deny opportunity to speak or to curtail debate unhelpfully, the Business Committee strongly urges members of the Conference to maintain the discipline of keeping to its schedule. It is unfair to have to foreshorten business scheduled for later in the week because earlier items have overrun.

5.2 With this in mind, the Business Committee asks that:

- speeches are not made unnecessarily when it is evident that the outcome is clear;
- representatives refrain from making speeches or comments that have already been made and from repeating what has been said and heard;
- the Conference focuses on reaching decisions with the minimum necessary debate that does the subject justice.

5.3 The Committee asks members of the Conference to bear in mind that web streaming enables a wider audience for Conference debates; representatives are therefore asked to consider their contributions to debates in the light of that. The Committee asks representatives not to address directly those watching proceedings via the internet, in the same way that those watching in the public gallery would not be addressed. This helps to remind members of the Conference of the particular responsibilities that they carry as voting members.

### 6. Notices of Motion

Standing Order 132 reads as follows:

**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 4.30 pm 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.

## 2. First Report of the Conference Business Committee

- 6.1 The 2013 Conference agreed that it should be mandatory for proposers of Notices of Motion to complete a 'Submission of a Notice of Motion' form, including information about budgetary implications. The form is available to download from the website, and from the Conference Office (email [conferenceoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:conferenceoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk)) prior to the Conference or the Help Desk at the Conference.
- 6.2 In order that Notices of Motion which are unrelated to existing Agenda business can be dealt with effectively and efficiently by the Conference, proposers are requested to ensure that they include sufficient but succinct information to ensure that all Conference members may understand what is being proposed and why. This will enable members to reflect on the merit of these Notices of Motion beforehand and speakers to focus on key issues.
- 6.3 In enabling Conference members to submit Notices of Motion related to business scheduled for the afternoon and evening of Saturday 30 June, the Business Committee requests that these be submitted either (1) by post to Jane Bates at Methodist Church House to arrive not later than Thursday 28 June or (2) by email to [batesj@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:batesj@methodistchurch.org.uk) to arrive not later than Friday 29 June at 2.00pm. The Committee has determined that it will only require the names (which will be printed on the Order Paper) of a proposer and a seconder to be supplied at this stage: the four further signatories, should the Notice of Motion be resisted by the proposer of the resolution (as per SO 132(1A)(ii)), may therefore be acquired after arrival at the Conference on Saturday 30 June but must be handed to the Record Office by 1.00pm on that day.
- 6.4 Further, for the Business Committee to prepare the business to be conducted on Monday 2 July, members of the Conference who wish to submit Notices of Motion relating to the business to be taken on Monday, or amended replies to any Memorials to be taken with it, are requested to hand them to the Record Office by 12.30pm on Sunday 1 July.
- 6.5 Similarly, Notices of Motion relating to items of business to be taken on Tuesday 3 July should be submitted by 12.30pm on Monday. This, and the deadlines in the previous paragraphs, will enable the Business Committee to prepare full and informed Order Papers for the smooth transaction of business.
- 6.6 Having set out in the preceding paragraphs the proposed timings for Notices of Motion in general, the Business Committee wishes to make provision for dealing with any which impact the connexional budget and proposes a specific timetable to that end. Its purpose is to ensure that the Conference is able to take decisions about the budget when all the relevant information is to hand and to avoid the pitfall of making choices or judgements based on partial information. It is therefore recommended that:

## 2. First Report of the Conference Business Committee

- The budget will be presented on Saturday evening.
- Any Notices of Motion proposing amendments to the budget shall be submitted by 12.30pm on Monday through the usual channels.
- The Conference Financial Committee will consider the implications of the proposed amendments at the close of Monday's session and present a report in Tuesday's Order Paper.
- The Conference will then consider Notices of Motion and memorials which impact the budget on Tuesday morning and will engage in discussion of the budget at that point.
- The budget will then be formally confirmed and adopted on Thursday morning.

In summary, the deadlines for submitting Notices of Motion are as follows:

<b>Relating to</b>	<b>Submit by</b>
Saturday's business	Friday 2.00pm
Monday's business	Sunday 12.30pm
Tuesday's business	Monday 12.30pm
Wednesday/Thursday's business	Monday 4.30pm
Unrelated to business	Monday 4.30pm

- 6.7 Those proposing a Notice of Motion should consult with those presenting the business to ascertain whether the Notice of Motion will be accepted or resisted. Lists of those responsible for presenting each item of business are available from the Record Office or the Chair of the Business Committee.
- 6.8 The 2011 Conference approved the principle of enabling those Notices of Motion that do not relate to business already in the Agenda to be prioritised, by means of a ballot, should time not permit all such Notices of Motion to be considered. Should such a ballot be required, it will be held on Tuesday 3 July. Any such Notices of Motion which are not considered during the Conference will be dealt with as in the next paragraph.
- 6.9 The Business Committee may recommend that a particular Notice of Motion is not considered by the Conference but is referred to the Methodist Council in the coming year. The Council is required to report back to the following Conference its judgement on that Notice of Motion.
- 6.10 In order for the Business Committee to test, on the floor of the Conference, its own judgements about which Notices of Motion to refer to the Council without debate, on Wednesday 4 July the Chair of the Business Committee will move that the Conference adopts that section of the Committee's report (which will be printed on the day's

## 2. First Report of the Conference Business Committee

Order Paper) which lists those Notices of Motion recommended to be referred to the Council. The Conference will be able to amend the list without the need of a written Notice of Motion.

### 7. **Memorials**

It is anticipated that all memorials will be dealt with during the Conference, ie taken with existing business to which they relate, debated separately or the replies adopted *en bloc*, based on the recommendations of the Memorials Committee.

### 8. **Nominations**

All nominees for President-Designate, Vice-President-Designate and Conference-elected representatives are to be photographed and their details displayed on a screen. The arrangements for this will be notified on Saturday's Order Paper at the Conference.

Nominations for designation of **President and Vice-President of the Conference** of 2019 must be placed in ballot boxes by **5.30pm on Monday 2 July**. They will be displayed on Tuesday; voting will close at 6.00pm on Tuesday; the results will be announced on Wednesday morning.

Nominations for **Conference-elected representatives**: you are asked to follow **strictly** the instructions on the nomination form. Please ensure that you seek the consent of persons nominated and complete the forms fully and clearly for display. Nomination forms must be placed in the ballot boxes by **2.00pm on Tuesday 3 July**; voting will close at 5.00pm on Wednesday; the results will be announced on Thursday morning.

This year, of the three Conference-elected representatives to serve from 2019 to 2021, one will be diaconal and two will be lay, thus fulfilling SO 103(2A).

Nominations for **Conference Business Committee members**: you are asked to follow **strictly** the instructions on the nomination form. Please ensure that you seek the consent of persons nominated and complete the forms fully and clearly for display. The election timetable will be the same as for Conference-elected representatives, as above. It should be noted that election to the Business Committee does not carry a right to membership of succeeding Conferences.

This year, two Business Committee members, both ministers, are required to be elected and may serve for the three years 2019-2021.

In summary, the deadlines for nominations and elections are as follows:

## 2. First Report of the Conference Business Committee

<b>Election</b>	<b>Nominations close</b>	<b>Voting closes</b>
President of the Conference	Monday 5.30pm	Tuesday 6.00pm
Vice-President of the Conference	Monday 5.30pm	Tuesday 6.00pm
Conference-elected representatives	Tuesday 2.00pm	Wednesday 5.00pm
Conference Business Committee: Representative Session	Tuesday 2.00pm	Wednesday 5.00pm

### 9. **Provisional legislation**

Under Standing Order 122, any two members, by Notice of Motion, may propose that an item agreed by the Conference be referred to the Synods as a **provisional resolution** before being proposed for final adoption by the Conference next year.

### 10. **Letter-writing**

Any member of the Conference requesting that a letter be sent on behalf of the Conference should note the following criteria and procedure:

- a. The Conference writes automatically to those who have served in ordained ministry for 70 or more years, and those celebrating the twenty-fifth, fiftieth or sixtieth anniversaries of their ordinations; their names to be prepared in advance.
- b. The Conference will write, for a specific reason, to those who have a direct link with the Conference, or represent the World Church, or have an ecumenical relationship with the Methodist Church, or have a claim to achievements that are outstanding in the life of the Church or on its behalf.
- c. The letter-writer, with consultation as necessary, will be the appropriate person to give guidance to Conference members as to whether a proposed letter is within the criteria.
- d. Requests for letters to be sent must be submitted on a standard form, giving all the required details, to the Help Desk, who will receive them on behalf of the letter-writer. Forms are available from the Help Desk.
- e. The recipients of letters will be listed in the Daily Record for the information of the Conference.

### 11. **En bloc items**

The Business Committee proposes that the items of business listed below be voted *en bloc*. Under the terms of SO 134A, if Notices of Motion are received about items in the *en bloc* list those items will automatically be removed from the list. In addition, by giving notice to the Assistant Secretary of the Conference, any six members of the Conference may, without proposing an amendment, require that an item be removed from the list and debated. Such notice must be given before the close of business on Monday 2 July (SO 134A(1)(c)).

## 2. First Report of the Conference Business Committee

The preliminary list of proposed *en bloc* business is as follows:

The Trustees for the Bailiwick of Guernsey Methodist Church Purposes

The Trustees for Jersey Methodist Church Purposes

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Methodist Diaconal Order General Report

Managing Trustees of Central Hall Westminster

New Room Bristol

Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland

Central Finance Board

Referred Memorials and Notices of Motion

Stationing Committee

Action for Children

Fernley Hartley Trust

Methodist Council general report sections

Ecumenical Report

Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group

Methodist Schools appointments

### \*\*\*RESOLUTION

**2/1. The Conference adopts the Report of the Business Committee.**

<b>Contact name and details</b>	The Revd Ruth M Gee Chair of the Council ruthmgee@gmail.com
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### **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](http://www.methodist.org.uk/council)

The report to the Conference is presented in three parts, this one in volume 1 of the *Agenda* and parts two and three 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 April is reported in parts two and three.

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:

- noted the workplan for the Connexional Team and for other bodies for 2017/2018;
- appointed connexional committees, trusts and representatives for the year 2017/2018;
- received reports from a number of committees and trustee bodies;
- approved the revised list of authorisations and delegations;
- received regular reports from the Strategy and Resources Committee of the Council;
- received reports from the Connexional Team at each meeting;
- on behalf of the Conference, appointed the Revd Dr Vincent M Jambawo and the Revd Peter E Barber to the Council;
- approved the principle of the sale of Sidwell Street Methodist Church under Model Trust 20;

### 3. Methodist Council, part 1

- agreed to recommend to the Conference that, pursuant to SO 315, Deacon Ruth M Richey be appointed Deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order for a period of five years from 1 September 2018;
- encouraged the Property Development Committee to continue exploring potential developments for the North Bank Estate and Oxford Place, Leeds;
- directed the Property Development Committee to draft Memorandum and Articles of Association for establishing a wholly owned trading subsidiary company for undertaking property development on behalf of the committee;
- amended the policy on Sunday trading to allow such trading within the curtilage of Model Trust property, following consideration of an application by three members of the Property Development Committee, and directed the committee to produce an application form and criteria to be applied in such situations;
- requested the preparation of a new Memorandum of Understanding with All We Can;
- on behalf of the Conference, appointed Mrs Barbara Easton, Mrs Lesley Brookbanks and the Revd Sally Ratcliffe to the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust;
- on behalf of the Conference, appointed Mr Thomas Cadman to the Wesley Trust;
- adopted the reports concerning Ecumenical Partnerships, Sharing Agreements and Ecumenical Areas;
- delegated the oversight of the Auxiliary Special Purposes Fund to the Connexional Allowances Committee;
- revoked the appointment of the Network Committee as the connexional trustee for 24 Somerset Road, Birmingham, and appointed the Property Development Committee to fulfil the role of connexional trustee;
- revoked the appointment of the Network Committee as the connexional trustee for the North Bank Estate and appointed the Property Development Committee to fulfil the role of connexional trustee;
- approved the recommendations of the Heritage Committee for the relocation of artefacts from the former Wesley College Bristol;
- approved criteria and method of approval for recognised heritage site status, directing the Heritage Committee to implement the scheme;
- amended the reporting timeline for the working group considering the Methodist Diaconal Order as a religious order, noting that it will report to the Council prior to its presentation at the 2019 Conference;
- adopted the renominations by the Governors for the appointment of Mrs Barbara Easton and Mr Robert Cowie as Trustees for Methodist Independent Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2020;
- confirmed that Mr Andrew Paul and Capital Cranfield Pension Trustees Limited, represented by Ms Ingrid Kirby, have been appointed as directors of the Methodist Lay Employees Pension Trust Limited for a period of three years from 1 September 2016;
- approved the list of partner organisations as compiled by the Global Relationships Strategic Oversight Sub-Committee;

- directed that a record of all visits and work supporting the strategy for global relationships be retained and overseen by the Connexional Secretary;
- adopted the policy for connexional grants towards Mission and Ministry in Britain;
- approved the updated Risk Management policy;
- adopted the Corporate Risk Register, keeping it under review;
- co-opted the Revd Andrew Letby to the Ministerial Candidates' Selection Committee;
- adopted the City Centre list, agreed the process for changes to the list, and recommended a rota for review;
- noted with thanks the grants to the Methodist Church from the Joseph Rank Trust, totalling £556,500 in 2017;
- approved the change of the name of the Joint Safeguarding Working Group to the Anglican-Methodist Safeguarding Group, rescinded the group's terms of reference and appointed the Methodist members of the group;
- approved, on behalf of the Conference, a revised list of overseas Conferences and Churches to be invited to the 2018 Conference;
- appointed the Revd Rosemarie E G Clarke and Deacon Jennifer A J Jones to the Conference Business Committee (Representative Session) for the 2018 Conference under the terms of SO 136(1C);
- under the terms of SO 803(1)(c), delegated its responsibility for considering requests to depart from the approved accommodation guidelines for manses to the Manses Group appointed by the Ministries Committee;
- adopted a process for identifying a nominee as Chair of the Council;
- noted, on behalf of the Conference, a change in the membership of the Stationing Committee whereby the Revd Canon Helen D Cameron is now representing the East Midlands stationing region, in place of the Revd Bruce Thompson;
- directed that the redevelopment of Camden Town Methodist Church should proceed, with a budget of no more than £8m + VAT, subject to satisfactory resolution of the planning conditions and further directed that the redevelopment should be financed from connexional funds.

### 1.2 Other business

The Council received annual reports from:

- the Methodist Heritage Committee;
- the Property Development Committee;
- the Connexional Manse Trustees;
- the Global Relationships Strategic Oversight Sub-Committee;
- the Connexional Grants Committee.

## 3. Methodist Council, part 1

The Council also:

- engaged in discussions following the presentation of the Statistics for Mission to the 2017 Conference, considering how *Our Calling* may be reaffirmed and used as a basis for the shaping of connexional priorities, the structure of the Connexional Team and the support of the Church as a whole in its task of mission.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTION

#### **3/1. The Conference receives the General Report of the Council.**

### **SECTION B THE NETWORK COMMITTEE**

#### **Introduction**

1. The Network Committee was set up as a result of the implementation of the Fruitful Field report and is appointed annually by the Methodist Council. It is required to report to the Council and work collaboratively with the Ministries Committee and the Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC) in developing and maintaining the learning and training of lay people and ministers and the pursuit of scholarship, research and innovation throughout the Connexion. The committee has brought a number of reports to the SRC and the Methodist Council over the past years concerned primarily with the responsibility of the Network Committee for the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network (DMLN) under SO 32A3 and in particular with regard to the management and development of a number of key assets.
2. The committee has had broadly three main areas of work:

First it holds the managing trusteeship of those centres designated by the 2012 Conference in section J of the Fruitful Field Project Report as “income generating”;

Secondly it is responsible for reviewing and monitoring the terms of all agreements reached between the Council and any training institutions with which the Council has agreements (for the definition of “training institution” see SO 007(ii)) and;

Thirdly it works in collaboration with the Ministries Committee to ensure the implementation of connexional policy as regards learning, training and development.
3. Much of the work of the Network Committee is now undertaken in other places. The Council now recommends to the Conference that this committee be dissolved and its remaining work distributed among the relevant existing committees.

### The work of the committee

4. **Managing trusteeship:** the managing trusteeship for Methodist International Centre (MIC), MIC Ltd, 24 Somerset Road Birmingham (Frances Young House), and the North Bank Estate has now been delegated to the Property Development Committee.
5. **Review and monitoring of training institutions relationships:** The Ministries Committee has the responsibility for “developing and supporting the Church’s structures and resources for learning, training, scholarship, research and development” (SO 32A1(2) (iii)). The summary of the report of the Training Review Group (TRG) presented to the 2017 Conference (Agenda pp 459-461) noted “the need for continuing the conversation about how the content and pattern of training reflects more clearly our understanding of ministry in all its forms.” The natural setting for such a conversation would be the Ministries Committee. It would seem sensible therefore that the Ministries Committee holds the relationship with those places decreed as “centres of the network” and should be responsible for the development of another of the recommendations of the TRG to which the Council responded warmly, that of, “the need for further investments in creating Methodist theologians for the future”.
6. **Oversight of the implementation of connexional training, learning and development:** this responsibility also has a clear overlap with the tasks of the Ministries Committee and with the work of the SRC with regard to SO 213(2B) to “advise and assist the council in fulfilling the council’s responsibilities for the strategic oversight and use of resources with regard to personnel, finance and physical assets” and also SO 213(5A) to “exercise oversight of the general work of the Connexional Team, and report thereon to the council and Conference as appropriate.”

### Conclusion

7. Given that the tasks for which the Network Committee was established either are, or now can be, dealt with elsewhere, the Council recommends to the Conference that this committee be disbanded and its work re-allocated as set out in this report. It should also be noted that the SRC was of the view that the committee should not be disbanded immediately but at an appropriate time, as there is still some work to be done with the Ministries Committee.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

- 3/2. **The Conference adopts the Report.**
- 3/3. **The Conference revokes Standing Order 32A3.**

## 3. Methodist Council, part 1

### SECTION C ACCESSIBILITY TO THE CONFERENCE

#### Background

Further to decisions of the Conference in 2015 (specifically notice of motion 2015/108), the Council established a working party to bring recommendations to address issues of accessibility to the Conference. The working party was asked to include within its remit questions not just about logistical arrangements, but to consider how people can engage with the Conference, regardless of their experience, ability or confidence.

The Council considered the working party's 16 recommendations at its meeting in April 2017 and concluded that these recommendations needed to be considered in detail by the Conference Business Committee before the Conference could be asked to consider any matters of principle.

The Council received a report from the Business Committee at its meeting in January 2018, and now reports the following summary to the Conference, listing each recommendation and the proposed action to be taken in respect of each. The recommendations are shown in italics, with the proposed action shown in ordinary type below it.

#### Recommendation 1:

*That recommendations from the 2015 report continue to be implemented:*

- *Strengthening of pre-Conference district briefings.*
- *Making reports available as early as possible.*
- *Commending the use of the cover sheet for reports to assist with the large volume of reading.*
- *Priority for first-time speakers.*
- *Variety in the format of debates – referred to the Business Committee for consideration as to how best to use, eg, workshops, hearings etc. Clarity of the purpose of the alternative formats.*
- *Districts to ensure that the decisions and outcomes of the Conference are disseminated to circuits and churches.*

The Council felt that the content of this recommendation is already being implemented. The reintroduction of a Conference Business Digest was felt to be helpful in support of the dissemination of the decisions and outcomes of the Conference, particularly if it can be distributed quickly after the close of the Conference.

### **Recommendation 2:**

*Greater attention be given to enabling members of the Conference to identify office holders by publicising who they are.*

The Council felt that this should be done by means of the Conference Handbook.

### **Recommendation 3:**

*A 'Glossary of Terms used in the Methodist Church' be compiled.*

There is already a long list of terminology in use by some committees, but it is not a simple process to adapt it since there are, for example, some acronyms which apply to several different things. The Conference Office ensures, through the scrutiny process, in the case of the Conference Agenda and associated documents, that acronyms are always spelled out the first time they are used with the abbreviation in brackets. The Council felt that the issue is as much to do with how speakers use the acronyms as the text of the reports themselves, and that speakers therefore need to be discouraged from speaking in acronyms or jargon. The Council noted that members of the Committee had agreed to look at the list which already exists to assess whether it would be helpful to make it more widely available or whether it could be adapted for this purpose.

### **Recommendation 4:**

*Stricter control of en bloc and 200-series Notices of Motion is exercised.*

The Business Committee and the Council wished to put to the Conference that the number of signatures required to remove an item from the *en bloc* list should be the same number as that required to submit a notice of motion about new business. The Council therefore recommends to the Conference that Standing Order 134A(1)(c) be amended to require a reasoned statement supported by twenty signatures to remove an item of business from its *en bloc* list. The Business Committee and the Council wish to emphasise that items of business which are dealt with *en bloc* are no less important than any of the other business which is before the Conference.

The Council gave careful consideration to the 200-series notices of motion (ie those which do not directly relate to items of business contained within the Conference Agenda), and what 'stricter control' might mean. The Council noted that a number of such notices of motion could have come before the Conference as memorials, as often they do not represent new or urgent matters. In the light of this, the Council recommends to the Conference that the Conference Business Committee be directed to develop criteria by which it can be agreed whether or not notices of motion might be dismissed as impermissible. The Council also recommends to the Conference that there should be an increase in the number of signatures required for a notice of motion not related to business in the Conference Agenda to twenty. The Council was also concerned about the impact of notices of motion on the workplan of

### 3. Methodist Council, part 1

the Connexional Team, particularly in respect of staff time and the costs to the connexional budget.

**Recommendation 5:**

*President and Vice-President exercise stricter control of speakers in debates, encouraging restraint, and that the Conference Business Committee explores use of 'planned debates' in major debates on controversial subjects and ways of enabling 'comment from the floor' without the need to speak from the front.*

The Council felt that the President and Vice-President are free to exercise control of debates as is appropriate. Standing Order 136(2)(iv) already allows for the use of 'planned debates' and the Business Committee can explore their use where it might be felt to be appropriate. 'Comments from the floor' can have the effect of making the business less accessible, for reasons of audibility and visibility and the Council declined to take this further.

***The following three recommendations were considered together, and the Council does not wish to pursue them.***

**Recommendation 6:**

*President and Vice-President each offer one set-piece address or sermon at the Conference – one at the Opening of the Conference, and one on the Sunday morning.*

**Recommendation 8:**

*Wednesday service of Holy Communion be discontinued, and that there be an early morning communion on the Wednesday (as on other days).*

**Recommendation 14:**

*The Conference be scheduled as follows:*

*Saturday – 10:30 start*

*Sunday as at present*

*Monday and Tuesday – 09:00-19:00*

*Wednesday – 09:00-17:00*

The Council discussed these three recommendations together. It was confirmed that finishing on the Wednesday evening would not make a significant impact on the costs of the Conference, because of the numbers of people who would still need accommodation on the Wednesday night. Although these recommendations were made with lay working people in mind, the Council did not feel that it represented enough of a change balanced against the amount of change that it would mean for the functioning of the Conference. There would clearly be timetabling issues as a result of this, not least the deadlines for notices of motion (which, it could be argued, would make the decision-making process less accessible). The Council also felt that the Conference needs proper time available to it to confer on the more

difficult and sensitive issues. The Council noted the effect that this, and particularly the later finish times on Monday and Tuesday, would have on those working in the Record Office and all the volunteers who support the Conference in various ways. The Council would not wish to see the end of the Wednesday communion service, and was particularly concerned that there should be an opportunity for the Representative Session to engage in an act of remembrance, which is included within the communion service.

The Council was not minded to pursue these recommendations, and felt that such changes should only be considered within the context of a more over-arching review of the governance and oversight processes of the Church.

**Recommendation 7:**

*Guidance regarding morning and evening prayers is strictly observed by those preparing and leading them (and that they should only be led by those who are already at the Conference).*

The Committee noted that practice in this respect has improved, and that the shorter pattern of evening prayers has been appreciated.

**Recommendation 9:**

*Arrangements for continuous prayer within the Conference day be encouraged and be implemented through the chaplaincy team, with the President and Vice-President being encouraged to pause for moments of prayer or silence as appropriate.*

The Committee felt that the President and Vice-President do this in appropriate ways.

**Recommendation 10:**

*Present pattern of Sunday worship and ordination services be retained until further notice.*

There was no action to be taken in relation to this recommendation.

**Recommendation 11:**

*Making venue and accommodation as accessible as possible.*

These concerns are being taken up by the Conference Planning Executive.

**Recommendation 12:**

*Following up and implementing guidance on providing for special needs.*

These concerns are being taken up by the Conference Planning Executive.

**Recommendation 13:**

*Use of technology and electronic voting be explored and implemented as far as possible.*

## 3. Methodist Council, part 1

The Council noted that when electronic voting was trialled for a day at the 2011 Conference, it was expensive (around £2500 for a day's rental) and slow to use. However, some feedback indicated that there were those who felt more able to vote in the way they wished when their vote was not seen. The Council was unsure whether the software would only be used for those votes that require counting, which would have meant, for example, that it would not have been used very much at all at the 2017 Conference. The Council felt that electronic voting, by its very nature, changes the nature of the Conference's conferring as it moves from votes to ballots. The concern was raised that members of the Conference need to be accountable to one another, and live with those with whom they disagree. The Business Committee felt that it should, through its reporting, address the issue of representatives not feeling able to vote in the way in which they wish to vote. The Committee will explore the cost of hiring electronic voting systems and discuss the matter further.

### **Recommendation 15:**

*Participation of fellowships of national origin be encouraged within Districts.*

This is being done.

### **Recommendation 16:**

*Reduction in size of the Conference – phased reduction to 250 in 2020 and then 220 in 2023.*

The Conference reviews its membership every five years. When this was last done two years ago, the conclusion was reached that, although in terms of the church's membership it should be cut by 100, the present size was appropriate to aid representation and participation. The review also noted that it is proportionally the same size as it was in 1933. The Council felt that this recommendation was being suggested for cost-cutting reasons, but was unclear as to whether it would save enough money to be worthwhile. The Council felt that the broader question about the necessary size of the Conference in order to be fully representative was more important. If the Conference is significantly smaller, it becomes less accessible. The Council did not therefore wish to pursue this recommendation.

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

**3/5. The Conference adopts the Report.**

**3/6. The Conference amends Standing Order 134A(1)(c) as follows:**

(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 **twenty** members of the Conference may, **with a reasoned statement but** 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.

**3/7. The Conference directs the Conference Business Committee to develop criteria by which it can be agreed whether or not notices of motion might be dismissed as impermissible.**

**3/8. The Conference amends Standing Order 132(1A)(iii) as follows:**

(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~~**eighteen** other persons.

**3/9. The Conference directs the Conference Business Committee and the Conference Financial Committee to review the procedure for assessing the impact of notices of motion on the Connexional Team workplan and the budget.**

### **SECTION D DISTRICT REVIEWS**

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The 2016 Conference directed the Council to bring a process for implementing the creation of District Commissions and the nomination of those to be appointed by the Conference as District Commissioners to the 2017 Conference. The Conference directed that such a commission would be convened when a new Chair is being sought, or the present Chair is exploring the possibility with the District of a reinvitation, or a District (or group of Districts) wishes to engage in the process of reflection or review. It would oversee and undertake a thorough review of the life of the District, set in its wider connexional and ecumenical context.

## 3. Methodist Council, part 1

- 1.2 The Methodist Council in April 2017 considered proposals for a District Commission process as envisaged in Resolution 15/7 (2016). However, the Council expressed significant concerns that this process seemed overly complex and that, instead of helpfully 'holding up a mirror' to the life of the District, it would prove to be a burden.
- 1.3 The Council also considered information about the Church of England's newly-developed peer review process for dioceses. This more 'light-touch' approach was favourably received, acknowledging that it would need 'shaping' for the Methodist context. Following group discussions, the Council agreed to recommend that work should proceed along the lines of a peer review process.
- 1.4 The 2017 Conference therefore directed the Council to undertake work to establish a peer review process for Districts and report on progress to the 2018 Conference (Resolution 27/19).
- 1.5 One of the overarching themes from the feedback was the need for flexibility. It was proposed that 'broad parameters' should be developed, within which Districts would take the lead in developing the review process as appropriate for the context with regard to timing, the number of people involved, the level of ecumenical involvement etc. However, there will need to be some support from the Connexional Team at various stages in the process, so that there is not too much burden placed on Districts and on volunteers. Some broad parameters are proposed below, based on the conversations of the Council in April 2017. If adopted, these will come into effect no later than September 2019, recognising that some reviews could take place as part of a pilot process during the course of 2018.

### **2. Proposed outline**

- 2.1 Each District shall undertake a review every three to five years.
- 2.2 The Secretary of the Conference shall have oversight of District Reviews taking place across the Connexion and shall ensure that one takes place in each District at least every five years. A representative of the Secretary of the Conference will attend the review meeting, not to facilitate the conversation, but to feed in any points of learning from a connexional perspective. If the District wishes them to, they will also act as note-taker and draft the report following the meeting.
- 2.3 The District Policy Committee (DPC) shall take the lead in the organisation of the review process, including setting a date for the meeting and arranging a venue. Costs incurred (other than the expenses of members of the Connexional Team) will be covered by the District.

### 3. Indicative structure

- 3.1 There will be a named person within the Connexional Team (but not a full-time role), whose role will be, on behalf of the Secretary of the Conference, to ensure that the reviews are taking place in accordance with the outline above (but with appropriate flexibility for each context). The officer will hold a log of the reviews, and keep a copy of each report (which will remain confidential). The officer will attend review meetings, and act as note-taker if required. The officer will ensure that the reviewers are provided with appropriate support and training.
- 3.2 The officer will be provided with administrative support to assist with the preparation and sending out of documentation, to work with each District in the setting of review dates, and maintenance of the review log.
- 3.3 There will be a pool of reviewers appointed by the Council, who will need to be trained. No more than three reviewers will be identified from outside the District being reviewed, based on initial feedback from the District concerned as to the skills and experience that they would find most helpful.
- 3.4 It is suggested that the review would normally need to happen in the connexional year prior to the year in which a Chair's reinvitation/nomination process needs to be undertaken, to enable the review to inform that process.
- 3.5 At the beginning of that connexional year, a briefing pack will be sent to the Synod Secretary, which will include a pro forma asking the District to consider the following:
  - When is the District Chair's current term of service due to finish? Is this the most appropriate timing for a review, to ensure it can inform the reinvitation/nomination process, without impinging upon it?
  - It is suggested that those involved in the review process meet for one day and discuss papers and feedback circulated in advance. With regard to who should be present at this meeting:
    - Would it be helpful to involve a trained, external facilitator (eg a member of DMLN staff from another District/region)?
    - Who should be involved from the life of the District?
    - What is the appropriate level of ecumenical involvement?
    - Which 'peers' could helpfully be involved? Neighbouring Districts will provide a helpful perspective, as will 'contrasting' Districts – for instance, a large, predominantly urban District might find it helpful to invite the Chair of a smaller, predominantly rural District to join the process.
    - Is the group suitably diverse and representative of the District?

## 3. Methodist Council, part 1

- Are there people in the group willing to ask critical questions?
- What documents could helpfully be circulated to the review group in advance?  
Suggested documents include:
  - The District Development Plan (SO 962);
  - The District's statement of needs and opportunities formulated when a District Chair was last appointed (SO 423);
  - Figures from the most recent triennial statistical returns;
  - Financial records;
  - Papers and minutes from the previous Synod;
  - A list of questions to be explored at the meeting.
- Are there conversations that need to take place in advance of the meeting with people who will not be present but who might inform the work of the review group?

3.6 The responses to these questions will enable the Team to appoint the reviewers, and to begin to set up a timetable for the process, including a date for the review meeting.

3.7 The following questions are suggested for consideration by those undertaking the review:

- Of the paperwork, what comes as a surprise? What reflects your experience?
- What appears to be the state of the work of God in the District?
- How can the Methodist Church participate most fully in the work of God in this place?
- How do the answers to these questions compare to the District's Development Plan (SO 962)? Are there aspects of the plan that need to be revised? Are there successes to be celebrated, or challenges to be acknowledged?
- In light of *Our Calling*:
  - What are the District's strengths? Where are the areas of numerical and spiritual growth?
  - Where are the challenges?
  - What is unique or unusual about the context in this District? How is the Methodist Church in this place responding – and being called to respond?
  - Which areas of the life of the District are energising – and which are draining?
  - What does the District need in order to respond as it feels called? Are there things it needs to 'let go'?
- How do Circuits relate to the District?
- What learning might be available from other Districts?

3.8 The Secretary of the Conference shall receive a copy of the review report (which need not be long) on a confidential basis. The District Policy Committee shall decide how to take forward the recommendations contained within the report, and how widely it is helpful for the report to be shared.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The Council agreed to recommend an outline District Review process, as set out above, to the Conference and directed the Connexional Team to ensure that the process is regularly reviewed as part of the ongoing work to support the development of district mission plans.

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

**3/10. The Conference receives the Report.**

**3/11. The Conference directs that a District Review process be established as set out in the Report.**

**3/12. The Conference directs the Council to ensure that the District Review process has appropriate links to ongoing work to support the development of district mission plans.**

#### **SECTION E SAFEGUARDING RESOURCE AND STRUCTURE**

1. The 2017 Conference received a report concerning the supervision of District Safeguarding Officers (DSOs). The Conference directed as follows:

*The Conference directed the Council to proceed with producing detailed and costed proposals for professional supervision of District Safeguarding Officers based on the approach to supervision as set out in paragraphs 3.0 – 8.12 of the report.*

2. In response to this, an Independent Safeguarding Consultant, was commissioned to prepare a report outlining proposals for professional supervision of District Safeguarding Officers. The Safeguarding Committee, the District Chairs and the Strategy and Resources Committee were consulted as part of this process, and the Council presents the following recommendations to the Conference.

#### **Safeguarding reports to the 2017 Conference**

3. The report from the Past Cases Review Implementation Group showed the considerable work that has been done to progress the Past Cases Review and implement the lessons

### 3. Methodist Council, part 1

from it. The review of individual cases is almost complete and has required temporary resource to finish that work.

4. The report from the working group reviewing Covenants of Care – now to be called Safeguarding Contracts – recommended changes for these arrangements to ensure they do not drift leaving both perpetrators or alleged perpetrators, and victims/survivors, with uncertainty. Implementing an annual review will require additional connexional safeguarding team time to keep track of the contracts as well as capacity for the commissioning of more risk assessments.
5. Two further reports specifically focused on the work of District Safeguarding Officers (DSOs) who are pivotal in ensuring the quality of safeguarding work on the ground. One set out a method for calculating the number of hours of DSO time needed in any one District, and the Conference adopted that method.
6. The second of these reports described a standardised approach to the provision of casework supervision for the DSOs. While those working in DSO roles are eminently able and qualified, the report provided very clear reasons why they should have access to professional casework supervision, as do safeguarding professionals in other organisations, to provide support, challenge and reflection in making what are sometimes very difficult judgments. Currently District Chairs provide line management and many have indicated that they do not feel qualified to provide proper casework supervision. Ad hoc advice can be sought from the Safeguarding Team but the team is not resourced to offer systematic casework supervision.
7. The Council therefore proposes changes to the Safeguarding Team specifically for the provision of casework supervision for DSOs but also recommends that further consideration is given to accommodate the increasing impact of other demands.

#### **Provision of Casework Supervision from Connexional Safeguarding Team (CST)**

8. The Council proposes that the connexional Safeguarding Team (CST) takes on all the professional casework supervision of the DSOs.
9. It further proposes that each member of the CST will supervise all the DSOs for a collection of Districts (probably grouped into four to begin with, thereby developing 'area' teams of DSOs).
10. The rationale for this recommendation is that:
  - It focuses ownership of safeguarding within the Connexion with a clear line of accountability through to the Secretary of the Conference.

- It allows the CST to formalise much of what they are already doing informally, reducing duplication or competing advice.
  - It brings safeguarding support closer to the Circuits and will assist with safeguarding in recruitment locally.
  - The team members are full time and therefore contactable outside of formal casework supervision meetings, and able to support and advise as cases unfold and develop.
  - The model supports consistency and standardisation of approach as members of the CST can check their practice and thresholds with each other and the Safeguarding Adviser.
  - It supports standardised record-keeping.
  - It supports team working for DSOs in the areas, building peer to peer support and cover for sickness or holidays.
  - It enables better management of DSO casework workloads with the area team being able to share the load more equitably.
  - The area team approach facilitates joint work, where there is a particularly complex case.
  - The model provides the opportunity for area-based training and continuous professional development for DSOs and encourages a learning culture in the work.
  - The additional capacity being proposed will allow for some quality audit work to be undertaken across areas.
11. The Safeguarding Adviser will provide casework supervision to the members of the CST, and therefore be in a position to comprehensively overview safeguarding quality across the Church.
12. The employment responsibility for DSOs will remain with the line manager (generally the District Chair) on behalf of the District. Casework supervision will be distinguished from the employer's legal responsibilities for the DSO. To ensure the necessary role clarity it is proposed that a standard agreement is used setting out the different responsibilities and accountabilities between the Casework Supervisor, District Chair/line manager and DSO.
13. Professional casework judgements will be overseen by the Casework Supervisor. In the event of a dispute about appropriate actions the Casework Supervisor will refer to the Connexional Safeguarding Adviser who will discuss the matter with the Assistant Secretary of the Conference and agree the best way forward with the District Chair.

#### **Changes to Connexional Safeguarding Team**

14. These proposals, both to strengthen safeguarding in the organisation, and specifically for the provision of casework supervision, involve significant change to the structure and job roles of the CST.

## 3. Methodist Council, part 1

15. There are 25 DSOs in total with varying hours and geographical spread. It is proposed they are grouped into four areas, each one with about six DSOs, and each with a Casework Supervisor who will oversee all the safeguarding work within that area. In order to bring this support closer to the Districts it is proposed that the Casework Supervisors are themselves located in the areas.
16. They will also retain a lead role as part of the Connexional Safeguarding Team, including:
  - Supporting the development of policy and procedures
  - Provision of training
  - Work with survivors
  - DBS blemish management
17. Some of this work, particularly the casework elements, will be accommodated by the proposed increase in the Casework Supervisor establishment to four posts.
18. However, a new type of role is needed to address aspects of this work, and it is proposed that a Policy and Training Officer post is developed, which will include the provision of legal expertise.
19. The recommendations pertaining to changes to the Safeguarding Team will be found within the existing staffing budget of the Connexional Team.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

**3/13. The Conference receives the Report.**

**3/14. The Conference adopts the proposals for the casework supervision of District Safeguarding Officers as set out in the Report and directs the Methodist Council to oversee the implementation and review of proposals as part of the Council's general responsibilities.**

## SECTION F

### TAX JUSTICE AND ETHICAL INVESTMENT

#### Executive summary

In response to a memorial to the Methodist Conference in 2015, the Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI) has undertaken work on ethical investment and tax justice, meeting with other denominations and organisations working in this field. As a result JACEI has agreed a draft position statement on tax justice, and consequently the Central Finance Board will be producing a policy statement later this year which will shape its

ethical investment practice. The Methodist Church is a leader in ethical investment, and this report outlines in greater detail for the Methodist Council the work undertaken and the issues faced when trying to ensure that our church investments contribute to tax justice.

### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 In 2015 the Methodist Conference, in its reply to a memorial (M30) on tax justice, recognised *“that by taking measures to avoid paying tax which is owed companies and private individuals deprive countries of financial resources needed to meet their educational, health, social and other needs”*. The Methodist Conference directed *“the Methodist Council to ensure the Connexional Team continues to work with Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI), the Central Finance Board (CFB), the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) and the Methodist Tax Justice Network (MTJN) for at least the next three years, as resources allow, and direct[ed] the Methodist Council to review progress in this area of work in early 2018 and to report to the Conference of that year.”*

1.2 In taking this work forward JACEI has worked with the Central Finance Board (CFB) and the Connexional Team through the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT).<sup>1</sup> This report provides an account of the steps that JACEI has undertaken to approach the question of taxation and engagement with investments as required by the Memorial.

### 2.0 Definitions

2.1 It is clear from different groups who have been consulted that there are a variety of views as to the meaning of the terms “tax evasion” and “tax avoidance”. This paper uses the definitions set out below from the OECD glossary of terms.

*Tax Evasion is “A term that is difficult to define but which is generally used to mean illegal arrangements where liability to tax is hidden or ignored, ie the taxpayer pays*

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1 The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB) is the investment agency of the Methodist Church. It is the job of the CFB to manage the funds of the Methodist Church and obtain good returns on their investments whilst making sure that the investments are in line with the moral and ethical teaching of the Church. The Joint Advisory Committee on Ethical Investment (JACEI) advises the CFB of ethical considerations relating to investment, and reports to the Conference commenting on the performance of the CFB in managing the funds under its control according to an ethical stance which is in accordance with the aims of the Methodist Church. JACEI comprises 11 persons, the Chair, and ten other individuals, half of whom are appointed by the Methodist Council, and half appointed by the CFB. The Joint Public Issues Team works on behalf of the Connexional Team to support the work of JACEI and conducts research on the implication of economic policy (including in the area of taxation) on various groups. The Methodist Tax Justice Network (MTJN) has played an important part in bringing the question of tax justice to the forefront of the Methodist Church as well as providing a continued engagement with the theological issues surrounding tax.

## 3. Methodist Council, part 1

*less tax than he is legally obligated to pay by hiding income or information from the tax authorities.”*

Tax Avoidance is “A term that is difficult to define but which is generally used to describe the arrangement of a taxpayer’s affairs that is intended to reduce his tax liability and that although the arrangement could be strictly legal it is usually in contradiction with the intent of the law it purports to follow.” (Emphasis added)

- 2.2 Mechanisms such as Gift Aid or Patent Box, although they reduce tax liability are not considered avoidance when used appropriately, as the intention of the law is to reduce tax liability in order to encourage behaviours of which the Government approves.

### 3.0 Position of the Methodist Church on taxation

- 3.1 The Methodist Church recognises, as detailed in the reports it has received at the Conference, that institutions and individuals have a responsibility to obey not just the letter but the spirit of the law on taxation. This responsibility applies with particular gravity to the Church itself, given its role in building a more just society.
- 3.2 The Methodist Church has received two reports that are particularly relevant to the question of taxation: *Ethics of Wealth Creation* (1990) and *Of Equal Value: Poverty and Inequality in the UK* (2011). In both the *Ethics of Wealth Creation* and *Of Equal Value* the importance of tax in creating a just society is highlighted. Tax is used for state investment in key services, as well as redistributed in benefits to the least well off. Taxation when used properly should enable everyone to share justly in the developing national wealth. Taxation is a contribution to the common good.
- 3.3 In *Of Equal Value* the Methodist Church recognises the importance of integrity in its own financial affairs when speaking out on issues of government cuts. This can be seen to apply more broadly to questions of social justice and inequality. If the Church fails to fulfil its moral and legal duty to pay tax then its ability to speak out on behalf of the poorest in society will be compromised.
- 3.4 The position of the Methodist Church on taxation, as represented in these two reports, can be summarised as follows. The state has a legitimate expectation that people will pay the taxes they owe. Such taxation fairly paid can contribute to a more just, relational society. Therefore, the Church expects people to pay the taxes they owe. The Church also expects companies to be transparent around their corporate tax affairs<sup>2</sup> and to pay what they owe.

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2 Corporate tax affairs incorporate all aspects of liabilities to the state and are not restricted to Corporation Tax.

### 4.0 Summary of progress

- 4.1 Since the 2015 Memorial to the Conference, JACEI has undertaken a broad range of work on the issues surrounding tax justice. There has been detailed discussion of the ethical and theological questions involved in tax along with research undertaken to understand the options and levels of efficacy of different policy responses. This work has been necessary to build the foundations of an ethical investment engagement policy on tax justice.
- 4.2 The strategies and legal arrangements used by companies to reduce their tax liabilities, and as a result to avoid tax, are highly complex. Given the amount of money at stake, highly specialised professionals are employed to manage or to provide advice on corporate tax management, a part of which may be the establishment of tax avoidance structures. This makes the engagement with companies about tax justice a complicated, often highly technical exercise. After consultation with other church partners, and having observed the work that a number of other groups are doing in this area, it has become apparent that a solution to the technical difficulties of such work is to focus on transparency of tax reporting. Transparency and exposure to scrutiny is likely to lead to better tax policy given the opprobrium held for those who practice tax avoidance.
- 4.3 A roundtable discussion concerning tax policies and future steps was arranged by JPIT with representatives from the Church of England Ethical Investment Advisory Group, the Quakers, Christian Aid, the Methodist Tax Justice Network and CFB. This meeting was valuable in bringing together the expertise and experience of various partners.
- 4.4 Currently, the Church of England is working through the ecumenical Church Investors Group (CIG) in conjunction with Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) to deal with questions of taxation. They have selected two sectors of priority for engagement: technology and healthcare. The PRI has identified fifty companies of particular concern to engage with, and the CIG has begun engaging with those that they are invested in collectively.
- 4.5 The Quakers have chosen to engage with a number of companies by writing to them to ask questions about their tax strategy and governance arrangements. They have used the Fair Tax Mark as a basis to assess the responses they have received and to consider further engagement in future. The Quakers have written to those companies they are invested in which are accredited by the Fair Tax Mark to express their appreciation of that fact.
- 4.6 Christian Aid, Oxfam and ActionAid have jointly produced a report, *Getting to Good: Towards Responsible Corporate Tax Behaviour*, describing what a responsible tax policy for a company would look like. They have used this report as a means of engaging

## 3. Methodist Council, part 1

companies in their position as campaigners. They have focused in particular on those companies that have been in the spotlight for poor tax arrangements and who are keen to have a more ethical tax policy. The report points out that ethical tax behaviour benefits companies as well as the countries in which they operate.

### 5.0 Next steps

- 5.1 Following these engagements, JACEI agreed a draft position paper and consequently the CFB will be producing a policy statement later this year which will shape its ethical investment practice. These will both be published on the CFB website.
- 5.2 It would not be feasible for CFB's investor engagement to make technical determinations around the intentions of individual financial structures within companies. Rather it would be more fruitful to encourage transparent tax compliance and to focus on how a company manages its tax affairs.
- 5.3 Hallmarks of best practice in this area are a meaningful published tax policy that indicates that the ethical and social implications of taxations are recognised, and that a tax is understood as more than a legal commitment to be minimised. Other areas are transparency around how tax is managed, how much tax is paid and in which jurisdictions. The CFB will continue to work collaboratively with others, such as the CIG in the engagement with companies.

### 6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 The Methodist Church has a clear longstanding position on the importance of tax in building the just society our faith asks us to join in creating. JACEI acknowledges the work of the Methodist Tax Justice Network and others for raising this issue of tax justice and engaging with JACEI and the Connexional Team. It is increasingly clear that, while most companies and individuals pay tax with integrity, some go to extraordinary lengths to reduce or eliminate the contribution they make.
- 6.2 The policy paper to be produced by CFB later this year will enable it to engage with companies around tax justice specifically around tax transparency, enabling the Methodist Church to make a contribution to increasing awareness and raising expectations around the fair payment of tax.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

- 3/15. The Conference receives the Report.**
- 3/16. The Conference adopts the Report as its further reply to M30(2015).**

### **SECTION H THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL**

In considering the process by which it wished to bring a nomination to the Conference as the next Chair of the Council, the Council reviewed the length of the term of office of its Chair. The Council noted that the present formally-appointed role of the Chair of the Council was introduced following the 2005 Review of the Council, and took effect from 2006. Prior to that, the Council had been chaired by the current President or Vice-President. At the time of the last review, therefore, the Council had been accustomed to having a chair for only one year at a time. Three years was introduced as a means of increasing the sense of continuity, whilst also limiting the potential power that could be held in one person. However, the Council now wishes to increase the term of office to four years, bringing it into line with the length of the term of service for those who are representatives of Districts, District Chairs, the representatives of the Strategy and Resources Committee, the representative of the Ministries Committee, the representatives of the Children and Youth Assembly and the representatives of the concerns of racial justice.

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

**3/17. The Conference adopts the Report.**

**3/18. The Conference amends SO 210(2)(d) as follows:**

(d) The chair of the council shall be appointed upon nomination by the council for a period of **four** ~~three~~ years, subject to Standing Order 316, and shall not be eligible for reappointment. He or she shall be chosen from amongst those persons, not being members of the Connexional Team, who took office as President or Vice-President during any of the five Conferences preceding the appointing Conference.

## 4. Report of the Presbyterian Session Business Committee

<b>Contact name and details</b>	The Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler Assistant Secretary of the Conference asc@methodistchurch.org.uk
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1. The Presbyterian Session proceeds for much of its business by way of conversation. Under Clause 23(m) of the Deed of Union the Presbyterian Session may discuss any subject in the Agenda of the Representative Session or any subject within the jurisdiction of the Conference and communicate its views thereon to the Representative Session by resolution or otherwise.
2. Members of the Presbyterian Session of the Conference may submit Notices of Motion for the Conference to consider (see below for the procedures). They may also ask that the Session be able to confer from a presbyteral perspective about particular items in the published Agenda of the Conference. All such requests will be considered by the Business Committee and time found for them where possible.
3. So far the following report has been identified by the Committee:
  - Mission and Ministry in Covenant

In addition the Presbyterian Session will be invited to consider the presbyteral role in officiating at marriage services, and the nature of pastoral responsibility. The Session will also be invited to engage in some theological reflection in the area of fresh expressions.

4. The Presbyterian Session of the Conference will meet in closed session at 9:35am on Friday 29 June, and this is expected to last for no longer than one hour. During this time the Vice-President will lead a session for those presbyters who are not voting members of the Session reflecting on 'A Year of Laughter and Lament'.
5. The Presbyterian 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).

The Conference is reminded of a distinction made in Section G of the Law and Polity Committee report to the 2008 Conference entitled *Attendance at the Closed Session of the Ministerial Session of the Conference*. There is a difference between the Conference's conferring on general questions of policy and principle on the one hand, and its decision-making on particular cases to do with identifiable individuals on the other. Because of the need for confidentiality and for other legal reasons, the latter needs to be dealt with in closed session, and only those who will bear the responsibility

## 4. Report of the Presbyteral Session Business Committee

for the decisions that are made should hear or otherwise receive the information about the cases concerned. This means that those presbyters who are not members of the Representative Session of the Conference, but are attending the Presbyteral Session of the Conference with the permission of a Presbyteral Session of a Synod and at their own expense are not able to be present in the closed sessions of the Presbyteral Session of the Conference: in other words, they do not participate in the decision-making in those closed sessions, nor do they hear the information that is shared within them.

At an appropriate point Resolution 5/3 will therefore be moved.

6. Details about candidates, probationers, those proposed for transfer and other permissions and authorisations will be made available to voting members of the Conference. Information regarding candidates is confidential to those who are present in the closed session and the booklet of details will be collected in at the end of that closed session. If there are any questions regarding particular cases, please contact Ian Jacobs ([jacobsi@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:jacobsi@methodistchurch.org.uk)) as soon as possible in advance in order that any necessary information can be collated in time for this item of business.

### 7. **The Record**

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 Session, thus allowing time for members to check its details.

At an appropriate point Resolution 5/4 will therefore be moved.

### 8. **Notices of Motion**

The procedure for the submission of Notices of Motion is set out in SO 132, which can be found in the Rules of Procedure, printed at the beginning of Volume One. The deadline for submission of Notices of Motion is 17.15 on Thursday 28 June; however it would assist in the planning of the Session if Notices of Motion could be submitted to the Assistant Secretary by 16.00 on Wednesday 27 June.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

#### **4/1. The Conference adopts the Report.**

## 5. Conference Arrangements

### 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.

2019	Birmingham	(27 June – 4 July)
2020	Telford	(25 June – 2 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 2019:

The Church of England  
The United Reformed Church  
The Baptist Union of Great Britain  
The Church in Wales  
The New Testament Church of God  
The Salvation Army

#### Europe

Opera per le Chiese Evangeliche Metodiste in Italia  
UMC Germany Central Conference  
UMC Central and Southern Central Conference  
UMC Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference  
Igreja Evangélica Metodista Portuguesa

#### Africa

Methodist Church Ghana  
Presbyterian Church in Cameroon  
Methodist Church Kenya  
Eglise Méthodiste du Togo  
Methodist Church in Zimbabwe

### **Americas**

Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico  
Iglesia Metodista de Chile  
Iglesia Evangélica Metodista de Nicaragua  
Iglesia Evangélica Metodista Argentina  
Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas

### **Asia/Pacific**

The Methodist Church, Upper Myanmar  
The Church of North India  
Gereja Methodist Indonesia  
The United Church of Christ in Japan  
The Methodist Church of New Zealand

### **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 024A(4).
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 2019 shall not be less than eight hours.**

## 5. Conference Arrangements

**5/6.** (Presbyteral Session) **The Conference invites the Vice-President of the Conference of 2018/2019 to attend the Presbyteral Session of the 2019 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 2019:**

Synod Cymru, Birmingham, Liverpool, Newcastle upon Tyne, Lancashire, Northampton, Plymouth and Exeter, Southampton, London, South East.

Reserves: Yorkshire West, Nottingham and Derby, East Anglia

<b>Contact name and details</b>	Mrs Louise C Wilkins Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice wilkinsl@methodistchurch.org.uk
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### **Special Resolution submitted by the Conference of 2017 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 2017 Conference referred one such resolution to the Methodist Council, for the Council to vote on. The background information and proposed amendments to the Standing Orders, Model Trusts or Deed of Union are set out below.

### **ONWARDS FROM THE SUPREME COURT**

The Law and Polity Committee reported the following to the Conference:

#### **The background**

1. In 2013, in the case of *The President of the Methodist Conference v Preston*, the Supreme Court held that ministers of the Methodist Church stationed in appointments within the Church are not employees. There is no appeal from a decision of the Supreme Court, but as the Committee stated in its report to the 2014 Conference it does not follow that if we wish that position to continue we can safely sit back and do nothing. It might be changed by Parliament or by a fresh challenge in the courts. We cannot, as a Church, do anything to prevent parliamentary legislation or, until it is mooted, to avoid or mitigate it, but we can and should consider what can be done to strengthen our defences against a renewed challenge in the courts.
2. The Committee does not suggest that such a challenge is imminent. If we take care not to dismantle the features of our polity on which the Supreme Court relied we should be safe against any attempt to overturn *Preston*, at least in relation to circuit appointments, for some years. But not for ever. Cases were decided in 1984 and 1986 which in their day seemed equally decisive authorities against ministerial employment, but less than

## 6. Special Resolution

30 years later, in *Preston*, the Employment Appeal Tribunal and the Court of Appeal were in favour of overruling them and it was far from certain, in prospect, that the Supreme Court would not agree. The pace of change tends to accelerate rather than slow down. And the likelihood is that no preventive action will be taken until it is too late unless the nettle is grasped before the subject slides out of the consciousness of the Connexion.

3. Moreover the need to address the issues raised by the *Preston* case has alerted the Committee to the fact that our constitutional documents nowhere set out the legal status of the Methodist Church. Although there can be no doubt that it is, in law, an unincorporated association, the rights and duties of the members of such bodies are usually defined by contract and if, as the Committee believes, that is not so in our case, we need to make that clearer.
4. That consideration is of particular importance in the light of the ground on which the Supreme Court decided *Preston*. Whether a person who does work for another is an employee is usually argued and decided on the footing that there is a contract between them and that the issue is whether it is one of employment or is of another kind, for example one for services supplied by a self-employed person. In the case of *Preston*, however, the Church argued, and the court accepted, more radically, that there is no contract at all.

### **A recommendation**

5. How should the points made in paragraphs 3 and 4 inform our approach to the issue raised in paragraphs 1 and 2? The Committee believes that there are two pointers to an answer in the leading judgment handed down in *Preston*. In the first place, we read at one point that “[t]he question whether an arrangement is a legally binding contract depends upon the intentions of the parties.” Secondly, it is stated elsewhere that “the disciplinary scheme [of the Methodist Church] is the same for ministers and lay members” and that “the ministry is not a distinct order or class.”
6. Taking up the first of these points, all law students in England and Wales learn that the requirements for a contract are offer, acceptance, consideration (or seal) and intention to create legal relations. We cannot prevent a court or tribunal from finding offer, acceptance and what lawyers count as consideration (in this instance ministerial service on the one hand and stipend and accommodation on the other), but intention to create legal relations remains necessary and is entirely in our own hands.
7. Turning to the second point, the fact that the ordained ministry is not a distinct order or class reminds us that in law the basic relationship in the Methodist Church, as in any unincorporated association, is that of membership.

8. If the subject is approached from first principles, therefore, it can be seen that the issue whether there is a contract with ministers involves two successive questions: (i) when persons become members of the Methodist Church do they and the Church intend thereby to enter into a legally binding contract and (ii), if not, does that situation change when a member becomes a minister? If the answer to both questions is unassailably negative, as we should be able to ensure, then we should be able to hold the line for as long as the Church itself wishes, unless Parliament intervenes.
9. In addition to being the most fundamental in terms of legal analysis, that approach has two further advantages. The first is that in addition to dealing with the ministerial employment issue it forestalls any attempted litigation against the Church for breach of contract by members as such, the possibility of which it is, in the present climate of opinion, by no means fanciful to foresee. The second is that the primary denial of intention to create legal relations comes at the stage of entry into membership, which is likely to be uncontroversial.

### **A caveat**

10. Although this recommendation seeks to ensure that the absence of any contractual relationship with members or ministers, as such, remains secure the Committee wishes to emphasise that that is very far from excluding the law of the land altogether from the affairs of the Church. On the contrary, there are important areas of church life in which it is of the utmost importance to be aware of and comply with legal requirements. All Methodist property and all Methodist funds are held on charitable trust, and Circuit Meetings, Church Councils, treasurers and others are subject to the law of trusts and to charity law when acting as trustees. The Church and its officers and trustees also have legal obligations to exercise due care for the safety and welfare of others, for example to persons on Methodist premises and to children and vulnerable adults in their care.

### **Implementation**

11. What the Committee envisages is that our constitutional provisions about entry into membership should make it clear that becoming a member is a covenantal expression of commitment to Christian discipleship within the Methodist Church and of acceptance of its discipline, but is not intended on either side to create legal relations, and that those about reception into Full Connexion should establish that what is involved is entry into wider responsibilities and authority within the Church, in addition to those already exercised by virtue of membership and existing offices, but not the creation of a new legal relationship. Draft amendments to the Deed of Union and Standing Orders to that effect are shown below.

## 6. Special Resolution

12. It would need to be clear that these provisions were not just adopted by the Conference and published in *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD)* but known to and accepted by candidates for reception into membership or Full Connexion. That, however, is a matter not for legislation but for guidance and direction from those involved in the processes of preparation for membership and candidacy for the ministry, who are giving the subject their attention.
13. In preparing this report the Committee has consulted the Faith and Order Committee and has taken its comments into account.

### Incidental points

14. Some thought needs to be given, if that has not already been done (the Committee is not aware of any), to how we mark the admission into membership of persons received into Full Connexion directly from the ministry of other communions.
15. Making it clear that the basic relationships of membership and ministry are not contractual will sharpen the need to clarify the status of other relationships and, if they are to be contractual, the consequences of that. For example Standing Order 690(2)(c) expressly requires that where a person within that Standing Order worships in a Local Church, or seeks to become involved in its life, he or she must agree to “enter into a written contract” setting out certain terms. If that is to remain its implications need to be explored.
16. The amendments we recommend would apply directly only to persons coming newly into membership or Full Connexion. They are not, however, intended to change what we maintain (and in the case of ministers have established) to be the existing position. Consideration therefore needs to be given to whether, and if so how, that position is to be brought to the attention of existing members.
17. The amendments below are framed by reference to the law of England and Wales. Consultations, similar to those required by Standing Order 919A in the case of amendments to the Model Trusts, will be required to ensure that they have the intended effect elsewhere, and are if necessary modified to that end.

### Amendments to the Deed of Union

**9 Privileges and Duties of Membership.** (a) It is the privilege and duty of members of the Methodist Church to avail themselves of the two sacraments, namely baptism and the Lord’s Supper. As membership of the Methodist Church also involves fellowship it is the duty of all members of the Methodist Church to seek to cultivate this in every possible way. The weekly class meeting has from the beginning proved to be the most effective means of maintaining

among Methodists true fellowship in Christian experience. All members of the Methodist Church shall have their names entered on a class book, shall be placed under the pastoral care of a class leader or pastoral visitor and shall receive an annual ticket of membership.

***(b) The privileges and duties of membership, as set out in sub-clause (a) above and appearing from Standing Orders, are commitments by each member to Christian discipleship within the Methodist Church, and to acceptance of its discipline, and by the Church to provision of the means by which that discipleship may be fully expressed, including pastoral care and oversight. Membership is therefore a covenant relationship between the member and the Church, freely entered into by the grace of God, but entry into membership has never been, and is not, intended on the part of either party to create, and does not create, a contract or other legal relations.***

The Methodist Council approved the Resolution.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

- 6/1. The Conference confirms the amendments to the Deed of Union as set out above.**

## 7. The Trustees for the Bailiwick of Guernsey Methodist Church Purposes

The following appointed Trustees, together with the Chair of the Channel Islands District and Superintendent Minister of the Bailiwick of Guernsey Circuit (the Revd Dr David Hinchliffe), served during the year together with the newly appointed Mrs Wendy Le Tissier:

Mrs M Lewis (Secretary), Mrs E Male, Mrs Claire Teed, Messrs C Falla, K Le Parmentier and J Sharratt.

- 1 No transactions have been entered into this year.
- 2 The term of office for Mrs M Lewis as a Trustee, expires at the beginning of 2018 and we welcome, in her place, the appointment made by the Channel Islands Synod of Mrs Wendy Le Tissier.
- 3 The Trustees continue to exercise their responsibilities according to The Methodist Church (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1987.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

- 7/1. The Conference receives the Report.**

## 8. The Trustees for Jersey Methodist Church Purposes

The appointed Trustees, together with the Chair of the Channel Islands District (the Revd Dr David Hinchliffe) and the Superintendent of the Jersey Circuit (the Revd Graeme Halls) are:

Mr R J L Le Maistre, Mrs S Edwards, Mr D Speight, Mrs L Wheeler and Miss M A Lee (Secretary).

1. On 27 January 2017, the Trustees sold “Les Frères Chapel”, cottage and land to The National Trust for Jersey.
2. On 26 May 2017, the Trustees acquired “Sundora”, No. 4 St Mary's Village from Mr R E Le Jéhan for use as a manse.
3. The Trustees were pleased to note the care and maintenance of Methodist Church property in the Island and expressed their appreciation to those concerned.
4. The Trustees are discharging their duties under The Methodist (Jersey) Church Law, 1986.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

**8/1. The Conference receives the Report.**

## 9. All We Can – Methodist Relief and Development

<b>Contact name and details</b>	Maurice Adams Chief Executive, All We Can 020 7467 5132 info@allwecan.org.uk
<b>Subject and aims</b>	This report summarises the activities and achievements of All We Can in the financial year 2016/17
<b>Resolution</b>	9/1. The Conference receives the Report.
<b>Main points</b>	<p>In 2016/17, working to end humanitarian suffering caused by poverty and emergencies, All We Can significantly increased the impact of its efforts in two primary areas of implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 922,507 people being provided with long-term support through 22 local development partner organisations in 10 countries, and</li> <li>● 71,887 people receiving emergency assistance including food, medicine and shelter through 15 humanitarian partner organisations in 10 countries.</li> </ul> <p>A total increase on last year of 406,690 men, women and children who were provided with assistance to survive and thrive.</p>
<b>Background context and relevant documents</b>	Full version of All We Can <i>Trustees' Report and Financial Statements</i> for the year ended 31 August 2017 or 2016/17 <i>Review</i> card pack – both available from the All We Can office or website at <a href="http://allwecan.org.uk/review">allwecan.org.uk/review</a>

### Our vision and approach

Our vision: Every person's potential fulfilled.

Our mission: All We Can helps find solutions to poverty by engaging with local people and organisations in some of the world's poorest communities to end the suffering caused by inequality and injustice. To do this we:

- Support and strengthen local partners – organisations, churches, emerging initiatives and inspiring individuals that share our vision and values – to implement effective and sustainable solutions with some of the world's poorest and least served communities

## 9. All We Can – Methodist Relief and Development

- Respond to humanitarian crises with emergency relief and help communities to be better prepared for disasters
- Engage in global education to inform, challenge and motivate people to take a stance against poverty and injustice.

In all that it does, All We Can is mindful of its role as the Methodist relief and development agency and an integral part of the Church, acting through its international relief and development work and public engagement.

### **Achievements**

This year, we have seen a significant increase in the number of individuals benefitting directly or indirectly from our development work in our priority countries, with the total figure rising from 579,821 in 2015/16, to 922,507 in 2016/17. This increase is a result of existing partner organisations growing the reach of their own programmes and the entrance of new partners. In total, we worked with 22 partner organisations and churches across 10 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

Two local organisations in Malawi and Sierra Leone have transitioned from purely emergency relief partners into development partners, and four development partners in Burundi, Ethiopia and Uganda are responding to the famine crisis in their target areas in order to preserve development gains achieved over time.

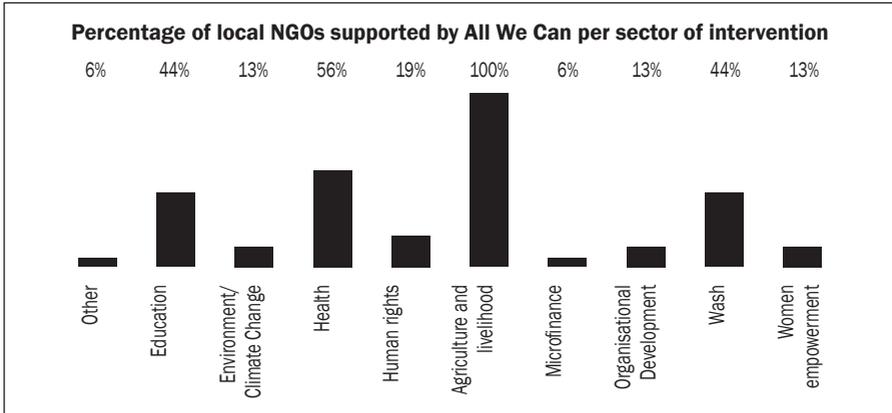
This is consistent with our desire to work more closely with local partners along the entire intervention spectrum from relief, recovery and development; supporting target communities to become resilient to prevailing hazards and thereby preserving and protecting lives, assets and wealth created in development programming. The increasing number of development partners involved in emergency relief underscores the fact that All We Can works in poor and vulnerable countries and in marginalised communities.

### **Meaningful partnership**

In line with our mission to support our partners to achieve their mission, our partners now have clear strategies that we have helped them to develop. Because we do not promote a project and grant centred partnership approach that can lead to dependency, we will support our partners based on the pursuit of their strategy. Additionally, we have invested in services to support our partners to conduct comprehensive organisation assessments to help them identify capacity gaps that we can jointly work to strengthen over the course of our relationship. It is important that organisations and churches are well managed and not just that their worthy projects are funded.

Our partners are implementing programmes across ten development sectors with all of them having an agricultural and/or livelihoods component, which is critical for poverty eradication and wealth creation. The majority of partners have a focus on education (44%), health (56%)

## 9. All We Can – Methodist Relief and Development



and water, sanitation and hygiene – WASH (44%) and all partners have diverse intervention activities with communities recognising the multifaceted nature of poverty. Target groups are the poorest, marginalised groups in society, in keeping with All We Can’s mission, including the elderly, people with disabilities, people living with HIV, widows and children, and those forcibly displaced from their homes ensuring that no one is left behind.

We have been in partnership with about a third of our local partner churches and organisations for more than 10 years, and over half for between 5-10 years. For the past five years, we have invested time and resources in developing new partnerships in new countries. This demonstrates our commitment to walking in partnership with local organisations for the long term. For example, we have worked with some of our Nepali partners for over 14 years and they are now in a position to sustain themselves and continue positively affecting communities without All We Can support. Next year, we will end our programmes in Nepal and in Burundi and therefore this year we have been undertaking activities to prepare seven partners in those countries for this exit. In the same vein, we undertook robust scoping exercises for new partners in Malawi and Zimbabwe, resulting in taking on four new partners in each country, with the view to commencing activities with them in the next year. Because we believe our partnership approach requires mutual accountability, we collected feedback from our partners on the quality of our relationship with them. We achieved an average score of 8.21 out of 10 on partner’s perspective of their relationship with All We Can in the categories of (i) Shared vision and values (ii) Competence (iii) Integrity (iv) Interdependence and (v) Open communication, with the latter receiving the highest score of 8.47.

On the issue of funding received from All We Can, partners scored an average of 9.11 for relevance, 7.95 for flexibility and 8.26 for timeliness. 88% of our partners liked our

## 9. All We Can – Methodist Relief and Development

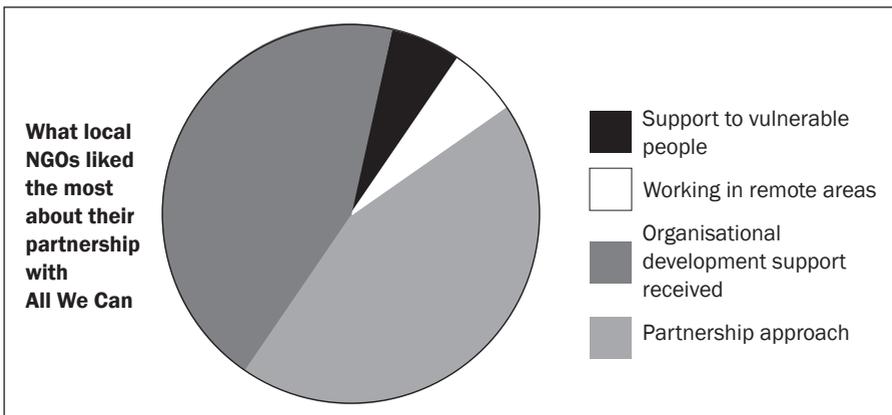
organisational development and partnership approach the most, in addition to our support for vulnerable people and a preference to working in remote, hard to reach areas where most donors do not go. Partners also identified challenges, for example, where there had been staff changes at All We Can and where a decision had been made to exit from the partnership over the next few years.

### Capacity development

All We Can supported 93.75% partners to develop their strategic plans, with the remainder due to develop new strategies in the coming year. 69% have developed organisation development plans following comprehensive organisation assessment processes. These plans will help focus our capacity development efforts over the next few years and enable our partners to implement their services within the communities. Just under 44% of partners have indicated that they have already achieved more than 50% of their strategic objectives.

We have provided a wide range of capacity development support to partners including the development of organisational policies such as administration and finance policies and risk management plans. In addition to this, we have supported partner resources acquisition efforts through assistance with proposal development and linking them with other donors.

Our work can be with local organisations or churches. Because they are different in many ways, All We Can has developed a relevant approach for each of them. Church CAN (Community Action for Neighbours) is specifically designed to help churches fulfil their mission to 'love their neighbour'. This year, having supported the Methodist Church of Uganda to develop their strategic plan, we proceeded to support strategic pillars related to their social action and institutional strengthening ambitions. We supported the development of a financial management policy and requisite systems and funded the recruitment and salaries



## 9. All We Can – Methodist Relief and Development

of a qualified accountant and programmes manager to prepare them to receive funding and grow their capacity to implement development programmes. The church implemented both agricultural based livelihood development programmes and augmented this with food and nutrition relief in response to the drought that affected East Africa.

We have also collaborated with the Methodist Church in Britain (MCB) in a 'church capacity development initiative' focusing on the Methodist Church in Sierra Leone.

The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe received organisation development support for a church renewal intervention, and we visited the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in Lesotho and the Church of North India for initial scoping activities. We continued to work with the Methodist Church in Haiti to strengthen their health programme, focusing on frequent mobile clinics in areas that do not have permanent clinics but where need for health provision was exacerbated by Hurricane Harvey. In addition, we worked with the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon, which is the MCB partner in that country. Our support focused on helping the church to develop a business plan for a project that will enable the church to sustain itself using internally generated resources.

### **Humanitarian aid**

2016/17 saw several large-scale emergencies that were matched by generous public, and particularly Methodist, support, resulting in 71,887 affected people being helped by All We Can compared with 7,883 last year. Our largest response in early 2017 was to East Africa and Yemen, where widespread food insecurity, as a result of drought, entrenched economic crises and protracted civil conflicts affected more than 38 million people. Food aid provided immediate hunger relief while, seed distribution ensured that families were able to recover their livelihoods. Meanwhile, training on climate change adaption will help to mitigate the impact of future droughts making communities more resilient in the future. In Haiti, our initial emergency response of emergency shelter, safe water and mobile health clinics, was followed with training on how to construct structures more resistant to earthquakes. Next year, we will be supporting our partner in Haiti to build permanent homes that act as hurricane shelters for up to 145 persons. Ten of our partners supported 65,608 people, primarily with food aid and nutrition services. Although smaller in scale, Hurricane Matthew in Haiti, which occurred in October 2016 affecting 3.2 million people, also necessitated an All We Can response due to the high levels of vulnerability and lack of coping mechanisms among communities still recovering from the devastating earthquake of 2010.

As well as responding to new emergencies in 2016/17, All We Can continues to monitor the progress of emergency responses funded in previous years, which our partners continue to implement. At the end of last year, we supported 1,306 extremely vulnerable refugees living in informal settlements in Lebanon with improved shelters and concluded support to 1,388 refugees in Jordan where our partners provided healthcare, food aid and livelihoods and education opportunities.

## 9. All We Can – Methodist Relief and Development

In Ecuador, the ACT Alliance Earthquake response was completed in May 2017, with All We Can assisting 632 people with food, water, shelter and psychosocial support. In Sierra Leone, although Ebola is no longer a public health concern, the impact is still being felt and our partner has been able to support a further 200 Ebola survivors, through remaining funds, with micro-enterprise grants, seeds and educational assistance to children orphaned by Ebola.

### **Public engagement**

All We Can once again used its annual church appeals and activities to create resources that were designed to educate and inform local churches and supporters across the country on development and relief issues, as well as inspire support. This year, in depth materials and church resources were created for our appeals at Harvest, Christmas, and for the first time in a number of years, Lent. Harvest 2016 focused on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) provision in Uganda, particularly highlighting the educational benefits for schools within poor communities. Our Extraordinary Gifts Christmas appeal included church resources and examples of development activities from across our portfolio of work, demonstrating the breadth of development activity that All We Can supports, and is required, in the poor communities our partners serve.

All We Can's Lent resources in 2017 focused on the work of our partners with widows in rural Cameroon. The resources were designed to engage churches and individuals in a deeper piece of education and theological reflection on the needs within this community as well as broader issues of justice and compassion. The resources included contributions from high profile Methodists and other well-known Christian contributors, providing daily content across the entire 40 days of Lent. This was a significant investment for the organisation but resulted in high levels of engagement across the country, with over 10,000 resources distributed and feedback from supporters very positive.

### **Part of the Methodist family**

As an integral part of Methodist Church in Britain, All We Can plays a specific and discrete role in the Church's mission. It functions within the Church's calling of service ("to be a good neighbour to those in need and to challenge injustice") and its priority of acting in the world and in the Church, through its outworking of support to community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor.

All We Can has evolved from the vision and action of Methodists since this movement began in 1938. We are the Methodist relief and development organisation of the Church. In 2018, All We Can will be commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of this story. We will continue to collaborate as part of the Methodist Church in Britain and globally, by engaging with more than eighteen different groups such as committees and ministry teams. We have developed partnerships with others in the global Methodist family and beyond, and

## 9. All We Can – Methodist Relief and Development

collaborate in ways that enhance our global impact. We are committed to effectiveness, innovation and achieving our organisational mission and doing so hand in hand with our Methodist family.

### **Future plans**

All We Can exists to support its partners. Our plans will always focus on the success of those with whom we collaborate. We are motivated to strengthen our relational and partner focused approach because of feedback we receive from local organisations:

We have five priorities this coming year, with the overall objective of consolidating our resources to strengthen our growth.

1. Enlarging the capacity of our partners for greater impact of long-term change.
2. Increasing income and ensuring financial sustainability to achieve the strategy.
3. Enhancing the communication of our message, our approach and our achievements.
4. Developing our global education and public engagement.
5. Becoming even more efficient in the management of our resources.

The practical compassion of Methodists, which inspired the All We Can movement, is the same compassion that enables this work to continue today.

### **Financial review**

We are very grateful to our many supporters, partners, volunteers, funders, staff, advisers and trustees who have made this year's achievements possible. We record particular thanks to those who financially supported the organisation. Total income increased by £623k (26%) to £3,040k (2016: £2,416k), which was driven by a large increase in donations of £616k (49%). Total expenditure increased by 9% to £3,175k (2016: £2,905k), of which 82.6% (2016: 82.3%) was spent on charitable activities.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

**9/1. The Conference receives the Report.**

## 9. All We Can – Methodist Relief and Development

### Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 August 2017

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2017 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2016 Total £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	1,934,894	1,076,876	3,011,770	1,549,514	836,253	2,385,767
Investments	3	27,772	-	27,772	30,643	-	30,643
<b>Total income</b>		<b>1,962,666</b>	<b>1,076,876</b>	<b>3,039,542</b>	<b>1,580,157</b>	<b>836,253</b>	<b>2,416,410</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	4	552,280	-	552,280	514,915	-	514,915
<b>Charitable activities</b>							
Development	4	1,272,957	361,700	1,634,657	1,129,716	649,375	1,779,091
Humanitarian	4	147,753	549,307	697,060	140,279	187,709	327,988
Advocacy and education	4	291,123	-	291,123	282,787	-	282,787
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>		<b>1,711,833</b>	<b>911,007</b>	<b>2,622,840</b>	<b>1,552,782</b>	<b>837,084</b>	<b>2,389,866</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,264,113</b>	<b>911,007</b>	<b>3,175,120</b>	<b>2,067,697</b>	<b>837,084</b>	<b>2,904,781</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	41,121	-	41,121	84,234	-	84,234
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(260,326)</b>	<b>165,869</b>	<b>(94,457)</b>	<b>(403,306)</b>	<b>(831)</b>	<b>(404,137)</b>
Transfers between funds	16/17	82,796	(82,796)	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(177,530)</b>	<b>83,073</b>	<b>(94,457)</b>	<b>(403,306)</b>	<b>(831)</b>	<b>(404,137)</b>
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		1,528,541	19,287	1,547,828	1,931,847	20,118	1,951,965
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,351,011</b>	<b>102,360</b>	<b>1,453,371</b>	<b>1,528,541</b>	<b>19,287</b>	<b>1,547,828</b>

## 10. Methodist Diaconal Order General Report

<b>Contact name and details</b>	Deacon Karen McBride Warden warden@mdo.org.uk
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### 1. Membership

The Methodist Diaconal Order (MDO) currently has a complement of 259 members. Of these:

127 are in the active work (including 10 probationer deacons)

118 are supernumerary deacons

9 are student deacons

5 are deacons who hold 'without appointment' status

In addition, there are 2 authorised deacons in the active work and 1 supernumerary associate deacon. The MDO also has 27 people who are 'Associates' of the Order and a number of 'Friends' who commit themselves to support the Order through prayer and advocacy.

Since the 2017 Convocation 8 members have died, 5 new full members were received by ordination into the diaconate, 4 accepted candidates and 7 members had permission to sit down.

At the time of writing the processes of the Ministerial Candidates' Selection Committee, the Ministerial Candidates' and Probationers' Oversight Committee and the Conference Diaconal Committee (CDC) are incomplete, and so the numbers of those who will be recommended to the Conference as candidates, for ordination and permission to sit down are not yet fully known.

### 2. MDO Deputy Warden

Following a period of discernment Deacon Richard Goldstraw sought to step down from his appointment as Deputy Warden of the Order and to take up a circuit appointment. During the autumn a discernment group met to identify through prayer, consultation and conversation a deacon to recommend to the Methodist Council for direct stationing as the Deputy Warden. In its January meeting the Methodist Council accepted the recommendation of Deacon Ruth Richey who will serve as the Deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order for 5 years from September 2018. The MDO is grateful to both Richard and Ruth for their willingness to serve and to the Methodist Council and all who actively supported the process of discernment by their membership of the discernment group or in other ways.

### **3. The Methodist Council Working Group on the MDO as a Religious Order, and Faith and Order work on Ministry in the Methodist Church**

Members of the Order continue to seek to engage fully with the questions and opportunities raised in relation to the nature and understanding of the MDO as both a religious order and an order of ministry.

### **4. Stationing**

During the stationing matching process 19 deacons were matched for stationing to appointments for September 2018 by the Methodist Conference. This includes 5 who will become new first year probationers.

The Order throughout the year continues to visit and share in conversations about potential future diaconal appointments with Circuits and Churches as they seek to discern how they are being called at this time and in their context, to join in the work of God in service to the world.

### **5. World Diakonia**

In July 2017 four members of the Order travelled to Chicago to participate in the Assembly of the World Diakonia Federation, where over 400 diaconal ministers, deacons and diaconal orders from 28 countries gathered together. The purpose of gathering was not only to celebrate a common calling to a ministry focused on the servanthood of Christ but also to be open to being shaken by the wind of God's Spirit, so to 'create community, rock the foundations, face the chaos, explore the unknown, find a new perspective, nourish hope and to be scattered to serve'. This was a joyful, challenging and hopeful event, which sought to remind and encourage the call of the whole Church to be a witness of God for all of creation through loving and deliberate service throughout the world.

### **6. The Convocation**

By the time the Conference meets, as part of the discipline of the Order, members will have met at the annual Convocation to give thanks for those who "are no longer part of our earthly fellowship", to rejoice with those who were ordained at the 2017 Conference and those who will be recommended to the Conference for ordination in 2018, to greet those who became diaconal students and pray for those who are 'sitting down'.

The Convocation will have received and benefitted from the presence and ministry of the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference alongside that of the

## 10. Methodist Diaconal Order General Report

Secretary of the Conference and other guests. It will have hosted and shared fellowship with a number of deacons from other Churches from within the UK and Europe and with Methodist deacons from the Nigeria and Southern African Methodist Churches and United Methodist Church of the USA.

At the end of the Convocation members will have rededicated themselves to the calling and ministry of a deacon in Christ's Church which includes living by the MDO rule, lifelong service and prayer and the discipline of direct stationing and itinerancy.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

**10/1. The Conference receives the Report.**

**10/2. The Conference resolves that the Convocation of the Methodist Diaconal Order shall meet at the Hayes Conference Centre from Tuesday 7 May until Friday 10 May 2019.**

## 11. 3Generate 2017 – Methodist Children and Youth Assembly

<b>Contact name and details</b>	Michael Pryke Youth President youthpresident@methodistchurch.org.uk
<b>Action required</b>	Decision
<b>Resolutions</b>	<p>11/1. The Conference receives the Report.</p> <p>11/2. a) The Conference encourages churches, Circuits and Districts actively to engage in a 'Year of Testimony' for the connexional year 2019/2020. b) The Conference directs the Methodist Council to consider how it can support the 'Year of Testimony' during the connexional year of 2019/2020.</p> <p>11/3. a) The Conference urges each Local Church to meet with their local MP to build a relationship and explore concerns, and directs the Council to provide resources to support this. b) The Conference challenges every District to commit to one creative action to challenge a particular issue of injustice and to share this with the wider Connexion.</p>

### Summary of content

<b>Subject and aims</b>	A summary of 3Generate 2017 – The Methodist Children and Youth Assembly.
<b>Main points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attendance and representation of 3Generate</li> <li>● Overview of the event</li> <li>● Result of elections held at 3Generate</li> <li>● Hearing the voice of young people</li> <li>● Resolutions set before the Conference</li> </ul>

### Change

1. The Methodist Children and Youth Assembly, 3Generate, is both an engagement process and an event for children and young people aged 8-23. Since 2010, the 3Generate event has grown significantly and as a result undergone substantial change. The most notable change, aside from the increase in numbers attending, this year was the invitation to

## 11. 3Generate 2017 – Methodist Children and Youth Assembly

leaders to attend *in loco parentis* with their groups. Provision was made in many Districts to enable those without formal groups to become part of a more established group. The event moved to a different venue; Pontins in Southport.

### Membership

2. In total 943 delegates attended the 2017 event supported by 138 volunteers, 32 staff (of whom 27 were members of the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network), 9 ONE Programme Participants (OPPs) and 10 Elected Youth Representatives. Adding group leaders to this number resulted in the total number of people being on site at 1,234, making this the largest 3Generate in its history.

### #WonderfullyProphetic

3. This year's theme was 'wonderfully prophetic'. This theme enabled the programme to focus on how children and young people can use their voice and lives to be agents of change.

### Overview of the programme

4. With the move into a new venue, 3Generate was able to change and expand. To this end it was decided to use a venue-based system instead of dividing the assembly into age-specific areas for the majority of the event. Most sessions were suitable for all ages but with some sessions tailored to specific age groups.
5. One exception to this way of programming was Generate Young Adults. This was developed specifically for those between the ages of 18-23, although those in this age bracket could still be part of the rest of the programme across the site. Sessions included: discussions around authentic online communities, a jazz café, creative worship, prayers and sessions looking at their next steps in life. Throughout the event the 18-23s consistently expressed a desire to explore more deeply issues of mental health, in particular how the Church could engage in the issue and how best to help and support people.
6. There were 8 venues across the site. An overview of what took place in each venue is below.
  - 6.1. **Creative Venue** In this venue, children and young people had the opportunity to express themselves creatively. Activities involved making jewellery, painting stones, small canvases and t-shirts and Christmas decorations. As well as that, a digital graffiti wall captured the thoughts of the children and young people. In this venue, they were given free rein to express creatively issues and ideas. Many things were discussed including the desire for Methodist venues to be environmentally friendly

## 11. 3Generate 2017 – Methodist Children and Youth Assembly

and a recognition that there is sometimes a huge age gap between younger and older generations in churches. These creative expressions were captured in various ways. For example participants created a giant cross made out of the recycled containers that their food was delivered in during the weekend, demonstrating how recycling has been a key issue for 3Generate for a number of years. Continuing this theme every delegate was given a water bottle made out of recycled materials, this was presented on the Sunday service to remind children and young people to be a prophetic voice and to stand up for things they care about, in this case to use fewer plastic bottles.

- 6.2. **Engage Venue** This was the biggest venue in size where several musical artists performed: Vassie, Urban Praise Project and a Bluecoats show was held there on the Saturday night. During the day TED Talks were held with the titles 'One church, one world, eating monkey for Jesus', 'President Trump – why my cousin voted for him', 'Being a good neighbour when your neighbourhood has been destroyed: making sense of God in disasters' and 'You'll never know how amazing you are if you're always trying to fit in'. There were also workshops exploring mental health, sharing testimonies, and marriage and relationships. Some of the things discussed in the marriage and relationships workshop included a need for more conversations about healthy relationships and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender+ matters. There were differences in opinions regarding a re-definition of marriage. The desire to talk more about our faith stories was expressed in the sharing testimonies workshop.
- 6.3. **Explore Venue** This venue saw gospel worship, a comedy workshop, a drama group and Messy Science. During the Messy Science session, conversations centred around peace, how to work together as a church community, and worship styles that bring us closer to God. There was also an Open Space session where young people could bring any topic and discuss it. The majority were concerned about: 'mental health', 'should we follow the Bible word for word?', 'creating links with other churches around the world', 'is Sunday sacred?', 'the environment', 'why do we go to church?', 'do you feel your voice is heard?' During this session young people were asked to write on tablecloths their thoughts and opinions around these topics. They said: "We go to church to be heard, to worship God and to share God's word"; that the "Church is to lend its voice, show compassion to others and be just in how we treat other faiths" and young people also wanted their churches to "Lobby UK leaders to make social justice important."
- 6.4. **Agents of Change** Two marquees were erected just outside the main venue, in which workshops were facilitated by the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) and All We Can with contributions from Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) and Action for Children. Within this venue there were various workshops held as well as a rolling

programme that included a re-creation of a Zimbabwean village where children and young people were invited to sit and think about what it would be like to live in this situation and offer prayers for those who do. There was also a giant inflatable globe where young people could place sticky notes on to countries and situations they wanted to pray for. Children and young people could also vote for the issues that they would like JPIT to work on. Terrorism was the topic which received the most votes. There was a late-night chat show and a silent disco. Young people also pledged to do one of 100 things to change the world, the most popular of these were to pray for those in need, reading about justice in the Bible and to use fewer plastic bottles. In addition, origami peace cranes (these were originally made by a girl from Hiroshima who died from leukaemia due to the dropping of the atomic bomb) were made and sent to the Secretary of State for Defence as a way of supporting JPIT's campaign against nuclear weapons. They were also hung in the window of Methodist Church House following 3Generate.

- 6.5. **Voice Venue** Four '3:Voice' sessions were held in this venue throughout the day. A technique called World Café was used for these sessions as a means of hearing the voices of young people. This style involves people sitting around a table (set out to make it feel as though you are in a café) and conversing about a question relating to a particular subject while being facilitated by someone, after about 15 minutes people changed tables and discussed a different question, which also related to the subject. The facilitator noted down everything said and the children and young people were also encouraged to write on the tablecloths. The comments from the children and young people were captured by 4 large graphic recordings which can be viewed at [www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/3generate/agents-of-change/manifestos-and-resources/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/3generate/agents-of-change/manifestos-and-resources/).

The topics discussed in these sessions were:

- **Minding the Gap:** How can we create peace in today's world? Within this session young people expressed their desire for people to be nicer towards each other and wanted to tell the grown-ups to stop arguing in church. They also wanted to be valued, supported and to seek: inner (personal) peace, community peace, church peace and world peace and also to have dialogue and promote understanding around this.
- **Good Neighbours:** Is it possible to love others and ourselves? This session had several crossover points with the session about peace, as young people wanted everyone not to be mean to others even if people were mean to them. Several suggestions as what to do around this were suggested, such as adults helping young people and giving them a role. They also wanted to value 'all' their neighbours especially the homeless and immigrants. Finally, young people

## 11. 3Generate 2017 – Methodist Children and Youth Assembly

suggested that the Church needs to bring positive good news stories to the world as a way to counteract negativity.

- **Reinventing Church:** What would the perfect church look like? This session was the largest in terms of numbers showing how important this topic is to young people. Young people wanted to be treated as equals irrespective of their age and to be given responsibilities and opportunities within church services. They were also keen to see different styles of services as well as better (more modern) equipment.
- **Thriving Today:** What will help us, and our faith, to grow when times are difficult? In this session children and young people brought up how much they valued the range of views and beliefs expressed in the Church. They also valued the amount of support given to them and praying with others. To develop this further young people asked to be equipped to share faith and answer difficult questions, they wanted to try things and be allowed to make mistakes and they wanted to both share and hear faith stories about how they and others struggled.

6.6. **Still Space Venue:** This provided a gentler, more contemplative, alternative to the other venues and activities. The programme included mindful movement, Bible meditation, and quieter, reflective worship. This venue provided the ideal place to host the 'Safe Haven' – a silent space for those who needed to take time out, which was particularly helpful for those with additional needs. One of the sessions held in this venue was called '3:Voice Creative' where children and young people were encouraged to write or draw on tablecloths expressing their views and opinions about church and other issues.

### Elections

7. The following young people were elected as 3Generate representatives at the 2017 event:

Youth President 2018/2019	Jasmine Yeboah
Representatives to the Methodist Conference	Ruth Hall, Kira Barfoot and Liberty Dane
Representative to the Methodist Council	Roxanne Bromley
Representatives to the British Youth Council	Callum Bentley, Grace Burnett and Alysha Wilson
Ecumenical Representative	Jack Key

## 11. 3Generate 2017 – Methodist Children and Youth Assembly

8. These youth representatives, along with the previously elected Gemma Curtis, Jasmine Roberts, Roxanne Bainbridge and Samuel Ebdon, combine to form the Youth President's Advisory Group (as set out in SO 250(9)).
9. The group meets three times a year to develop the work of hearing and representing the voice of children and young people in a variety of contexts. The 3Generate representatives also visit churches, and attend circuit and district events where possible.

### Resolutions

10. The Youth President's Advisory Group met subsequent to 3Generate to process the material gathered at the event and with the help and advice of the Chair of Chairs formed this into the resolutions.
11. Children and young people of the Methodist Church feel strongly about the issue of justice and social action, therefore support from the Church in resourcing thinking and acting for justice is an essential part of our faith, our heritage and *Our Calling*. However, 3Generate feels that too few people engage with issues of justice in this country and around the world. To tackle this, 3Generate would like to challenge the Methodist Church to work for justice inter-generationally. Firstly, they would like to challenge every church to get to know their MP so that they can raise issues of justice with her or him. Secondly, 3Generate challenges every District to show their passion for justice through committing to take a single action to challenge injustice – for example bringing people who work in foodbanks together to discuss the End Hunger campaign or dedicating a synod to exploring an issue of justice – and sharing the good news stories with others around the Connexion.
12. Another area that 3Generate feels strongly about is that testimony should play a greater role in the life of the whole Church. In this regard, 3Generate members recognise how important it is for all Christians to speak of our faith, to talk of God and to share stories as a means of deepening our faith and sharing it with others.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

**11/1. The Conference receives the Report.**

**11/2. a) The Conference encourages churches, Circuits and Districts actively to engage in a 'Year of Testimony' for the connexional year 2019/2020.**

**b) The Conference directs the Methodist Council to consider how it can support the 'Year of Testimony' during the connexional year of 2019/2020.**

- 11/3.** a) The Conference urges each Local Church to meet with their local MP to build a relationship and explore concerns, and directs the Council to provide resources to support this.
- b) The Conference challenges every District to commit to one creative action to challenge a particular issue of injustice and to share this with the wider Connexion.

## 12. Unified Statement of Connexional Finances

<b>Contact name and details</b>	The Revd Timothy A Swindell Connexional Treasurer Tim.Swindell@methodist.org.uk
<b>Resolution</b>	12/1. The Conference receives the Report as the Unified Statement of Connexional Finances required by SO 360.

### Summary of content

<b>Subject and aims</b>	Summary extracts of the full consolidated accounts of the Methodist Church for 2016/2017 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.
<b>Main points</b>	These accounts consolidate figures for a wide variety of Methodist activities and entities.
<b>Background context and relevant documents</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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”.</p> <p>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.</p>

#### 1. Link to the financial statements

The accounts can be viewed online at: [www.methodist.org.uk/trusteesreport](http://www.methodist.org.uk/trusteesreport)

### 2. Strategic objectives, aims and purposes of the Methodist Church in Great Britain

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

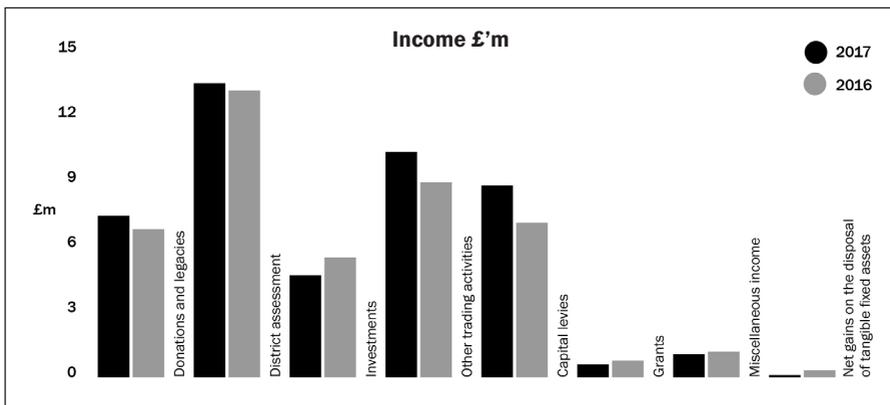
In 2016/17 the Methodist Church, in response to its calling and in pursuit of the strategic objectives (worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism), organised its work in the following key areas:

- equipping the Church to engage with society;
- formation, training, development and resourcing;
- empowering the ministry of overseas partners; and
- advocacy and education.

### 5. Financial review

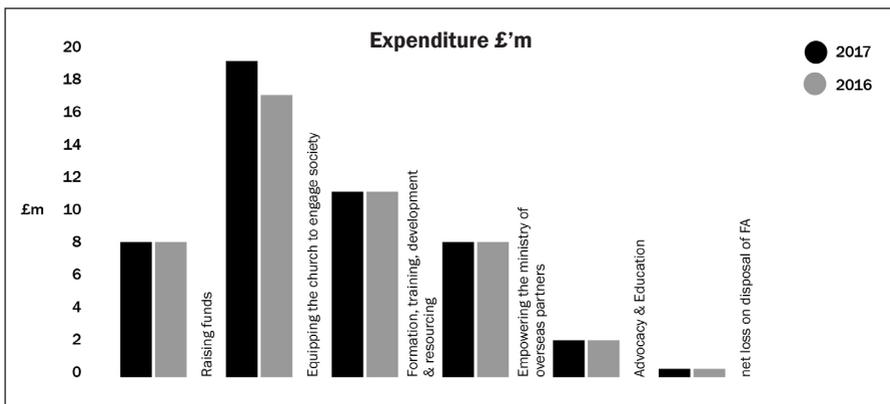
The activities covered in these consolidated financial statements are those under the oversight of the Methodist Council. The Methodist Church in Great Britain is the registered charity and the Charity Commission has agreed that these financial statements can properly serve as the financial statements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

## 12. Unified Statement of Connexional Finances



The total income for the year was £46 million, an increase of 7% compared to the previous year (2016: £43 million). Total expenditure increased by 4% to £48 million (2016: £46 million). At the end of the year, the Church recorded a net surplus of £16 million (2016: £14 million), an increase of 15%. The surplus includes net investment gains before other recognised gains and losses of £18 million (2016: £17 million).

The “other recognised gains and losses” for the year included a gain of £9 million (2016: £12 million loss) from actuarial revaluations on the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church. This was caused by changes in the assumptions used to value the Scheme’s liabilities, the result of changes in market conditions and resulting in an overall increase in the Scheme’s deficit.



### 6. Incoming resources

Total income increased by 7% this year mainly due to a 24% increase in property levies compared to the previous year. There was also a 9% increase in income from donations and legacies. These increases were partially offset by a 15% decrease in investment income, resulting both from the planned use of reserves and a substantial direct investment in one property.

The value of investments held on behalf of the Council increased to £181 million (2016: £167 million). A detailed analysis of the income is provided in Notes 2-6 of the financial statements.

### 7. Resources expended

Total expenditure increased by 4% to £48 million (2016: £46 million). Of this, £39 million (82%) was spent directly on charitable activities. This includes all amounts spent in furtherance of our mission including grants and direct programme activities. A detailed analysis of expenditure by activity is presented in Notes 7-8 of the financial statements.

### 8. Investments

The total value of funds held at 31 August 2017 was £273 million (2016: £248 million). Restricted reserves were £190 million (2016: £182 million), including endowment reserves of £19 million (2016: £17 million). Unrestricted reserves were £82 million (2016: £66 million restated). A detailed breakdown of the funds is set out in Notes 19-25 of the financial statements.

As at 31 August 2017, the Church held fixed asset investments with a fair value of £167 million (2016: £153 million restated). 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.

## 12. Unified Statement of Connexional Finances

	Notes	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>			
<b>Donations and legacies</b>	<b>3a</b>	653	6,699
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
District Assessment		13,325	71
<b>Investments</b>	<b>4a</b>	1,320	3,318
<b>Other trading activities</b>	<b>5a</b>	8,049	2,214
<b>Other</b>			
Capital levies	<b>6a</b>	8,742	-
Grants	<b>6b</b>	-	585
Miscellaneous income	<b>3c</b>	572	485
Net gains on the disposal of tangible fixed assets		-	2
<b>Total income</b>		<b>32,661</b>	<b>13,374</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
<b>Raising funds</b>	<b>7a</b>	6,404	1,977
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Equipping the church to engage society	<b>7a, 20a, 21a</b>	12,551	6,174
Formation, training, development and resourcing	<b>7a, 20a, 21a</b>	7,106	3,518
Empowering the ministry of overseas partners	<b>7a, 20a, 21a</b>	1,534	6,103
Advocacy and education	<b>7a, 20a, 21a</b>	2,322	97
Net loss on the disposal of tangible fixed assets		37	-
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>		<b>23,550</b>	<b>15,892</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>29,954</b>	<b>17,869</b>
Net gains on investments	<b>14a</b>	3,444	13,044
<b>Net income</b>		<b>6,151</b>	<b>8,549</b>
Transfers between funds	<b>22</b>	1,187	(1,340)
<b>Net income after transfers</b>		<b>7,338</b>	<b>7,209</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and losses:</b>			
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	<b>28</b>	8,644	63
Gains on revaluation of charitable properties		55	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>16,037</b>	<b>7,272</b>
<b>Total funds at 1 September</b>		66,336	164,229
<b>Total funds at 31 August</b>		<b>82,373</b>	<b>171,501</b>

## 12. Unified Statement of Connexional Finances

Endowment £000	2017 Total £000	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Endowment £000	2016 Total £000
-	7,352	785	5,963	-	6,748
-	13,396	13,067	-	-	13,067
-	4,638	1,296	4,160	-	5,456
-	10,263	7,073	1,801	-	8,874
-	8,742	7,035	-	-	7,035
-	585	-	757	-	757
-	1,057	438	721	-	1,159
-	2	-	322	-	322
-	46,035	29,694	13,724	-	43,418
15	8,396	6,209	1,940	13	8,162
-	18,725	11,114	5,964	-	17,078
-	10,624	7,113	3,745	2	10,860
-	7,637	1,560	6,115	-	7,675
-	2,419	2,376	118	-	2,494
-	37	10	-	-	10
-	39,442	22,173	15,942	2	38,117
15	47,838	28,382	17,882	15	46,279
1,376	17,864	4,383	11,010	1,440	16,833
1,361	16,061	5,695	6,852	1,425	13,972
153	-	946	(1,131)	185	-
1,514	16,061	6,641	5,721	1,610	13,972
-	8,707	(12,226)	(115)	-	(12,341)
-	55	-	-	-	-
1,514	24,823	(5,585)	5,606	1,610	1,631
17,446	248,011	71,921	158,623	15,836	246,380
18,960	272,834	66,336	164,229	17,446	248,011

## 12. Unified Statement of Connexional Finances

	Notes	2017 £000	2016 £000	Restated 2017 £000	Restated 2016 £000
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Intangible Assets	<b>13c</b>	178	171	176	171
Tangible fixed assets	<b>13a,b</b>	96,210	93,101	88,853	85,931
Investments	<b>14a,b</b>	181,424	166,509	158,694	151,022
	<b>277,812</b>	<b>259,781</b>	<b>247,723</b>	<b>237,124</b>	
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	<b>17</b>	119	145	103	145
Debtors	<b>15</b>	6,112	7,133	5,215	6,378
Short term deposits		24,133	20,518	21,456	16,810
Cash at bank and in hand		6,612	1,349	2,049	1,078
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>36,976</b>	<b>29,145</b>	<b>28,823</b>	<b>24,411</b>
<b>Creditors</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	<b>16a</b>	(20,751)	(15,964)	(18,578)	(14,323)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>16,225</b>	<b>13,181</b>	<b>10,245</b>	<b>10,088</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>294,037</b>	<b>272,962</b>	<b>257,968</b>	<b>247,212</b>
<b>Creditors</b>					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	<b>16b</b>	(9,476)	(6,343)	(5,767)	(6,341)
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		<b>284,561</b>	<b>266,619</b>	<b>252,201</b>	<b>240,871</b>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	<b>28</b>	(11,727)	(18,608)	(11,727)	(18,608)
<b>Net assets including pension liability</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>272,834</b>	<b>248,011</b>	<b>240,474</b>	<b>222,263</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Unrestricted funds					
General funds		45,440	42,895	44,710	42,675
Designated funds		46,543	39,776	46,543	39,776
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	<b>28</b>	(9,610)	(16,335)	(9,610)	(16,335)
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>19, 24</b>	<b>82,373</b>	<b>66,336</b>	<b>81,643</b>	<b>66,116</b>
Restricted funds	<b>20a,b, 24</b>	171,501	164,229	139,871	138,701
Endowment funds	<b>21b,c</b>	18,960	17,446	18,960	17,446
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>272,834</b>	<b>248,011</b>	<b>240,474</b>	<b>222,263</b>

### 11. Accounting estimates and judgments: defined benefit pension schemes

The Methodist Council participates in three main pension schemes: the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS); the Pensions and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC); and the Superannuation Scheme for Lay Mission Partners of the Methodist Church (SSMP).

**The PASLEMC scheme** is treated as a group plan for accounting purposes, with the Methodist Council as the sponsoring employer with legal responsibility for the plan. There is no contractual arrangement or stated policy for charging the net defined benefit cost of the plan as a whole to individual group entities and therefore the Council has recognised the entire net defined benefit cost and the relevant net defined benefit liability in its individual financial statements. Participation in a group pension plan is a related party transaction. The Council's policy is to recognise the contributions paid to the Scheme by other group employers as a credit in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The pension assets and liabilities in respect of the **PASLEMC and SSMP schemes** are recorded in line with FRS 102, with scheme valuations undertaken by independent actuaries. FRS 102 measures the value of pension assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date and determines the benefits accrued in the year and the interest on assets and liabilities. Current service costs, together with the net interest cost for the year, are allocated to relevant expenditure headings within the SOFA. **The MMPS scheme** assets and liabilities are excluded.

Scheme assets are measured at fair value at the balance sheet date. Scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis at the balance sheet date using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term to the scheme liabilities. The change in value of assets and liabilities arising from asset valuation, changes in benefits, actuarial assumptions, or change in the level of deficit attributable to members is recognised in the consolidated statement of financial activities within actuarial gains/losses on defined benefit pension schemes. The resulting defined benefit asset or liability is presented separately on the face of the balance sheet.

**The MMPS** is also a group scheme as all of the participating entities, mainly the Circuits and the Council, are under the common control of the Conference. However the Council has adopted a different accounting policy for this Scheme. For the MMPS, costs equal to the contributions paid are recognised in the accounts as they fall due. Pension costs are allocated to activities and between funds according to an employee's normal job function.

## 12. Unified Statement of Connexional Finances

### 12. 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

**12/1. 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 on financial statements**

We have audited the financial statements of The Methodist Church in Great Britain (the 'charity') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2017 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Connexional ('parent charity') Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated and parent charity Balance Sheets, the Consolidated and parent charity 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 2017 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

## 12. Unified Statement of Connexional Finances

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 twelve 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 Trustees' Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; 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 on page 25, 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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's 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: 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2018

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

## 13. Connexional Allowances Committee

<b>Contact name and details</b>	John A Bell Chair of the Connexional Allowances Committee johnabell@supanet.com
<b>Resolutions</b>	13/1. The Conference receives the Report. 13/2. The Conference adopts the Report and recommendations in sections 1, 2 and 3. 13/3. The Conference adopts the Report in section 4 and the recommendations in paragraphs 4.28 to 4.35. 13/4. The Conference adopts the Report in section 5 and the recommendations in paragraphs 5.27 to 5.36.

### Summary of content

<b>Subject and aims</b>	<p>The Report covers the Committee's customary portfolio of topics related to stipends, allowances and other financial provisions, grants made and its other activities.</p> <p>It also reports on and makes recommendations in respect of special projects recently undertaken, as detailed, per section, below.</p>
<b>Main points</b>	<p>Section 1 covers stipends, allowances above stipend and other allowances, fees, rates and expenses for 2018/2019.</p> <p>Section 2 reports on the funds and trusts managed by the Committee.</p> <p>Section 3 summarises other work and activities in which the Committee has been and will be involved.</p> <p>Section 4 is the report and recommendations of the working group to review the university funding for children of ministers stationed in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Malta.</p> <p>Section 5 contains the recommendations on allowances above stipend, fees for occasional services and other payments.</p>

## 13. Connexional Allowances Committee

<b>Background context and relevant documents</b>	The Committee's reports to the Conference of 2015 (Agenda pp 446-474) and 2016 (Agenda pp 115-127) on allowances above stipend and other ministerial payments relate to section 5.
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### Summary of impact

<b>Standing Orders</b>	None
<b>Financial</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>Paragraph 1.18, on the sabbatical levy: there will be a small cost increase for Circuits and other employing bodies of £40 per minister from September 2019.</p> <p>Paragraph 1.19, pending decisions on the sabbaticals review, there may be a further increase in the levy.</p> <p>Paragraph 1.21, on computing provision for student ministers: if the Computers in Ministry Fund is unable to meet this cost in total, the Methodist Church Fund will be required to contribute the balance.</p> <p>Paragraph 1.29, on the Living Wage, may impact the finances in some churches, Circuits and Districts.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.30, on ministers' children's university maintenance funding, the costs will be met from the Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons (FSPD).</p> <p>Paragraph 4.31, on ministers' children's travel to university, based on knowledge of their ages, the cost to the Methodist Church Fund (MCF) will be not greater than £2,000 per year from 2018/2019 to 2021-2022.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.29, on the superintendents' allowance above stipend, there will be an increase of 2.5% of stipend in every Circuit from 2019.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.30, on senior posts in the Connexional Team, there will be a saving of 5% of stipend per post as and when the reduction applies as from 2019.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.31, on the President's allowance above stipend, there will be a 5% stipend increase as from 2019.</p>

## 13. Connexional Allowances Committee

<b>Financial (continued)</b>	Paragraph 5.32, on the allowances above stipend for other Connexional Team posts and Council-appointed posts, there will be a 10% or 20% saving of stipend per post as and when the reduction applies as from 2019. Paragraph 5.35, on the Chair of Synod Cymru, there will be a 7.5% reduction as and when the reduction applies as from 2019. Paragraphs 5.34 and 5.36, on non-separated District Chairs and deputy and assistant Chair and Warden posts, any agreed allowances above stipend will be funded by the appropriate proposing body.
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The Connexional Allowances Committee's report to the 2018 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 5 sections, as follows.

1. Recommendations for stipends and allowances 2018/2019.
2. Report on funds and trusts within the Committee's remit.
3. Other matters of report from the Committee.
4. Report and recommendations relating to university funding for the children of ministers stationed in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Malta.
5. Report and recommendations on allowances above stipend, fees for occasional services and other payments to ministers.

The report and recommendations, in response to Memorial 2016/M9 and Notice of Motion 2017/207, relating to the financial support, housing and care for retired ministers and their dependants, is published separately in the Conference Agenda and will be dealt with as part of the Committee's business.

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

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES 2018/2019**

- 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 and the 2015 Conference affirmed that this formula should continue to be used for a further three years until 31 August 2018. **There being no reason to change, it is recommended that the formula be retained for a further three years from 1 September 2018.**
- 1.3 Using the index numbers published in October 2017, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) movement for the period September 2016 to September 2017 was +3.0% and the Average Weekly Earnings Index (AWEI) movement for the period July 2016 to July 2017 was +2.1%: the average of these is 2.55%. **In accordance with the recommendation on the stipend review formula affirmed by the 2015 Conference and recommended in paragraph 1.2, the annual standard stipend for the year beginning 1 September 2018 is therefore increased by 2.55% to £24,168** (rounding up to the next highest figure divisible by 12, to give a monthly stipend of exactly £2,014).

### Additional allowances

- 1.4 The following allowances are applied for ministers for 2018/2019:

The President of the Conference	Any existing allowance, or 25% of standard stipend, whichever is the greater
The Secretary of the Conference	30% of standard stipend
Separated District Chair	25% of standard stipend
Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order	25% of standard stipend
Synod Secretary (where applicable)	5% of standard stipend
Superintendent	7 ½ % of standard stipend
Principal of a training institution	25% of standard stipend
Staff member of a training institution	20% of standard stipend
Connexional Team Secretary <sup>1</sup>	30% of standard stipend
Other ministers serving in the Connexional Team or stationed to appointments within the control of the Methodist Council	20% of standard stipend

1 This category currently comprises the Assistant Secretary of the Conference and the Connexional Secretary (when the post is held by a minister).

## 13. Connexional Allowances Committee

### The above result in the following allowances for 2018/2019:

	£
The President of the Conference	6,042
The Secretary of the Conference	7,251
Separated District Chair	6,042
Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order	6,042
Synod Secretary (where applicable)	1,209
Superintendent	1,813
Principal of a training institution	6,042
Staff member of a training institution	4,834
Connexional Team Secretary	7,251
Other ministers serving the Connexional Team or stationed to appointments within the control of the Methodist Council	4,834

- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 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 £ sterling against the euro, remains in place. The minister's stipend, paid in £ sterling, was adjusted accordingly and will continue to be kept under review.

### Relocation allowance

- 1.8 The Committee recommends that the maximum allowance payable by the receiving Circuit (or other responsible body) to ministers upon moving manse remains at £600 and, 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.

- 1.9 The Committee affirms the decision of the 2015 Conference, 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 already. 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.
- 1.10 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

- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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.
- 1.13 The following travel expense rates will apply to ministers, supernumeraries, lay employees in churches, Circuits and Districts and lay volunteers:

Car: up to 10,000 miles	45p per mile
over 10,000 miles	25p per mile
Motorcycle	24p per mile
Bicycle	20p per mile
Additional passenger rate	5p per mile

- 1.14 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

## 13. Connexional Allowances Committee

further clarified that this grant applies during periods of recuperation from ill health for up to one year.

### **Sabbatical expenses and levy**

- 1.15 In the light of the Ministries Committee's review of the sabbaticals system and consequent report (presented in the Council's report to the Conference), the Committee was grateful to be consulted and kept in touch with its progress and proposals so that any financial impact could be assessed. The Committee accordingly brought forward its own review of sabbatical finances (promised to the Conference to be in 2018/2019) rather than conduct two reviews in successive years and brings recommendations this year.
- 1.16 Since its inception, the financial model for the sabbaticals system has comprised an annual levy on the Circuit or employing body, per minister, in order to pay reasonable expenses incurred by ministers on sabbaticals up to a certain maximum level. In 2000, the maximum expense level was set at £600 and remained so until 2011. The levy had become £60 by 2008. Over the years, because not all ministers took sabbaticals at the specified intervals and not all required the full £600, the balance in the Sabbatical Fund built up, reaching a maximum at the end of August 2011 of £653,325. The average annual amount paid out in expenses between 2009 and 2012 was £84,000 – at the time enough to cover 7 years' expenses.
- 1.17 Since 2011, the Conference has approved recommendations to waive the levy for a period and to increase the maximum expense level to meet inflationary costs (to £700 in 2011/2012, £800 in 2013/2014 and £1,000 in 2015/2016) until the balance in the Fund was at the level of about one year's expenses. Circuits and employing bodies enjoyed a period of 5 years from September 2011 until August 2016 without paying the levy: it was reinstated at £50 in 2016/2017 and at £60 in 2017/2018, though the £50 level was mistakenly retained, resulting in a shortfall of £13,000 to the Fund. The Fund balance as at August 2017 has decreased to the level of one year's expenses and the levy needs to be increased to meet the expense levels on an annual basis.
- 1.18 The Committee therefore recommends that the annual levy is retained at £60 per minister for 2018/2019 and increased to £100 as from September 2019,** and the maximum expense level retained at £1,000. This ratio is exactly the same as the £60/£600 in place until 2011, and the increase in both amounts reflects very closely the RPI increase over the period from 2,000 to 2017. It is envisaged that both levy and expense levels will be sustained until 2021/2022, unless the adoption of the Ministries Committee's recommendations requires earlier adjustment in the light of their financial demands.

- 1.19 At the time of submission of its report, the Committee understood that the Ministries Committee's review would be presented for approval to the Methodist Council before proceeding to the Conference. The Committee gave its best estimates of the likely financial consequences of the Ministries Committee's recommendations and indicated their funding options, by means of a further increase in the levy and/or a short-term subsidy from the Methodist Church Fund.

### Computers in Ministry scheme

- 1.20 Following the adoption by the 2017 Conference<sup>2</sup> of a revised Computers in Ministry scheme offering financial support to ministers, **the Committee recommends that the allowance of £156 per year then agreed be increased to £161 for the year 2018/2019. Fulfilling the Conference resolution that the Committee publish the figure annually (and by implication review it), it is recommended that this allowance is increased by the same CPI figure as is used in the stipend adjustment formula, and rounded up to the nearest pound, each year.**
- 1.21 In brief, the revised scheme comprises an annual allowance to all ministers eligible to receive it (ie excluding those whose computing facilities are provided at their place of work) paid with their October stipend, but not pensionable. Further, each year, ministers stationed as probationers will receive a grant of four times the annual amount payable (at the same time) in addition to the annual amount, to enable them to be equipped with computing facilities at the beginning of their active ministry. **Subsequent to the Conference decisions in 2017, in consultation with the Connexional Team, the Committee now recommends that, from September 2018, this initial financial provision be brought forward to the point when the student minister begins training and that it be offered to those already in training commencing their second or third year (though they may elect to wait until the year of probationer stationing).** There will be provision for reclaiming this allowance in whole or part in the event that ministerial training is not completed. The Ministries Committee agreed that the Computers in Ministry Fund may be used as far as possible to meet this need with the back-up of the Methodist Church Fund if necessary.

### Initial grants and loans to ministers

- 1.22 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

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2 See 2017 Conference Agenda section 14, pages 106-107, paragraphs 1.17 to 1.21 and Notice of Motion 2017/101 which amended the resolutions.

## 13. Connexional Allowances Committee

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).

- 1.23 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. It is further clarified that this is instead of, and not additional to, the relocation allowance which applies to subsequent moves (as per section 1.7). 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)).
- 1.24 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.
- 1.25 All loans and grants under this heading are means-tested and made from the Methodist Church Fund and loan repayments are deducted from monthly stipend at source.

### Preaching fees and expenses for supernumeraries

- 1.26 In accordance with the decisions of the Conference, supernumerary presbyters should be offered a minimum preaching fee and travel expenses. **The Committee recommends that the fee remain at £25 until 31 August 2019** and that the standard travel expenses, summarised above, apply. Circuits are reminded that it is their responsibility to pay these fees and expenses, even if and when churches assist with the preaching plan preparation: the church is only responsible for payment when the supernumerary presbyter preaches at the church by specific invitation, typically for a special occasion.
- 1.27 The Committee is aware of the wider project to review the role and ministry of supernumerary ministers, including its enquiry about the presbyters' preaching fee. We undertake to review the principle and amount of the preaching fee when that report is published and adopted, noting that the 2017 Conference declined a Notice of Motion (2017/102) to increase it to £30 in the meantime.

### Marriage registration fees

- 1.28 The Committee reported to the 2011 Conference that there are moves in Marriage Registration Districts to reduce the administrative costs of paying fees to ministers

conducting marriages<sup>3</sup>. Currently all ministers who do so receive a fee of £2 per marriage and thousands of cheques for very small amounts of money (all for £2 or multiples thereof) are prepared and posted. In the event that Registration Districts request the churches to nominate a central point for collection of payments, the Committee continues to recommend that (1) all local marriage fees be increased by a modest amount to cover the £2 payment to the minister and (2) that the Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons (FSPD) be the nominated recipient of the aggregated fee payments from the Registration Districts.

### Lay employees recommended hourly rates

- 1.29 The Committee advises that the latest Living Wage rates, published in November 2017 by the Living Wage Foundation (LWF), are **£10.20 per hour for London and £8.75 for all other regions**. The LWF figures will always be adopted as the Methodist Church's recommendations. Methodist employing bodies are reminded of the resolutions of the 2010 Conference (Agenda pp 153-154) regarding the mandatory implementation of these rates.
- 1.30 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 be reviewed by the appropriate District Policy Committee. It is noted that, in July 2017, the Methodist Council announced that it had been accredited by the Living Wage Foundation as a living wage employer of the 220 staff for which it is directly responsible.
- 1.31 Further updated figures, expected to be announced by LWF in November 2018, will be published on the Methodist Church website, and can also be accessed on the LWF website: guidance on implementation timing was given in the Committee's Report to the 2012 Conference (Agenda p 130).

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

- 2.1 The Committee acts as the Trustees for six 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. During the year 2017/2018, the Methodist Council agreed that the Committee also act as the Trustees for the Auxiliary (Special Purposes) Fund which offers financial support to the spouses of ministers in the event of marriage breakdown. The seven funds and trusts are:

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3 It is understood that this arrangement does not apply in Scotland, but the substance of the proposal is not thereby invalidated.

## 13. Connexional Allowances Committee

- 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.
- 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 Agreed as from September 2016, 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 also proposes to increase the maximum qualifying household income level from 1.5 to 2 times standard stipend as from September 2018.** This will particularly benefit households in which both parents are ministers.

### Analysis of grants from funds and trusts

- 2.5 The Committee promised, in response to a question at the 2010 Conference, to give 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 2016-17<sup>4</sup>.

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4 Any differences between the grant expenditure totals given in this Report and the audited accounts of the funds arise from exceptional cases when grants are refunded when they are no longer needed or payments are incorrectly allocated between accounts or retrospective transfers are made between funds when grants are incorrectly allocated.

### 2.6 Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons

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 2016/2017 made grants amounting to £438,520. In summary, these were distributed as follows, giving the number of grants in each category in brackets:

Nature of grants	Total amount (£)
<b>Grants to active ministers and following death in service</b>	
Grants to ministers with impairment and manse adaptations (12)	43,892
Grants to ministers for acute financial emergencies (19)	21,687
Grants to widows and widowers following a minister's death in service ( )	nil
<b>Grants to retired ministers, widows and widowers</b>	
Grants for nursing and residential care (15)	67,295
Removal costs and relocation grants on retirement	96,338
Christmas gifts to widows and widowers (725) and other small grants	37,592
Grants for own property costs and general financial support (44)	56,043
Grants to MMHS for property acquisitions <sup>5</sup> and special adaptations	115,673
<b>Total</b>	<b>438,520</b>

It should be noted that the amounts related to ministers with impairment (which can involve major alterations to manses), emergency requests and property can vary significantly from year to year. The increase in the amount of grants to active ministers reflects the widened scope of the FSPD's remit, as in SO 364(1), and mentioned above.

### Trinity Hall Trust

2.7 In 2016/2017, £14,074 was paid in grants to 28 ministers to help fund costs of educational activities for their children, an average of £503 per grant. The table below shows the pattern of grant amounts, noting that most were for £600 or less, but remembering that the maximum was £300 per child.

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5 The working group acknowledges that some courses, such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and architecture normally last longer.

## 13. Connexional Allowances Committee

Grant amount in £s	Number of ministers
Less than 300	10
301-600	12
601-900	5
901+	1
Total	28

### **Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association (MMCRA)**

- 2.8 In 2016/2017 the MMCRA made grants amounting to £10,168 to 20 ministers and dependants to give financial help mainly to support the care of adult dependent children. However, it must be noted that, as the bulk of the grants made from the fund which applied to 2015/2016 were not paid until September 2016, these are recorded in the 2016/2017 accounts. This fund provides limited support from its income which relies wholly on the collections made at District Synods and the Committee continues to encourage Synods to remember the fund's need and to be generous. The Committee advises that the income from 23 District Synods of £8,024 in 2016/2017 was slightly less than the £8,135 in 2015/2016.

### **Methodist Medical Benevolent Fund (MMBF)**

- 2.9 The MMBF made 21 grants of varying amounts totalling £16,556, an average of £788, and paid a further £30,126 to the Churches' Ministerial Counselling Service and other service providers to offer 81 ministers support through various forms of counselling, an average of £372 per minister. Again, 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 an increasing number of ministers, including while they are students and probationers.

### **Benevolent Fund – Deaconesses**

- 2.10 In 2016/2017, several small grants were made for benevolent purposes, amounting to £2,012 in total.

### **Aspinall Robinson Trust**

- 2.11 In 2016/2017, 5 grants were made, for various purposes, amounting to £12,400 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 2016/2017, two grants were made amounting to £34,776 in total. This fund provides for proportions of an annual stipend to be paid to the spouse when a minister's marriage breaks down (or for specific expenditure to be reimbursed if the stipend is not requested) and therefore the amounts incurred depend on the time in the year. 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, Development and Personnel, Discipleship and Ministries teams and the Conference Office, in all that they do.
- 3.2 During the year 2016/2017, discussions were held with HMRC and the Church's advisers on taxation to ensure 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 During the year, the Committee has reviewed the Reserves positions on the funds for which it is responsible and confirmed that they comply with the guidance and policy set out by the Connexion.
- 3.5 The Committee gratefully acknowledges a grant of £30,000 from a trust managed by TMCP to cover the Christmas gifts to ministers' widows and widowers.

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- 3.6 The 2016 Conference agreed (1) in resolution 6/7, to review the matter of university funding for children of ministers stationed in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Malta, (2) in resolution 6/8, to direct the Methodist Council to report on the reciprocal state contribution and benefit arrangements between the UK and the same jurisdictions and (3) in resolution 6/9, to direct the Methodist Council to review the matter of public sector employment arrangements, as they affect ministers' spouses, in the same jurisdictions. The recommendations deriving from (1) are given in section 4 of the Committee's Report. One of those recommendations relates to the wider issues raised by (2) and (3) on which, at the time of writing, work had still to begin, awaiting the allocation of resources by the Methodist Council.
- 3.7 The Committee was grateful for and has responded to Memorial M9 (2016) (Conference 2016, from the York and Hull District Synod) in respect of discussions with other bodies about the long-term challenges facing the whole Church in making financial (ie pensions and grants), housing and care provisions for ministers and their dependants into increasingly older age. This is a prominent and nationwide issue from which the Church is not immune. The Committee's Chair met with representatives from the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS), the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society (MMHS) and the Conference Office during the year 2016/2017 and as a result of the adoption of Notice of Motion 2017/207 is including Methodist Homes (MHA) in ongoing discussions. The outcome of the review, with recommendations, is provided elsewhere in the Conference Agenda.
- 3.8 The 2017 Conference referred recommendation 10 within paragraph 16 of the Methodist Council Report Section P (2017 Agenda item 27 relating to the Ministries Committee, resolution 27/12) to the Committee. The subject was the financial arrangements applying to ministers of other Conferences and Churches (MOCCs) who transfer to the Methodist Church in Britain. The Committee prepared its response and submitted it to the Conference Office in November 2017.
- 3.9 The Committee expressed its gratitude to Ms Maureen Sebanakitta, former Director of Financial Operations in the Connexional Team, whose service to the Committee was hugely appreciated over many years. Several successful projects, not least the transfer to a monthly payroll for all ministers and the Church's compliance with HMRC regulations (mentioned above), were largely achieved as a result of Maureen's commitment, diligence and attention to detail. The Committee wished her well as she moved on in her career.

### **4 UNIVERSITY COSTS AND FUNDING FOR CHILDREN OF MINISTERS STATIONED WITHIN THE METHODIST CHURCH OF BRITAIN BUT OUTSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM**

- 4.1 In this section, the Committee submits the report of the working group as presented to it. As the report reveals, the situation in Wales is different from that in England

– there are advantages and disadvantages – but the working group judged that consideration of Wales was outside its immediate remit and that the numbers of ministers affected (58 in the Wales Synod and Synod Cymru), and therefore the financial consequences, are significantly greater. The Committee brings this observation to the attention of the Conference for further direction as it wishes.

### **Origin and purpose of review and definitions**

- 4.2 The Connexional Allowances Committee's Report to the 2016 Conference, Agenda section 6, relating to allowances above stipend, recommended that "The Conference directs the Council to establish a working group to review the matter of university funding for the children of ministers stationed in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Malta and make appropriate recommendations." Resolution 6/7, on page 57, was adopted.
- 4.3 The Report contained the following paragraph (number 26 on page 51), by way of explanation. "The Committee raises three other issues which have become apparent within the last year or so and which require further investigation. First, university students in the Channel Islands (CI) are not eligible for UK government student loans, and some universities are seeking to charge international fees to CI residents. This puts ministers' children who happen to become 18 years old whilst their minister parent is stationed in the CI at a huge disadvantage. Indeed, it may profoundly impact the willingness of some ministers to be stationed in the islands. The Committee itself does not believe that the funds at its disposal (such as the FSPD) may be used for this purpose."
- 4.4 The Council duly established a working group (see paper MC/16/99) comprising Mr John A Bell, Chair of the Connexional Allowances Committee, the Revd Christopher R D Foxon, a supernumerary minister in the Strathclyde Circuit (in Scotland) and the Revd Anthony J D Morling, a minister stationed in the Jersey Circuit, with direction to undertake wide consultation and research to ensure that all the elements referred to in the Conference resolution are covered in any recommendations.
- 4.5 The working group first met in March 2017, and again in October 2017. We are grateful to several people who provided the group with information relating to the various jurisdictions within and outside the UK.
- 4.6 This review is primarily focused on the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Malta (where the appointment alternates between a minister from the Methodist Church and the Church of Scotland). It is noted that the other islands, including Shetland, are within the UK, but it is also recognised that university funding arrangements differ between England, Scotland and Wales.

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- 4.7 The Committee's Report to the 2016 Conference addressed several other dimensions of the financial challenges faced by ministers (and their families) stationed in the more remote locations, both within and outside the UK. In adopting all the related resolutions in Agenda section 6, the Conference implicitly agreed to their underlying premise stated in paragraph 15 (page 49), as follows: "It is imperative that the Church ensures that ministers willing to be stationed in these places are not disadvantaged, financially or otherwise, by their commitment to itinerancy: moreover, there is an impact on their families too."

### Important qualifications

- 4.8 The working group emphasises that the information used in this report derives from official published sources and applies in normal circumstances for standard 3-year (4-year in Scotland) undergraduate courses<sup>6</sup> for dependant students, ie 18-21 year-olds who live with parents. It is used as a basis to determine a recommended policy for the Church and must not be taken as an authoritative answer to any individual case or course. To quote the relevant website about residency qualifications, fees and maintenance grants: "decisions are taken on a case-by-case basis."
- 4.9 Whether the Conference adopts the working group's resolutions or not, it is imperative that any minister stationed to these five Circuits<sup>7</sup> who has children who may reach university entrance age during the likely period of their appointment (including any extensions beyond the initial five years) ascertains as much information as possible beforehand, in the light of the policies prevailing at the time. This may apply when a child is as young as 8 years, and if that child is the eldest, it may affect younger ones too. A difficulty arises if a minister who has not expressed a preference for an appointment in these Circuits is invited to one of them during the intense and short period of matching: there is little time for thorough research of the implications. If a minister does express such a preference, then at least there is more time to do this.

### Numbers of ministers

- 4.10 Using the numbers in the Minutes of the Conference 2016, and counting ministers, ie presbyters and deacons, in Full Connexion plus those Recognised and Regarded in appointments within the control of the Church<sup>8</sup>, there are 11 in the Channel Islands<sup>9</sup>

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6 The working group acknowledges that some courses, such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and architecture normally last longer.

7 There are two Circuits in the Channel Islands and one each in the Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Malta.

8 Therefore excluding ministers in appointments outside the control of the Church, those Without Appointment (WA), those of other Churches who are authorised to serve as presbyters or deacons (AP and AD) and supernumeraries.

9 It is noted that there are two supernumerary ministers who live in Alderney, in the Guernsey Circuit, and there has been a deacon stationed in Alderney in recent years.

(5 in Guernsey, 1 in Sark in the Guernsey Circuit and 5 in Jersey), 5 in the Isle of Man and 1 each in Gibraltar and Malta. There are 18 in mainland Scotland, 3 in Shetland, 58 in Wales (in Synod Cymru and the Wales Synod) and approximately 1,450 in England.

- 4.11 The working party has specifically focused on ministers in Full Connexion plus those Recognised and Regarded who are stationed by the Conference to appointments within its control. Those in the other categories as summarised in the footnote either have chosen to live and sometimes work where they do, or already live in these Circuits and continue to be the responsibility of another Church or have chosen to retire to these locations.

### **Summary of university costs and funding in the UK**

- 4.12 First, the working party makes no judgement or comments on the merits and demerits, rights and wrongs, differences between nations or politics of university funding in these Isles. We accept the policies and regulations as they are at the time of writing.
- 4.13 The two elements of cost in attending university are the tuition fees and the living, or maintenance, costs. Funding to meet these is variously a combination of grants and loans in addition to personal contributions by the student and/or family. In assessing eligibility for grants and/or loans there is usually a prior residence qualification period and the working party's survey of the published regulations indicates that, where families may have moved between nations and territories in the years prior to the child seeking access to university, cases are judged on an individual basis. The working group did not regard the associated system of loan repayment after graduation, based on subsequent earnings, to be relevant to its remit but acknowledges that, after three years, a graduate in England who has been wholly dependent on loans to cover fees and maintenance costs is highly likely to have debts of over £50,000.
- 4.14 In 2017/2018, virtually all English and Scottish universities have adopted the maximum annual tuition fee of £9,250<sup>10</sup> and those in Wales of £9,000<sup>11</sup>. It is hard to find any which do not charge this maximum. As is outlined below, not all students are required to pay the full fee amount in Scotland and Wales.
- 4.15 As it is the current substantial amount of the fee, in addition to the maintenance

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10 The working party has not included attendance at universities in Northern Ireland separately: the policies for those living in England, Scotland and Wales are the same as for English universities.

11 The working party used the *Good University Guide 2018*, published as a supplement to *The Sunday Times* newspaper edition of 24 September 2017, as a general source of information about university fees.

## 13. Connexional Allowances Committee

costs, which causes the major challenge for ministers with children in the five Circuits, it is helpful to sketch out how they have evolved. Tuition fees of a maximum of £1000 per year were introduced throughout the UK in 1998, then, in England the maximum increased to £3,000 in 2006, to £3,225 in 2009, to £9,000 in 2012 and to £9,250 in 2017. In 1999, maintenance grants were replaced by a system of loans. However, following the devolution of certain powers to Scotland and Wales in 1999, those nations adopted policies different from England and more favourable to students fulfilling residence qualifications.

### Summary of policies and regulations in different nations and jurisdictions

4.16 This section summarises policies and regulations, as published and understood, in the different places, noting that it matters where the student lives and where the university (uni) is located. The first table below deals with students who live in England, Wales and Scotland, and the second with those who live in Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney and the Isle of Man. Separate comments are given relating to Sark, Gibraltar and Malta.

Living in	England	Wales	Scotland
Residence period before start of course: minimum qualification	3 years in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man, but resident in England by <sup>12</sup> 31 August.	3 years in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man, but resident in Wales by <sup>13</sup> 31 August.	3 years in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man, but resident in Scotland <sup>14</sup> by 31 August.
Tuition fees and funding	Maximum of £9,250 for English and Scottish universities, £9,000 for Welsh. No grants available. Loans are available.	Maximum of £9,000 for Welsh, of which £4,954 can be a grant and £4,046 a loan; £9,250 for English and Scottish, of which £4,954 can be a grant and £4,296 a loan.	Maximum fee of £1,820 (the rest is grant), but mostly a 100% grant. Maximum of £9,250 and £9,000 for English and Welsh: loans are available.

12 This is one of the factors which seems subject to interpretation. It is possible that the residency in the nation must be before the course begins, rather than 31 August. However, it is noted that, as ministers would normally move in August, the requirement would be satisfied in any event.

13 As footnote 11.

14 It is understood that 31 August is the deadline in Scotland.

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Maintenance costs and funding	Means-tested loan according to whether university is in London or nor and whether student lives at home or not. Maxima are: Live at home £7,097 Uni not London, live away £8,430 Uni in London, live away £11,002	Policy is as England, but amounts differ.  Live at home £5,358 Uni not in London, live away £6,922 Uni in London, live away £9,697	Means-tested loan of maximum £5,750, minimum £4,750, and bursaries available of up to £1,875. No difference for London or living at home.
Are fees and loans honoured if residence changes to a different jurisdiction during course?	It is thought so.	It is thought so.	Yes

4.17 The policies in Jersey<sup>15</sup> and Guernsey are different, but Alderney adopts the same policies as Guernsey. A separate paragraph covers the island of Sark. It must be noted that a few universities treat students from the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man as international and impose a higher level of fees. Jersey will offer a higher grant, as shown, for a fee of £10,750, but the other jurisdictions do not. Moreover, international fees are largely much higher than that – most in the £14,000 to £18,000 region – and can exceed £30,000 per year.

Living in	Jersey	Guernsey/Alderney	Isle of Man
Access to UK student loans from national bodies <sup>16</sup>	No	No	No
Residence before start of course: minimum qualification	5 years in Jersey before 31 August of the year when course starts.	3 years in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.	4 years in the Isle of Man.

15 It is noted, since this report was drafted, that there is a review being undertaken of university funding by the States of Jersey. It is understood that, if proposals are accepted, they will have a favourable outcome.

16 There are separate bodies in England, Wales and Scotland which administer the student grant loan schemes.

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Tuition fees and funding	Means-tested grant of up to £7,750 for a £9,250 course, and £9,250 for a £10,750 course. Student must pay £1,500 towards fees.	Means-tested grant of up to £9,250.	Means-tested grant of up to £6,750 for a £9,250 course. Student must pay £2,500 towards fees.
Top-up loan towards fees shortfall	Means-tested of up to £1,500, from NatWest Jersey. Repayment begins 12 months after end of course and must be fully repaid within 5 years, irrespective of earnings.	Not required, as the grant can be for the total fee amount.	Means-tested loan of up to £2,500 from the Isle of Man Department of Education. Repayment begins 12 months after end of course and the rules are similar to the English scheme.
Maintenance costs and funding	Means-tested grant of up to £6,000.	Means-tested grant of up to £6,508 for non-London university and £7,923 for London.	Means-tested grant of up to £5,200 for non-London university and £5,700 for London.
Top-up loans for maintenance costs	No	No	No
Are fees and loans honoured if residence changes to a different jurisdiction during the course?	Yes	Yes	No: the student must continue to be a permanent resident of the Isle of Man.
Other financial support	No	Travel costs to UK: £462 to London and southern universities and £576 to others.	No

- 4.18 The island of Sark provides free schooling up to the age of 15 years, and therefore the education of children undertaking GCSEs and beyond must be funded privately. There is no funding whatsoever, either through grants or loans, for higher education.
- 4.19 Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory. Its government will offer scholarships to students studying at British universities. No further general information was readily available.

- 4.20 Malta is an independent country within the EU. Tuition fees in English and Welsh universities apply, though a Maltese student (or any from an EU country other than England and Wales) studying at a Scottish university is eligible for free tuition as are Scottish residents. There is a University of Malta which offers free tuition to Maltese students. No further general information was readily available.

### **Key principles and issues in considering any recommendations**

- 4.21 Taking England as the norm – where 93% of ministers are stationed – and accepting that Scotland and Wales are more generous than England, it is important that, in considering any assistance to ministers and children in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Malta, it does not bestow an unfair advantage over those in England. Even if financial support can be afforded, the Church must uphold principles of fairness and justice within the whole connexional context.
- 4.22 The funding schemes in England, Wales and Scotland, albeit with elements of means-testing, are predicated on a financial relationship between the respective funding bodies and the student, not the parents. Graduating with a debt in excess of £50,000 may not be a happy outcome, but it is between the funders and the student and any risk of non-repayment rests with the UK government. In the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, taking the available loan into account, tuition fees are covered more generously than in England and Wales, but there is a significant shortfall in funding maintenance costs and, as there are no top-up loans available (as the second table illustrates), the student has no recourse to any other funding and the burden falls on the family.
- 4.23 Whilst there is a facility to offer loans to ministers from the Methodist Church Fund, with monthly repayments deducted from stipend at source over an agreed period not longer than 5 years, the working party does not believe that loans could be made to ministers' children, not least as there would be no guarantee of repayment. Moreover, it seems to be unfair to offer loans to support the children of ministers stationed outside the UK and not to those within.
- 4.24 The working party believes that the current system, if ministers acquaint themselves with the information, must have an adverse impact on their willingness to be stationed in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. As paragraph 4.8 highlighted, this constraint may last for several years and affects, for obvious reasons, ministers in the middle age band. In the particular case of Sark, the working party suggests that it would be inadvisable to station a minister with children in that appointment, in view of the financial disadvantages of doing so.

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- 4.25 In the cases of Gibraltar and Malta, in view of the working party's limited knowledge, we would suggest that, when the next time comes to fill those appointments, the prevailing system of UK university funding for students from those places is researched if it is likely that a minister with children is stationed in either.
- 4.26 The working party has been mindful throughout its deliberations that the Methodist Church is a Connexion and upholds the principle of an itinerant ministry. However, in making the suggestions in the above paragraphs with regard to Sark, Gibraltar and Malta, we suggest that in certain extreme circumstances it is not always 100% achievable.
- 4.27 The major challenges relate to the fulfilling of itinerancy in the larger Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and recommendations are given below.

### Recommendations

- 4.28 In framing recommendations, the working party distinguished between (1) the financial needs of ministers already stationed, or who will be stationed up to and including September 2019, in Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man who have children of or approaching university age within the period of their invitation or possible extension and (2) those to be stationed in 2020 and afterwards. We have suggested 2019 as the cut-off for the first group because any new appointments in 2018 will be matched long before this report reaches the Conference and preparatory work will also have started on the 2019 stationing cycle. Any minister in the second group who has children can still make informed decisions about whether to accept invitations to these places from 2020 onwards.
- 4.29 It is evident that the main financial barrier, as summarised in the second table and highlighted in paragraph 4.22, is topping-up maintenance costs to enable university education to be accessible. Taking the figure of £8,430 as the standard maximum loan for a student not at a London university and living away from home, the shortfall for Jersey is £2,430, for Guernsey £1,922 and for the Isle of Man £3,230. The comparable figures for a London university are £5,002, £3,079 and £5,302.
- 4.30 The working party recommends that an annual grant, subject to the same means-testing as the grant from the funding body, is made from the FSPD to enable the shortfall in maintenance costs at a university outside London to be met. That does not preclude attendance at a university in London but it must be the student's or family's decision to fund the cost difference. The grounds for using the FSPD are that the burden of finding the shortfall currently falls on the minister's household which can place them in acute financial need and a loan offered to the minister does not seem fair.**

- 4.31** Further, the working party recommends that the Methodist Church Fund offers a grant to ministers' student children from Jersey and the Isle of Man, comparable to that offered in Guernsey (as per the second table), to cover travel costs to and from the UK. It is recommended that this be £500 per year to include any students entering university until 2019, for a maximum of three years.
- 4.32** It is underlined the recommendations in paragraphs 4.30 and 4.31 are brought as interim measures to assist ministers already stationed or to be stationed up to 2019 in Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man and are not regarded as a longer-term or permanent solution.
- 4.33** Based on UK university funding arrangements at the time of writing – and accepting that these may change – the working party expresses concerns about the long-term viability of stationing ministers with children in any of the five Circuits in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Malta, and recommends that the Stationing Committee reviews how the principle of ministerial itinerancy can be realistically sustained in the long term in the light of the practical and financial constraints the working party has exposed.
- 4.34** The Connexional Allowances Committee has already commissioned a broader review of the total practical and financial consequences for ministers stationed in these Circuits and their families – spouses and children – as indicated in its report to and adopted by the 2016 Conference (resolutions 6/8 and 6/9 on Agenda page 57). This review awaits the allocation of resources by the Methodist Council. It is recommended that, to pursue the recommendation in paragraph 4.33, the Stationing Committee engages with this review as the matter of university funding for ministers' children is but one element in a bigger and complex picture.
- 4.35** In order to meet the deadline of 2020 as set out in paragraph 4.28, it is imperative that the project outlined in paragraphs 4.33 and 4.34 reports to the Conference of 2019 so that ministers stationed in the future in the five Circuits are under no illusions as to the consequences, both positive and negative, for them and their families.
- 5. ALLOWANCES ABOVE STIPEND, FEES FOR OCCASIONAL SERVICES AND OTHER PAYMENTS TO MINISTERS**

### History

- 5.1 The last major review of ministerial remuneration was reported to the 2002

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Conference<sup>17</sup> and although certain important adjustments have been made since then, the framework of allowances above stipend and fees for occasional services which that Conference affirmed and agreed has remained in place. Indeed, the only significant change to the former was to increase the superintendent's allowance from 5% to 7.5% reasoning that it was "to reflect the increased responsibility carried by circuit superintendents arising from issues such as safeguarding policies."

- 5.2 During the mid-2000s, there were significant structural changes to the connexional leadership and Team which demanded a rather too hurried response from the Connexional Allowances Committee resulting in the universal adoption of a 20% allowance above stipend for all "other ministers serving in the Connexional Team or stationed to appointments within the control of the Methodist Council" and "staff members of a training institution": this wording was introduced in 2008 and remains today. Prior to that, the 20% allowance was reserved for those in posts known as 'Connexional Secretary' which was not the same as its current namesake which is closer to but not the same as what were then Co-ordinating Secretaries (paid a 30% allowance).
- 5.3 In 2010/2011, the Shadow Ministries Committee, as it then was, set up an Allowances Review Group (ARG) to begin a review of various aspects of ministerial remuneration, including allowances above stipend and fees for occasional services, with a view to reporting to the 2012 Conference. The ARG brought recommendations to the Methodist Council in March 2012 which were received but referred back to the Connexional Allowances Committee by the 2012 Conference<sup>18</sup> for "further work to provide a substantial justification and rationale for allowances above stipend and for the treatment of fees, informed from theological and economic perspectives", consulting as necessary and bring proposals at a future date.
- 5.4 Meanwhile, two Memorials (M11 and M12) were received by the 2012 Conference<sup>19</sup>. The first, M11, "requests that a policy be established across the Connexion whereby any monies received by ministers as a resulting of conducting occasional services, such as those of marriage and funerals, be remitted to the Circuit" and the second, M12, stated "that, [as] there is no theological justification for responsibility allowances for some ministers, asks for their abolition across the Connexion." Both Memorials noted the Connexional Allowances Committee's report to the Council in March 2012. The Conference resolved that the replies were contained in the Committee's report (as mentioned in paragraph 6.3) and that the Committee would bring a further report on both topics in 2013.

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17 Conference 2002 Agenda section 48 pp 515-540.

18 Conference 2012 Agenda section 13 pp 130-132.

19 Conference 2012 Agenda section 59 pp 776-777. Both were submitted by the Scotland Synod.

- 5.5 The Committee continued its work, gaining the Council's approval to delay its report from 2013 to 2014, not least as the Supreme Court judgment was awaited in the legal case regarding the employment status of Methodist ministers which was received in May 2013. The Committee's report, presented to the April 2014 meeting of the Council, considered (1) the concept of a stipend and noted the references to it in the legal judgment, (2) detailed arguments for and against allowances above stipend (including why they were introduced) and how fees might be treated and (3) drew up a list of alternative resolutions for decision. The Committee also became aware that its proposals have precipitated widespread discussion and certain concerns across the Connexion, which highlighted the extreme variation of views, some expressed with some vehemence, on issues of ministerial remuneration.
- 5.6 The Council agreed that the whole matter be referred back to the Committee, with the request to bring a proposal to its October 2014 meeting to conduct a consultation of ministers and lay people. An electronic survey was duly undertaken in November-December 2014 and the results were reported to the Council in its meetings in January and April 2015 and presented to the 2015 Conference in the Committee's report<sup>20</sup>. Whilst the survey revealed differences of opinion, there were strong preferences to retain policies for (1) a framework of allowances above stipend and (2) ministers retaining fees from occasional services and other payments. However, despite some input from the Faith and Order Committee, there was still some anxiety that the theological underpinning of stipends, allowances above stipend and fees had not been thoroughly justified and understood.
- 5.7 The 2015 Conference adopted resolutions (1) to enable the Committee to bring some amendments to allowances above stipend in certain circumstances in 2016, (2) to commission a thorough-going review by the Faith and Order Committee of the theological underpinning of stipends etc to report to the 2017 Conference and (3) to state a policy on fees and other payments. The details of (1), summarised in paragraph 5.8, and (3), in paragraphs 5.13 and 5.14, are the first step in consolidating agreed Conference policies on ministerial remuneration. The Committee took the view that the complete review of allowances above stipend first required the outcome of the Faith and Order Committee's review due to be received at the 2017 Conference.
- 5.8 The 2016 Conference adopted the Committee's recommendations<sup>21</sup> related to (1) allowances above stipend for Synod Secretaries, (2) approval by the Committee for all local allowances above stipend, not just those >10%, (3) allowances above stipend in the islands and remote locations, (4) allowances above stipend in and around London

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20 Conference 2015 Agenda section 46 pp 446-475. The survey results are given in detail.

21 Conference 2016 Agenda section 6 pp 44-58.

## 13. Connexional Allowances Committee

and (5) allowances above stipend in Scotland. Those agreed by the 2016 Conference are summarised in paragraphs 5.15 to 5.17.

- 5.9 The Committee received the report of the Faith and Order Committee and incorporated it into its own report to the 2017 Conference<sup>22</sup> with its own reflections.
- 5.10 The Committee's interpretation of the Faith and Order Committee's theological principles is that, on balance, the justification for allowances above stipend is not proven<sup>23</sup>, but that custom and practice has bequeathed a legacy that some ministerial posts carrying extra accountabilities – as understood in the secular world of work – warrant such an allowance. The implication is that the Conference, in the name of the whole Church, must decide how that balance falls.
- 5.11 The Faith and Order Committee report did not explore any underpinning theological principles specifically relating to fees for occasional services and other payments and made no comment on the justification for ministers retaining, returning or sharing them.
- 5.12 It has been a long, time-consuming and tortuous journey to reach this point and the Conference is therefore urged to take the final decisions as recommended as a basis for ministerial remuneration for the foreseeable future.

### Policy decisions agreed by the Conferences of 2015 and 2016

- 5.13 The 2015 Conference adopted the following resolutions:
- That ministers continue to retain any funeral and wedding fees which they are given or claim and that they may return or disburse them as they wish<sup>24</sup>.
  - That, taking into account local custom and practice, ministers continue to determine whether to claim or waive funeral and wedding fees<sup>25</sup>.
  - That ministers continue to retain fees and payments for teaching, chaplaincy and other activities<sup>26</sup>.
  - That the attention of Circuits is drawn to SO 802(3) and SO 802(5) and that they be positively enforced<sup>27</sup>.

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22 Conference 2017 Agenda section 14 pp 115-128.

23 The Faith and Order Committee intimated that financial need should be a stronger determinant of an allowance above stipend rather than greater accountability.

24 Conference 2015 Agenda section 46 p 468.

25 Conference 2015 Agenda section 46 p 470.

26 Conference 2015 Agenda section 46 p 471.

27 Conference 2015 Agenda section 46 p 473.

- 5.14 Whilst acknowledging that the case can be made for pooling funeral and wedding fees (as is the Church of England practice) and that there is a wide spectrum of opinion in the Church on the matter, the Committee brings no amendment to these resolutions at this point in time, but emphasises the importance of observing the above SOs as a means of monitoring and managing time spent and income generated from such activities within reasonable limits.
- 5.15 The 2016 Conference adopted the following resolutions:
- That the 5% allowance above stipend for Synod Secretaries be discontinued<sup>28</sup>.
  - That the Connexional Allowances Committee considers all requests for local discretionary allowances above stipend, not just those above 10%<sup>29</sup>.
  - That the arrangement whereby ministers stationed in the Inverness and North of Scotland Mission Circuits may claim the costs of the twice-yearly visit to 'the mainland' be discontinued<sup>30</sup>.
- 5.16 The 2016 Conference also adopted six resolutions relating to ministerial remuneration and other provisions in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, the Shetland Islands, the Isles of Scilly, Gibraltar and Malta, including the funding of additional allowances and expenses from the Methodist Church Fund<sup>31</sup>.
- 5.17 The 2016 Conference also accepted the Committee's reasoning, as set out in its report to the 2015 Conference<sup>32</sup> and summarised in 2016, with respect to any allowance above stipend for appointments in and around London, but as the policy was not amended, there was no need for a formal resolution. The policy remains that there is no 'London allowance' as such.

### **Working towards recommendations on allowances above stipend**

- 5.18 The 2017 Conference (1) received the report of the Faith and Order Committee, (2) directed that any responses to the report and its consequences for ministerial remuneration be forwarded to the Chair of the Connexional Allowances Committee by 30 November 2017 and (3) directed the Committee to bring any revised policy

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28 Conference 2016 Agenda section 6 pp 48 and 57. This was effective for new post-holders from September 2016, but ministers already in post would retain the allowance until their term of office ceased.

29 Conference 2016 Agenda section 6 pp 48-49 and 55-57. This was effective from September 2017 for new and renewed (ie re-invited) appointments.

30 Conference 2016 Agenda section 6 pp 53-54 and 57. This was effective from September 2017 for new and renewed (ie re-invited) appointments.

31 Conference 2016 Agenda section 6 pp 49-52 and 57 for full details.

32 Conference 2015 Agenda section 46 p 473 and Conference 2016 Agenda section 6 pp 52-53.

## 13. Connexional Allowances Committee

recommendations on ministerial remuneration to the 2018 Conference<sup>33</sup>.

- 5.19 The Committee reports that a single response was received in relation to (2) in the above paragraph, perhaps indicating that there is no more to be said or added!
- 5.20 The Committee reminds the Conference of its earlier work on seeking to understand the justification for allowances above stipend, which drew mainly on statements made in the 2002 report to the Conference. There were four elements, as follows:
- 1) *To reflect additional or extra responsibilities.* The implication is that these are above what may be termed normal circuit ministerial responsibilities and refer to those posts listed in the Committee's annual report to the Conference.
  - 2) *To acknowledge the special circumstances pertaining to the post.* This is not very different from the first but is administered as a local discretionary allowance rather than one defined in the list of posts in the Committee's annual report to the Conference.
  - 3) *To compensate for loss of wedding and funeral fees.* This is discussed in paragraphs 5.21 to 5.23 below.
  - 4) *To help with entertaining costs.* This is to blur and confuse allowances and expenses: it is clear that any such legitimate costs be reimbursed as expenses by the appropriate body or fund and not be taxable.
- 5.21 The 2002 review observed that income from funeral and wedding fees in the year of the survey, 1998/1999, was less than had been imagined, and there has been a general reduction since, especially in wedding fees. The results of the survey conducted by the Committee in 2014 were published in its report to the 2015 Conference<sup>34</sup>, in addition to its reflections on the principles and practices evidenced from comments received.
- 5.22 In round numbers, the survey revealed that 80% of ministers received funeral fees totalling less than 5% of the annual stipend at the time and 23% received none. As for wedding fees, 57% of ministers received none and 90% less than 1.5% of annual stipend. The Committee therefore suggests that allowances above stipend cannot be justified on grounds of compensation for fees, such is the general level of and variation in them. Moreover, if this was the case in times past, it does not justify variable allowances above stipend – there is no correlation between the income from such payments and the appointment to which a minister was subsequently appointed.

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33 Conference 2017 Agenda section 14 pp 127-128.

34 Conference 2015 Agenda section 46 pp 464-472, including data about income from other payments.

The Committee concludes that the only bases for an allowance above stipend are the first and second reasons in paragraph 5.20, ie extra responsibilities or special circumstances. The latter group are overseen by the Committee's role highlighted in the second point in paragraph 5.15 and will be considered in the light of the special circumstances which prevail.

### **Retain or abolish allowances above stipend?**

- 5.23 Before making recommendations on the future structure of allowances above stipend, and bearing in mind the observations made in paragraph 5.10 above, the Committee rehearses the case for their abolition but does not recommend it. We suggest that the balance falls in favour of retaining a structure similar to the current one.
- 5.24 The Committee's report to the Methodist Council in April 2014 explored the nature of stipend especially in the light of the judgment of the Supreme Court. We made the following statement: "It is commonly understood that a stipend is a regular allowance paid to those in occupations such as the clergy to give them a reasonable standard of living, free them from basic financial concerns and pre-empt any need to seek other paid employment. In the Methodist Church, it is set connexionally and accompanied by the provision of a manse in an appropriate location so as to support the principle and freedom of connexional stationing and ensure consistency throughout the Church." We added that the judgment of the Supreme Court included the statement "Neither the stipend nor the manse are regarded by the Methodist Church as the consideration for the services of its ministers. They regard them as a method of providing material support to the minister without which he or she could not serve God."
- 5.25 The report of the Faith and Order Committee in 2017 explored theological considerations, the critical importance of the covenant relationship and historic practices and underlined these principles, noting that the stipend applies equally to presbyters and deacons, that it is given irrespective of the particular tasks ministers undertake and that it is counter-cultural. It concluded<sup>35</sup> "In the Church's work, we cannot hold that value rests in relation to the level of remuneration one receives, but we must instead seek to understand what it is to be freed in grace for mission, and to engage in appropriate support in order that those receiving stipends feel they have that freedom to live and work for God's kingdom'. But it also made the observation<sup>36</sup> 'When making decisions about stipends, allowances and fees we begin from a place where there is already a structure of allowances in place and where there have been previous decisions and debates on all of these issues."

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35 Conference 2017 Agenda section 14 p 126 paragraph 4.8.2.

36 Conference 2017 Agenda section 14 p 126 paragraph 4.8.1.

## 13. Connexional Allowances Committee

- 5.26 The Faith and Order Committee also touched on the principle of need being a determinant of allowances above stipend, to reflect variation in costs of living in different places, rather than greater accountability in the role<sup>37</sup>. Indeed, the Connexional Allowances Committee had explored this as an alternative in its report to the Council in March 2014. Its conclusion then was that it would be a monumental administrative task to design, implement and maintain a needs-based stipend structure and dismissed it: it is still of that view.

### Recommendations on allowances above stipend

- 5.27 The Committee therefore makes the following recommendations in respect of allowances above stipend for the posts listed in its annual report to the Conference. We sustain the thrust of the arguments of our predecessors in respect of the general structure and the percentage amounts, but recommend some adjustments and additions in the light of the evolution of roles and accountabilities within the whole Church.
- 5.28 It was observed in paragraph 5.1 that the superintendent's allowance was increased in 2002 from 5% to 7.5% of standard stipend. Noting the Committee's observation in its 2016 report to the Conference<sup>38</sup>, in the light of the widespread increase in the size of Circuits arising from mergers and the greater demands upon superintendents, not least as a result of the Complaints and Discipline system and the devolution of property matters, **it is recommended that the superintendent's allowance above stipend be increased from 7.5% to 10% as from 1 September 2019.**
- 5.29 The present allowance above stipend for the most accountable posts in the Connexional Team, the Secretary of the Conference, the Assistant Secretary of the Conference, the Connexional Secretary (if a minister) and the Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice (if a minister) is a legacy derived from the days of a Conference Office/Secretariat and separately accountable Co-ordinating Secretaries. Pending the review of all allowances above stipend, these allowances were retained when the present structure was introduced. **The Committee recommends that, as the Secretary of the Conference carries the ultimate accountability, that post retains the 30% allowance, but the three posts which report in receive a 25% allowance.** It is recommended that the existing allowance will be retained until the term of appointment ends and that the 25% applies to any new appointments from 1 September 2019.
- 5.30 **It is recommended that the allowance above stipend for the President of the Conference be increased from 25% to 30% from September 2019,** thereby

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37 Conference 2017 Agenda section 14 pp 125-126 paragraph 4.7.9.

38 Conference 2016 Agenda section 6 p 48 paragraph 7.

acknowledging that this role shares equally in the leadership of the Church alongside the Secretary of the Conference.

- 5.31 As was acknowledged in paragraph 5.2, the Committee is of the view that not all of the posts held by “other ministers serving the Connexional Team or stationed to appointments within the control of the Methodist Council” and “staff members of a training institution” can justify the 20% allowance above stipend, and therefore it is recommended that the allowance for those with lesser accountabilities be reduced to 10% or 0%. It is recommended that those in post will retain their allowance until their term of appointment ends, that the 10% or 0% allowance will apply to all new appointments in that category as from 1 September 2019, and that decisions as to which posts will fall in the 20%, 10% and 0% categories be made by the Remuneration Committee, which is a sub-group of the Methodist Council, augmented for this purpose by the attendance of the Connexional Secretary.**
- 5.32 In response to recent enquiries from Circuits and Districts with respect to remuneration for shared roles, the Committee has hitherto advised that local arrangements should prevail until this review is completed. There are two sets of circumstances, viz (1) the role is shared between two or more full-time ministers, with some division of responsibilities, and (2) the role is shared between two or more part-time ministers who carry the full range of responsibilities but each only part of the time. The Committee recommends in (1) that any allowance above stipend (each minister receiving a full standard stipend) is shared proportionately between the two or more ministers and in (2) that each minister receives the full allowance above stipend, but based on the actual stipend received for the number of hours worked<sup>39</sup>.
- 5.33 There has never been a defined allowance above stipend for ministers stationed as the non-separated District Chairs in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Shetland Islands<sup>40</sup>, though those in post have, at times, been in receipt of a local allowance in addition to the superintendent’s allowance (when it applied). The Committee recommends that, as the situations in the three locations are each unique, this arrangement continues and that these posts are regarded as within group 2) in paragraph 5.20, viz special circumstances pertaining to the post.
- 5.34 The oversight arrangements in Synod Cymru are unique, unusual but practical, there being a separated Chair who also acts as the overall superintendent of a single

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39 This principle applies in any situation where a minister works part-time in a role: any allowance above stipend is applied as a % to the actual stipend received, not the full-time equivalent figure.

40 The Channel Islands comprises two Circuits which have churches on four islands (Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark); the Isle of Man is a single Circuit on one island; the Chair of the Scotland District is also the Chair of the Shetland District which is a single Circuit covering the main cluster of isles (Mainland, Yell and Unst) and Fair Isle, with governance set out in SO 427.

## 13. Connexional Allowances Committee

Circuit covering the whole of Wales. However, there are also de facto posts equivalent to superintendents held by both ministers (some of other Churches) and lay people. **The Committee recommends that the Chair's allowance above stipend is 25%, as usual, but that the additional superintendent's allowance is not appropriate for the post-holder. It is recommended that this arrangement is implemented when the current post-holder's invitation is next reviewed.** Further, it is recommended that, under the terms of group 2) in paragraph 5.20, the Committee determines the allowances payable to the de facto superintendent roles.

- 5.35 The Committee has considered the question of allowances above stipend for ministers stationed or appointed to the posts of Deputy or Assistant District Chairs or Deputy Wardens of the MDO and concluded, from current available evidence, that policies, practices and arrangements are so variable that it is impractical and unhelpful to define a structure for all circumstances. Moreover, none of these posts have formally defined common roles and responsibilities in Standing Orders. Districts may have one or more Deputy or Assistant Chairs; many are already superintendent ministers; the roles they fulfil may be very different between Districts; in at least one District there are three, specifically stationed as such, who are deliberately not superintendents. The Committee therefore recommends that any application to offer an allowance above stipend for any of these roles also be regarded as within group 2) in paragraph 5.20, viz special circumstances pertaining to the post.
- 5.36 The Committee recommends that all the listed allowances not mentioned remain the same, viz the Secretary of the Conference, separated District Chairs, the Warden of the MDO and Principals<sup>41</sup> of training institutions. In presenting all these recommendations, the Committee believes that a fairer and more equitable distribution of allowances above stipend is achieved to reflect the evolving burdens of accountability within the whole Church.

### **Fees for occasional services in Scotland**

- 5.37 In its report to the 2016 Conference<sup>42</sup>, the Committee agreed to review the situation in Scotland with respect to fees for occasional services in the light of submissions made to both the Council and the Conference on behalf of the whole of Scotland highlighting that the practice of the Church of Scotland in observing its legal obligation not to take fees for funerals and weddings effectively denies (or at best, limits) the Methodist Church's freedom to do so.

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41 This category comprises the Senior Methodist Tutor (or Principal if a Methodist) at the Queens Foundation Birmingham and the Principal of Cliff College.

42 Conference 2016 Agenda section 6 p 54 paragraph 40.

- 5.38 Scotland District representatives to the Council and the Conference had indicated that this situation might constitute a case for a general 'Scotland allowance' to compensate for lack of fees for occasional services. However, it can be argued that this is offset by other financial advantages of living in Scotland, such as free NHS prescriptions and, for ministers' children, free university tuition<sup>43</sup>.
- 5.39 In the light of the evidence on income derived from such fees – that 23% of ministers gained none from funerals and 57% none from weddings across the Connexion – in the 2014 survey, the Committee does not believe that there is a case to offer a general compensatory allowance in Scotland. The 25 active ministers in Scotland may be located in one geography but the survey suggested that there are perhaps 300 others in England and Wales who gain no such income. If the Committee were to admit a Scotland allowance, it would not be a helpful precedent.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

- 13/1. The Conference receives the Report.**
- 13/2. The Conference adopts the Report and the recommendations contained in sections 1, 2 and 3.**
- 13/3. The Conference adopts the Report in section 4 and the recommendations in paragraphs 4.28 to 4.35.**
- 13/4. The Conference adopts the Report in section 5 and the recommendations in paragraphs 5.27 to 5.36.**

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43 In addition, in response to a question at the 2017 Conference, the Chair of the Committee indicated that any additional income tax burden arising from the decisions of the Scottish Parliament would be taken into account in determining ministerial stipends in Scotland, including Shetland.

## 14. Committee on Methodist Law and Polity (1)

<b>Contact name and details</b>	Mrs Louise C Wilkins Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice Secretary of the Committee wilkinsl@methodistchurch.org.uk
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### **SECTION A GENERAL REPORT**

The Committee is charged under Standing Orders 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.

The 2017 Conference directed the Committee to undertake several pieces of work and to bring Standing Order amendments to the Conference in 2018.

There were no special resolutions referred to the Committee by the 2017 Conference. The special resolution to amend paragraph 9 of the Deed of Union was referred to the Council and is reported on elsewhere in the Agenda (item 6); the Standing Order changes are dealt with in Section C of this report.

The clarification of the governance and oversight arrangements for fresh expressions continues as the workload of both the Law and Polity Committee and the Faith and Order Committee has not enabled this work to be given the priority it might otherwise have had.

The Committee has now obtained Counsel's opinion on the ability to amend paragraph 14(2A) of the Model Trusts which has been necessary in order to respond to Memorial M32(2016) regarding the use of church buildings by other churches. The opinion does appear to provide scope for the length of a licence giving permission to other churches for worship to increase from 12 months. However, such an amendment to the Model Trusts and ensuring that the licence does not become a lease with additional legal implications needs careful consideration. The Committee will therefore bring any proposed amendments to the Model Trusts to the Conference in 2019.

The Committee continues to work closely with the Safeguarding Committee on the interpretation and application of the Standing Orders adopted in 2017 and to remove any unintended consequences of the use of the term "safeguarding contract" referred to in Section 69.

## 14. Committee on Methodist Law and Polity (1)

The Committee continues to work on the appropriate Standing Order to enable Circuits to be able to seek repayment of costs incurred due to the unreasonable condition a manse has been left in by a minister.

The Committee continues to review Standing Orders and policy proposals to ensure consistency with legislation and new legislation which this year has focused on the EU Data Protection Regulations. The Committee is assisted in this task by the Church's membership of the Churches' Legislation Advisory Service, of which the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice serves as a Governor.

The Committee appointed the Law and Polity Conference Subcommittee under Standing Order 338(6) as follows: the Secretary of the Conference, the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice, the Revds Jennifer M Dyer and Julian M Pursehouse, Miss Elizabeth H Ovey and Mr David S Walton (Chair).

### \*\*\*RESOLUTION

**14/1. The Conference receives the General Report.**

### SECTION B MINOR AMENDMENTS TO CPD

As usual the Committee submits a list of corrections to *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church* consequent upon decisions already taken by the Conference, or to remedy minor errors and omissions.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTION

**14/2. The Conference, by way of minor and consequential corrections, amends Standing Orders as follows:**

210 Methodist Council

(2) (b) The persons appointed under heads (iii), ~~and (vi),~~ **(vii) and** ~~to~~ (ix) of clause (1) above shall each be nominated for a period of four years by the body concerned.

**(bA) The persons appointed under head (viii) of clause (1) above shall each be nominated for a period of two years by the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly**

1131 (5) (iv) if the respondent **does not fall within any of the preceding heads** ~~is a member or office-holder who does not fall within any of the preceding paragraphs,~~ the committee must include three such **lay** members.

## 14. Committee on Methodist Law and Polity (1)

### SECTION C ONWARDS FROM THE SUPREME COURT

#### Report

The Committee has given further attention to the amendments to Standing Orders 700(2) and 701(2) adopted by resolution 9/6 of the 2017 Conference (Agenda page 83, Daily Record 5/20/3), to come into effect upon confirmation of resolution 9/5 amending the Deed of Union. After considering some views received from Counsel the Committee has decided, if 2017 resolution 9/5 is confirmed, to bring a resolution amending resolution 9/6 under Standing Order 132(25A) on the ground that the amended form of resolution 9/6 will better achieve the intention of the Conference. If the amending resolution is not passed, resolution 9/6 will automatically take effect in the form in which it was passed by the 2017 Conference upon the confirmation of resolution 9/5. (If resolution 9/5 is not confirmed, resolution 9/6 will not take effect and so the Committee will not move the amending resolution.) In the interests of clarity the clauses in question are printed below with the current wording in ordinary roman type, the 2017 amendments in bold italic and the further amendments now proposed in strikethrough and underlined bold italic.

#### Amendments to Standing Orders

##### Standing Order 700

(2) By receiving persons into Full Connexion as Methodist presbyters the Conference enters into a covenant relationship with them in which they are held accountable by the Church in respect of their ministry and Christian discipleship, and are accounted for by the Church in respect of their deployment and the support they require for their ministry. ***That covenant relationship arises within their existing relationship with the Church as members, which continues, and neither entry into it nor service within it has ever created or is intended to create, or does create, a contract or other legal contractual relations.***

##### Standing Order 701

(2) By receiving persons into Full Connexion as Methodist deacons the Conference enters into a covenant relationship with them in which they are held accountable by the Church in respect of their diaconal ministry and Christian discipleship, and are accounted for by the Church in respect of their deployment and the support they require for their ministry. ***That covenant relationship arises within their existing relationship with the Church as members, which continues, and neither entry into it nor service within it has ever created or is intended to create, or does create, a contract or other legal contractual relations.***

### \*\*\*RESOLUTION

**14/3. The Conference receives the Report.**

**14/4. The Conference amends resolution 9/6 as adopted by the 2017 Conference so that the amendments to Standing Orders 700 and 701 for which it provides are in the form set out above.**

### **SECTION D THE WESLEY TRUST AND SCHOOLS COMMITTEE**

#### **Report**

The 2017 Conference directed the Law and Polity Committee to consider whether amendments were required to Standing Orders following the establishment of the Methodist Schools Committee and development of the Wesley Trust as the multi-academy provider for Methodist primary schools that choose to convert to an academy.

A new Standing Order is proposed to recognise the establishment of the Wesley Trust and the Conference's right to appoint the directors.

The Law and Polity Committee does not consider it necessary to make any amendments to Standing Order 342 this year given that the role of the Methodist Council in overseeing Methodist state funded schools has not changed. The role of the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust and the Wesley Trust will be clarified within a footnote to SO 342.

A new Standing Order is also proposed for the establishment of the Schools Committee as set out below.

#### **Amendment to Standing Orders**

##### **243 The Wesley Trust**

***The Methodist Conference shall exercise its powers contained in the articles of the Wesley Trust. Under the articles the Conference appoints up to twelve directors nominated by the members of the company.***

##### **343A Methodist Schools Committee**

***The Methodist Council shall annually appoint the Methodist Schools Committee which shall:***

- (i) encourage collaboration and the sharing of resources between all the bodies***

## 14. Committee on Methodist Law and Polity (1)

***responsible for undertaking the Council's responsibilities under Standing Orders 342 and 343;***

- (ii) encourage the development of all the above bodies' and Methodist schools' understanding of the Methodist ethos;***
- (iii) report annually to the Methodist Conference through the Methodist Council on behalf of all the bodies responsible for undertaking the Council's responsibilities in respect of schools.***

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

**14/5. The Conference receives the Report.**

**14/6. The Conference adopts Standing Orders 243A and 343A as set out in the Report.**

### **SECTION E PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **Report**

The Methodist Council established and adopted terms of reference for the Property Development Committee in April 2016 (amending the terms of reference in October 2016). The Law and Polity Committee therefore proposes a new Section to *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church* with Standing Orders for the Property Development Committee.

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

**14/7. The Conference receives the Report.**

**14/8. The Conference adopts Standing Order 990, 991 and 992 as follows:**

#### ***Section 99 Property Development Committee***

***990 Status and Purposes. (1) The Methodist Council shall annually appoint a Property Development Committee, which shall report to the council through its Strategy and Resources Committee.***

***(2) The committee shall work collaboratively with the council and the Strategy and***

## 14. Committee on Methodist Law and Polity (1)

*Resources Committee in developing, maintaining and implementing a connexional property strategy, that is to say a strategy for the use and, where appropriate, the disposal of Methodist land and for the use of the proceeds of such disposals. In this Section the word 'property' is used in that context.*

**(3) The connexional property strategy shall express the mission imperative of the Methodist Church and ensure that its property resources are used so as to give maximum effect to their value and to missional opportunities.**

**991 Terms of Reference. (1) In furtherance of the purposes set out in Standing Order 990 the committee shall:**

- (i) develop and propose to the council policies for the use of Methodist property;**
- (ii) exercise such trustee or managing trustee responsibilities as may be delegated to it by the council;**
- (iii) identify funding sources for the development of Methodist property from across the range of Methodist investments and financial resources and from external sources;**
- (iv) review the terms of all agreements proposed or reached between the council and any person, body or institution for the use and development of property and monitor the fulfilment of those terms;**
- (v) review and monitor the use of all property held by bodies reporting to the council, advising the council on the effectiveness of current and proposed uses of property held by such bodies;**
- (vi) be alert to ecumenical, multi-partner opportunities for property development;**
- (vii) provide advice to any Methodist trustees who request it regarding any proposed development, disposal or mortgage of trust property;**
- (viii) undertake such other tasks as the council may delegate to it in respect of property and the financial management of property.**

**(2) The consent of the Strategy and Resources Committee shall be required for the disposal or mortgage of any Model Trust property for which the Property Development Committee has any delegated managing trustee responsibilities.**

**(3) The committee shall make an annual report to the Strategy and Resources Committee on all financial matters relating to property for which the Property Development Committee has any delegated managing trustee responsibilities.**

**992 Membership. (1) The voting members of the committee shall comprise up to fourteen persons, namely:**

- (i) a chairperson, who shall be a member of the Methodist Church;**
- (ii) a connexional treasurer, chosen by the connexional treasurers;**

## 14. Committee on Methodist Law and Polity (1)

*(iii) the Secretary of the Conference, or his or her delegate appointed under Standing Order 114(1E);*

*(iv) three district Property Secretaries;*

*(v) a representative of the Board of the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes;*

*(vi) up to seven others.*

*(2) The persons appointed under heads (iv) and (vi) of clause (1) above shall include persons who together have expertise in at least the following areas: mission and evangelisation, surveying, property management, conservation architecture, funding of property developments, legal issues relating to property and planning.*

*(3) Subject to any phasing in at the outset and to any departure from loss of eligibility initial appointments under heads (i), (iv), (v) and (vi) of clause (1) above shall be for a period of three years, with power to re-appoint once for a further period of up to three years.*

*(4) The council, in making appointments to the committee, and the committee, in bringing any nominations to the council, shall have regard to the considerations set out in Standing Order 203(4).*

*(5) The conference officer for legal and constitutional practice and a member of the staff of the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes shall attend as advisers.*

*(6) The committee shall be convened by a member of the Connexional Team responsible for property, who shall be a non-voting member*

### **SECTION F**

#### **JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ETHICS OF INVESTMENT**

##### **Report**

The Conference annually receives a report from the Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment. It has been noted that this committee is not established within Standing Orders and the Law and Polity Committee has therefore been working with the Committee in order to bring the proposed Standing Order set out below.

##### **231A Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment**

*(1) There shall be a Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment, appointed annually in accordance with clause (2) below.*

*(2) The committee shall consist of eleven persons and shall comprise:*

## 14. Committee on Methodist Law and Polity (1)

- (i) a chair appointed by the Methodist Council, who shall be a Chair of District;*
- (ii) five other persons appointed by the Methodist Council;*
- (iii) five persons appointed by the Central Finance Board.*

**(3) The committee shall meet as frequently as need be, but in any event at least once a year.**

**(4) The committee shall be responsible for advising the Central Finance Board on ethical aspects of its investments and proposed investments and shall report annually to the Conference.**

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

**14/9. The Conference receives the Report.**

**14/10. The Conference adopts Standing Order 231A as set out in this Report.**

### **SECTION G**

#### **PAST CASES REVIEW – RECORD AND MONITORING - PART 11**

##### **Report**

The Conference will recall that the Past Cases Review report recommended that a system be established to monitor the implementation of decisions of Discipline Committees (and where appropriate Complaints Teams) and that their implementation be recorded. The Law and Polity Committee along with the Complaints and Discipline subcommittee has discussed this recommendation at some length over the past three years. Discipline Committees are relatively rare and the responsibility for implementing the decisions rest with the relevant District Chair, Superintendent and depending on the circumstances, the officers of the Conference.

Complaints Teams are appointed more frequently, but the only courses of action open to a Complaints Team under Standing Order 1124 that are capable of being monitored as to their implementation are rulings, advice and directions. Other courses open to a Team are referrals to alternative procedures or for charges to be heard by a Discipline Committee. It is for the resulting committee or other relevant person or body to monitor implementation of the outcome of alternative procedures or a referral for charges, if implementation is required. The officers of the Conference have a role in ensuring that the referrals made by a Complaints Team to an alternative procedure are made and dealt with according to Standing Orders.

When rulings or directions are made or advice is given, it has to be for the relevant District Chair or Superintendent and the parties themselves to monitor implementation. Any of them

## 14. Committee on Methodist Law and Polity (1)

could bring a further complaint if a decision of a Complaints Team is not implemented or followed.

The report of a Complaints Team is already given to the local complaints officer where rulings, advice or directions are made or given under SO 1124(16)(a). The relevant District Chair and Superintendent are informed of a decision by a Complaints Team and at every stage of the complaints and discipline process under SO 1104(8). The Complaints and Discipline sub-committee has noted that it might assist District Chairs and Superintendents in seeking to implement and thereafter monitor decisions of a Complaints Team if they are consulted at the time the Complaints Team is considering the course to follow under Standing Order 1124. A proposed amendment to Standing Order 1124(12) to provide for this is set out below. This amendment should help to ensure that the advice, ruling or direction by a Complaints Team is feasible for the relevant District Chair or Superintendent to implement and monitor. It is therefore proposed that SO 1124(12) is amended to include consultation with the District Chair and Superintendent.

### **Amendment to Standing Order**

**1124 (12)** Any ruling made, **directions given** or advice issued by the complaints team must be formulated in consultation with the relevant connexional Team member **and the relevant District Chair and Superintendent**. The complaints team may also direct that such public notice is given of the **direction**, ruling or advice as the team considers appropriate and helpful.

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

**14/11. The Conference receives the Report.**

**14/12 The Conference amends SO 1124(12) as set out in the Report.**

<b>Contact name and details</b>	The Revd Dr Chris Swift Director of Chaplaincy and Spirituality chris.swift@mha.org.uk
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### 1. General report

- 1.1 MHA provides high-quality care and support to over 17,800 residents and scheme members across England, Scotland and Wales through its care homes, retirement living schemes and community-based Live at Home schemes. Through its charitable work, it provides chaplains in all homes and retirement living schemes, music therapy for people living with dementia in its specialist care homes and many of the services provided through Live at Home.
- 1.2 It was been a year of change at MHA, with the Chair, Graham Smith, leaving after many years of service with the Board. He was succeeded by John Robinson, who was brought up in the Methodist Church and continues to be a practising Christian. We said farewell to Adrian Bagg as CEO and welcomed his successor, Sam Monaghan, in February 2018. Sam is actively involved in his local Methodist church and comes to MHA with a strong track record of executive leadership in the charity sector.
- 1.3 After 16 years the Revd Dr Keith Albans left as Director of Chaplaincy and Spirituality. Keith's contribution was fundamental to the success of MHA's development in the opening decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, not least in supporting the transition of chaplaincy from a voluntary activity to fully employed ministry. All residents and staff in MHA facilities with care have a dedicated chaplain to serve them. Keith handed on his responsibilities to the Revd Dr Chris Swift, who comes to MHA after 20 years of chaplaincy in the NHS.
- 1.4 This year is MHA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and several activities are taking place to affirm the continuing importance of our relationship with the Methodist Church. These include the distribution of a letter from the CEO to all Methodist ministers along with materials to support the celebration of Methodist Homes Sunday. A Service of Thanksgiving for MHA's contribution to the care of older people will also be held in Derby Cathedral on Saturday 13 October 2018. Tickets can be booked at [www.mha.org.uk/75](http://www.mha.org.uk/75) years.
- 1.5 In April 2018 we were delighted to extend to all staff employed by MHA the pay level advised by the Living Wage Foundation. This is a major achievement set against a challenging financial context for all organisations operating in the care sector and reflects MHA's commitment to be an ethical employer and employer of choice in social care.

## 15. Methodist Homes (MHA)

1.6 Other notable successes for the year include:

- The MHA Chaplaincy Team winning the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Care Award for creative and innovative ways to achieve excellence in End of Life Care
- The number of MHA schemes judged to be “Good” and “Outstanding” by the independent regulator, the Care Quality Commission, rose to 87%, with Willersley House Care Home near Hull achieving “Outstanding” in all five areas of assessment, becoming one of just eight homes in England to receive this accolade; whilst The Martins Care Home in Bury St Edmunds was also rated overall as “Outstanding”
- Two new homes opened during the year: Montpellier Manor in Stainton, Middlesbrough, and Oak Manor in Shefford, bringing the total number of MHA homes to 90
- The Starr Hills Care Home in Lytham was featured in Radio 2’s Christmas Day breakfast programme with staff and residents taking part; whilst MHA’s Music Therapy Service and Torrwood Care Home resident, Paul Mosby, featured in BBC Radio 4’s documentary series ‘The Untold’
- In Hampshire eight new ‘Live at Home’ schemes opened with the support of the County Council. This means that all areas of Hampshire are now covered by the service
- Residents moved into new retirement living facilities at Nethanvale in Auchlochan and at Maidment Court in Poole
- The President of the Conference made an official visit to our care home at Claybourne

1.7 During the year MHA extended its mission to provide chaplaincy and spiritual care to older people with the introduction of chaplains to the four homes previously operated by the Silk Healthcare Group. MHA employs the highest number of chaplains outside the public sector.

1.8 Live at Home schemes now serve over 10,300 older people across the UK and more schemes are being added every month. MHA’s ‘Live at Home’ schemes were the theme of a Radio 4 appeal which featured scheme member, Annie Ashby, talking about its positive impact on her life.

1.9 Since 2016 the number of music therapists working with MHA has increased by 20% and their work continues to grow. Our Lead Music Therapist, Ming Hung Hsu, was awarded his PhD during the year based on research into the therapeutic impact of the service.

1.10 Methodist Homes Sunday in 2017 raised over £190,000, for which we offer grateful thanks. This year the official date for the Sunday is **10 June** although it can be moved to suit local needs. Our theme for worship is **‘Full of Years’** and a range of materials is available to download from our website ([www.mha.org.uk](http://www.mha.org.uk)).

- 1.11 In addition to its 7,000 members of staff, MHA benefits from the contribution of over 5,000 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.
- 1.12 We believe that MHA has a unique approach to care and that this can make a valuable contribution to the debate about social care in the UK. Addressing the needs of the whole person; enabling the expression of spirituality, and providing pastoral care to older people, relatives and staff as a community, are at the core of this approach. Communicating this more widely is an important priority for the Board and MHA shares aspects of its work across a range of media platforms. During the year over 1.7 million people saw our posts on social media and MHA provided expert consultancy for an award-winning dementia storyline in ITV's *Emmerdale*.
- 1.13 MHA held a number of events in Methodist churches across England to provide supporters with direct updates about our work, including music therapy and chaplaincy. One of the key priorities of our new CEO, Sam Monaghan, is to establish a stronger partnership with the Church and he has already met with Secretary of the Methodist Conference to explore how this will be progressed.
- 1.14 The latest audited accounts are available on request from our website or from Epworth House. Our latest Annual Impact Statement, which tells the story of MHA's activities, is also available on the website or from Epworth House.
- 1.15 During the year our Director of Care Homes, Carol Artis, announced her retirement. Carol served on the Leadership Team for 13 years overseeing significant enhancement of both the quality and efficiency of our homes and she leaves with the best wishes of her colleagues.
- 1.16 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. Church appointment to the Boards of MHA**

- 2.1 Through our Governance Committee we continue to strengthen the Charity's Board with new members bringing wide experience, particularly around marketing and social care. In accordance with SO 241, we ask the Conference to continue to recognise Dr David Hall as the Church's nominated Board member. David was first appointed to this role in 2015.

## 15. Methodist Homes (MHA)

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

- 15/1. The Conference receives the General Report of Methodist Homes.**
- 15/2. The Conference, in exercising its power under Standing Order 241, nominates David Hall to the Board of MHA.**

<b>Contact name and details</b>	Karis Kolawole Head of Faith Partnerships karis.kolawole@actionforchildren.org.uk
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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Action for Children launched a five-year strategy so that we could better respond to the challenges of meeting the needs of children, young people and families who need our help. We are pleased to share with the Methodist Conference the good progress we have made, and ask for your prayers of thanksgiving for our work.
- 1.2. After four years as Chief Executive, we said farewell to Sir Tony Hawkhead in February 2018. During his time, he inspired staff with his leadership, and facilitated changes that have laid the foundation for the charity to remain a viable organisation. He launched our five-year strategy, acquired the 4Children nurseries, and forged meaningful external partnerships. Julie Bentley has been appointed as our new Chief Executive from 1 August. Carol Iddon, our Managing Director of Children's Services, will be our Acting Chief Executive until then.

## 2. By teaming up with the Methodist Church

- 2.1. In the past year, we have received remarkable support from the Methodist Church, and thank each person that supported us with their time and substance. We are deeply grateful for the strong and inspiring relationship we have the Methodist Church.
- 2.2. We thank the Revd Canon Gareth Powell for his continuous support and for playing a huge part in our annual Stephenson Awards as one of the judges. We would like to thank Jill Baker, the Vice-President of the Conference 2017/2018, for visiting our services in Scotland and bringing great encouragement to our staff. We also had the privilege of participating in Methodist events, such as 3Generate 2017, where we ran workshops and a market stall.
- 2.3. In 2017/2018, donations directly generated from local church fundraising and memorials totalled about £1.3m. Methodists contributed in other ways, for instance, taking part in national events like marathons and leaving legacy gifts. Furthermore, several churches kindly allowed us to use their premises to deliver vital services, and volunteers helped us in our work with children, young people and families. In September 2017, two ONE Programme interns started one-year placements, bringing valuable skills and insight.
- 2.4. We will continue to strengthen our partnership with the Methodist Church and find

## 16. Action for Children

new opportunities to work together, especially sharing our expertise and engaging young people through 3Generate and schools. Next year, we will celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we have started discussing how to celebrate it with the Church.

### **3. By still doing what works for children**

- 3.1. We currently support more than 370,000 children, young people and families. This includes all who have attended at least one session, been seen by a staff member, received advice from us or used any of our 529 services. We are proud to have made such an impact, but we know that there are still a significant number of children and families who need our help.
- 3.2. While developing our five-year strategy, we identified new areas of support for children and young people that we wanted to develop. These areas include providing mental health support, expanding our work on giving children a safe and loving home through permanency, including residential support, fostering and adoption, as well as looking at our commercial activity with our nurseries.

#### **Mental health services**

- 3.3. Mental health services for children and young people are in crisis. We have been very fortunate to gain some financial support from Royal Mail to launch a new programme working in schools called, the Blues Programme. This programme is an evidence-based support package working with young people aged from 15 to 18. We are working in schools in High Wycombe, Worcester and Cardiff. We are also delivering in pupil referral units (PRU), grammar schools and sixth form colleges. Plans are also underway to deliver the programme in a special school, and in schools in Glasgow, Northern Ireland, and the Western Isles.
- 3.4. We have also received funding from House of Fraser to pilot having a specialist mental health worker in three of our services. This role has two primary functions. In the first place, to support, advise and train our staff in mental health awareness. Secondly, to be on hand to offer direct support to young people with mental health issues. Our ambition is to have a mental health worker assigned to every service, if this pilot is successful.

#### **Residential care and permanency services**

- 3.5. Last year, we met with several authorities who had identified that it is difficult to find good, high quality residential provision for children and young people with complex and challenging needs. Since then, we have grown our residential provision in England by acquiring three homes and a successful bid to run seven children's

home in the Midlands. In addition, we have re-purposed another service to provide residential care for children with complex needs, including disability. This will bring our residential portfolio in the Midlands to 11 children's homes.

- 3.6. We are also developing our fostering and adoption services and working on our strategy to offer local authorities a permanency offer. This will build on our current placement options and will include our residential provision. Permanency support is about providing a range of options to meet a child's needs and help them to remain in a secure and stable placement, minimising the number of placement moves and reducing their level of trauma.

#### **Nurseries**

- 3.7. We have continued to develop our nurseries, creating a bespoke brand, 'Spring by Action for Children'. We developed this brand in partnership with parents. The number of nurseries has increased to 41 and more are planned for this year.
- 3.8. The Methodist Church has been very supportive in several areas of our work. For instance, by providing expert assistance in planning our capital development for our Headlands School, Penarth and supporting a tender for a children's centre contract in Bath by providing us with accommodation. Our Acting Chief Executive has also spoken at a joint meeting of trustees and principals of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust to discuss how we can forge stronger relationships between the two organisations.

#### **4. By seeking justice through our policy and campaigns work**

- 4.1. We have continued to raise awareness and persuade the Government to tackle the challenges that disadvantage children, young people and their families. We have conducted intensive research to provide compelling evidence to highlight issues that need urgent attention and action. Some of our work over the last year included:
- 4.1.1. **Revolving Door report:** An estimated 140,000 children have needs too great for schools, health or other universal services to meet on their own, and are ineligible for statutory social care support. Without the early help that they need, they may eventually reach crisis point.
- 4.1.2. **Crisis in funding: Turning the Tide report:** We have been working with The Children's Society and National Children's Bureau to highlight the growing crisis in funding for children's social care. This report shows the significantly lower spending on children and young people's services, and the potential impact.

## 16. Action for Children

4.1.3. **The Next Chapter: Young People and Parenthood report:** It highlights the challenges young parents, particularly aged between 20-25 face. We found that they face difficulties with continuing education, financial hardship, poor mental health, etc. This can impact on their children too. Our report offers the Government some recommendations.

4.2. We are proud to be the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness partner for children and families. Working collaboratively across Action for Children and externally, we have inspired thousands of people to get involved in tackling loneliness, through 'Chat and Play' sessions; launching the 'It starts with hello' report about the impact; and, developing various resources to help practitioners, young people and families (all on our website).

4.3. In the coming months, we will focus on our campaign to help give every child the best start in life. Sadly, Government spending on services – such as children's centres – has fallen by nearly 50%, and support for the youngest children in our country is disappearing. We want to persuade the Government to take urgent action.

4.4. We are grateful to the many Methodists who have been loyal campaigners, and we would like to invite more people to sign up. For information visit: [actionforchildren.org.uk/how-to-help/support-our-campaigns](http://actionforchildren.org.uk/how-to-help/support-our-campaigns).

### 5. **By building new faith partnerships**

5.1. Our partnership with the Methodist Church and other faith organisations has been testament to the value of engaging faith communities. Over the last year, we have engaged more closely with the Baptist Union, the Redeemed Christian Church of God and the United Reformed Church. They have been instrumental in helping us raise awareness of our work through their communication channels.

5.2. We have plans in place to build on our relationships with faith groups, and explore the opportunities available for collaboration. We would welcome the support of District Chairs and local Methodist ministers in forging new relationships at every level.

### 6. **By being positive about the future**

6.1. We are positive and excited about the future as we continue to transform so that we can take bolder decisions to ensure that any child who needs help gets help. We know we can count on the support of the Methodist Church, and ask for your prayers for the continuing success of our work.

**\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**16/1. The Conference receives the General Report of Action for Children.**

**16/2. The Conference notes that the trustees of Action for Children for the current year are:**

Chair: John O'Brien (2012), Vice-Chair: Kate Guthrie (2014)

Methodist Church Appointee: Dr Daleep S Mukarji (2014)

The Revd Dr Sheryl M Anderson (2016), Les Clifford (2011), Richard Cryer (2015), Stanley Goudie (2011), Tracy Griffin (2015), Debbie Morgan (2016), Markus Ruetimann (2015), Yvette Stanley (2015), Josephine Larbie (2017), Fiona Thorne (2017), Patricia Gordon (2017), Gill Ellis (2017)

## 17. Fernley Hartley Trust

<b>Contact name and details</b>	The Revd Mark Rowland Secretary of the Fernley Hartley Trust mark.rowland@methodist.org.uk
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### About the Trust

The Fernley Hartley Trust organises an annual lecture on a theological topic related to Methodism. The lecture is often given in partnership with an academic department or other organisation to help with publicity and attendance. We are seeking to expand our work to include disseminating the lecture more widely and can now hold other lectures in addition to the main Fernley Hartley lecture. The trust aims to produce resources related to the lectures that might be suitable for Local Churches and other groups to engage with the issues and topics raised.

### Lectures

The 2017 lecture was delivered at The Queen's Foundation by the Revd Dr Nicola Price-Tebbutt and was entitled "Methodism and experience: the role of personal narrative in shaping the Church's theology".

The 2018 lecture will be delivered during the Oxford Institute for Methodist Studies at Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford on Friday 17 August 2018 at 5pm by Dr Dion Forster.

### Appointment of trustees

The trustees notify the Conference of the resignation of Dr Peter Briggs and that the six-year term of office of Professor Esther Reed came to an end in 2017. Dr Briggs served the trust as treasurer and the trustees notify the Conference that they have appointed the Revd Dr Philip Luscombe as the trust's new treasurer. They submit the following names for appointment as new trustees:

#### **Ali Stacey-Chapman**

Ali Stacey-Chapman is a Pioneer Missioner in the Derby Circuit. She has previously worked as an Urban Missioner in London and has been local preaching for 10 years.

#### **Anthea Sully**

Anthea Sully is Chief Executive of White Ribbon UK and national coordinator for the Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women. She was formerly Coordinating Secretary for Public Life and Social Justice in the Connexional Team.

The full list of trustees will then be as follows:

The Revd Dr Jane V Craske (Chair), the Revd Dr George Bailey, Dr Jill Barber, Professor David Clough, the Revd Dr Philip Luscombe (Treasurer), the Revd Mark Rowland (Secretary), Ali Stacey-Chapman, Anthea Sully.

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

**17/1. The Conference receives the Report.**

**17/2. The Conference appoints Anthea Sully and Ali Stacey-Chapman as trustees of the Fernley Hartley Trust with effect from 1 September 2018.**

## 18. Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI) – Summary Report

<b>Contact name and details</b>	The Revd Dr Stephen D Wigley Chair of the Committee jaceichair@methodistchurch.org.uk
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### Chair's Report

This year, the main concentration of time and resource has been on one particular issue; climate change. The 2017 Methodist Conference requested JACEI (through the Methodist Council) to examine the pace of change in the extractives sector, and actively to consider disinvestment criteria and timescales required to disinvest from oil and gas companies whose business plans were not aligned with the Paris Agreement on climate change.

JACEI dedicates considerable time at every meeting to climate change; however this has increased considerably in 2017/2018 in order to escalate the work so as to respond to the Conference request. To that end, an additional meeting was held in February 2018 to review progress to date and to agree the next stage of analysis. I wish to thank my colleagues at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB) for their enormous efforts at a time when resources were already hard pressed. The Conference is directed to the supplementary report we have published this year (*Climate change and fossil fuels: an update*) which provides more detail on our work and advice on climate change investment matters.

The intense focus means, necessarily, that there has been less time for other matters. This is disappointing and a consequence of the focused effort needed to respond in detail to the case for climate disinvestment based on examining a large number of scenarios and then applying them to a portfolio of extractive stocks. This attention to the supply of fossil fuels diverted resources from assessing companies which demand their intense use and which are therefore responsible for significant carbon emissions.

Despite this focus, JACEI is proud to have concluded some important work during the year in other areas. The CFB became the first faith investor to adopt a policy on farm animal welfare, and I commend both the Position Paper and Policy Statement to readers. A revised and completely updated Corporate Governance Policy was approved, replacing a suite of older policies on voting and governance. For the first time, the process whereby companies are screened for inclusion in CFB portfolios, and the basis on which engagement may take place, was set down in a high-level Screening and Engagement Policy.

Work is now well advanced on a Position Paper and Policy Statement on Tax, which I know will be of great interest to the wider Church as it continues to press for tax justice.

Engagement with business to address concerns and raise standards is at the heart of how the CFB manages money on behalf of the Church. Owing to the concentration of time on

## 18. Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI) – Summary Report

climate, some areas of engagement have had to be reduced. Nevertheless, the Report outlines some areas of new or continuing engagement that have taken place, such as water risk (on behalf of the Church Investors Group), human rights in Burma/Myanmar, child labour in the overseas granite industry and on fair trade.

The CFB joined a new initiative focused on UK workplace practices as society's concerns around vulnerable, low-paid work intensified. Elsewhere, collaboratively, we joined global investors in supporting efforts to reduce the use of antibiotics in the food chain, to engage with supermarkets on modern slavery closer to home, and continued our long-term dialogue with infant formula companies.

There is much in this report that we trust will continue to enthuse and encourage the Conference. JACEI members are tasked with providing oversight and input on a range of very complex ethical dilemmas affecting social justice. They continue to do this with intellectual rigour and good humour. I would like to thank all my colleagues on JACEI for their time and commitment to this important work.

### **Executive Summary**

#### **Climate change summary**

The Committee has committed considerable time in responding to the 2017 Conference Memorials and amended response via the Notice of Motion, including agreeing an assessment methodology and implementation timeline. A report of our detailed work in response to this is contained in a supplementary report (*Climate change and fossil fuels: an update*). During 2017/2018 JACEI reviewed and oversaw several CFB climate initiatives including the annual portfolio footprint exercise, engagement with the G7 and G20, engagement with companies such as Carnival and Total and a review of key carbon transition literature.

### **Policy development**

#### **Approved and amended policies**

The Committee recommended ethical investment policies on Farm Animal Welfare and Corporate Governance during the year which were approved by CFB Council and subsequently published on the website. JACEI also recommended a high-level Screening and Engagement Policy which was approved by CFB Council. The Policy on Military Exposure was amended and approved.

#### **Policy development**

Work commenced during the year on two new ethical investment policies: Tax and Fixed Income Investments. These will be progressed during 2018.

## 18. Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI) – Summary Report

### **Other ethical investment work**

#### **Mining and Faith Reflections Initiative (MFRI)**

The Committee supports the CFB's continued engagement with the Mining and Faith Reflections Initiative, together with connexional representatives, which brings together senior church leaders and mining executives in dialogue. A mini-day of reflection was held in 2017.

#### **Extractive industries**

The Committee reviewed CFB activity which included meetings with several major oil and mining companies on their environmental and social performance. CFB engaged with Centrica in respect of its minority interest in a fracking concession.

#### **Nestlé and breast milk substitutes**

The Committee noted the CFB was the only investor to be invited to a ground-breaking conference with infant nutrition NGOs to look at how Nestlé supports the first 1,000 days of life. The Committee has maintained its strong support of the FTSE4Good process and continues to review CFB dialogue with Nestlé and other infant nutrition companies.

#### **Food, nutrition and farm animal welfare**

The Committee welcomed engagement by CFB on a range of issues including management of farm animal related risk, antibiotic resistance in the livestock production sector and fair trade issues.

#### **Environment**

The Committee welcomed CFB scoping the issue of plastic production and waste as an emerging issue of concern.

#### **Employment and labour**

The Committee welcomed CFB joining a new collaborative initiative, the Workplace Disclosure Initiative (WDI) and noted continuing efforts to work with Share Action in support of the Living Wage.

#### **Water risk**

The Committee reviews collaborative engagement with global companies on water risk, which CFB has led for the second year on behalf of the Church Investors Group (CIG).

#### **Human rights**

The Committee reviewed significant engagement with companies over a number of human rights related issues, including cobalt mining, modern slavery in supermarket car washes, sourcing of granite overseas in the construction industry, and human rights in Burma/ Myanmar. JACEI advised that there was no longer an ethical bar to investment in Total SA as the company has transformed its approach to human rights over the past two decades.

## 18. Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI) – Summary Report

### **CFB voting and executive remuneration**

The collaborative CIG voting template is supported by CFB. A robust approach to executive remuneration continues with CFB opposing executive pay proposals where these are deemed excessive. The Committee reviews CFB voting activity and welcomes the increasing emphasis placed on climate change and diversity laggards as part of the collaborative CIG voting policy.

### **The UK Stewardship Code**

CFB has maintained its accreditation as a Tier I signatory to the *UK Stewardship Code* by the Financial Reporting Council.

### **Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI)**

The Committee commended CFB for once again achieving the highest score (A+) for strategy and governance as part of the annual reporting cycle.

### **Church Investors Group (CIG)**

The Committee commends the continued strength of collaborative effort via the 59 member CIG. The CFB Chief Investment Officer was elected Vice-Chair of the CIG during the year.

### **CFB ethical review**

The Committee's responsibility to the Conference includes a resolution that CFB Funds are managed in support of an ethical stance *which is in accordance with the aims of the Methodist Church*. It does this by regularly reviewing CFB performance across a range of reports and reviews which are set out in this Report.

### **Governance**

#### **Role, function and membership of the committee**

The Committee's Terms of Reference, and current membership are set out in the attached appendix. Proposals on Standing Orders can be found in the report of the Law and Polity Committee (Item 14).

For more detail on the issues contained within this Summary Report, and other matters considered by JACEI, we recommend referring to the full 2018 Annual Report to Conference, the Supplementary Report on Climate Change along with all Position Papers and CFB Policy Statements. These will be made available on both the CFB website [www.cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk) and the Methodist Church website [www.methodist.org.uk/jacei](http://www.methodist.org.uk/jacei).

### **Conclusion**

The Committee judges that the CFB has managed the funds under its control in support of an ethical stance which is in accordance with the aims of the Methodist Church.

In arriving at this conclusion the Committee scrutinised compliance with CFB ethical policies through the:

## 18. Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI) – Summary Report

- voting record of the CFB;
- ethically excluded lists of UK and European companies;
- monthly ethics meeting minutes of the CFB;
- company engagement record of the CFB;
- Trucost and Vigeo-EIRIS reviews of the CFB UK portfolio carbon footprint;
- participation of the CFB in the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC); CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project); the Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI); Access to Medicines Index (ATMI); Access to Nutrition Index (ATNI); Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare (BBFAW); the Workplace Disclosure Initiative (WDI) and the Extractives Industry Transparency Scheme (EITI);
- collaboration with Wespeth Benefits and Investments (the United Methodist Church pension, benefits and investment agency) and participation in the CIG.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTION

**18/1. The Conference receives the report of the Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment for the year to 31 March 2018.**

### APPENDIX

#### **Governance: Role, Function and Membership of the Committee**

##### **Terms of Reference**

The Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI) was established in 1983 by a Resolution of the Methodist Conference to provide a mechanism for the Methodist Church to tackle ethical dilemmas associated with investment and to report annually to the Conference. Its Terms of Reference, which were last revised in 2001, are as follows:

*The Joint Advisory Committee of the Ethics of Investment shall have a Chair appointed by the Methodist Council. The Committee shall have five members appointed by the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB) and five members appointed by the Methodist Council.*

*The function of the Committee shall be:*

- *to advise the CFB of ethical considerations relating to investment, it being accepted that the CFB legally has responsibility for making the final decision on the purchase or disposal of any share;*
- *to make public where appropriate any ethical policy of the CFB and in particular any investment decision taken on ethical grounds and any other advice the Committee may provide on ethical matters relating to investment;*
- *to report to the Conference on the workings of the Committee and in particular to comment on the performance of the CFB in managing the funds under its control*

## 18. Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI) – Summary Report

*according to an ethical stance which is in accordance with the aims of the Methodist Church.*

The Committee expects to review and update its Terms of Reference during 2018.

### **SRI reporting requirements**

In July 2000 regulations came into force obliging pension funds to consider their policy, if any, on socially responsible investment (SRI). In April 2005 similar requirements were extended to charities under the SORP guidelines. The UK Stewardship Code, published in July 2010, provides further clarity on reporting by investors. The CFB is investment manager to large pension funds that use the JACEI Conference Report as part of their assessment of CFB compliance with their SRI policies. The report should therefore enable trustee bodies to assess clearly whether the CFB has operated in a way consistent with the aims of the Methodist Church.

The CFB has been a signatory to the **UK Stewardship Code** since its inception in 2012, and its latest Statement of disclosure is available at [www.cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk).

The CFB is rated a Tier I Signatory to the Code by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC).

### **JACEI agendas**

JACEI receives at each meeting:

- the CFB work-plan;
- one or two major items for debate, usually Position Papers and Policy Statements either previously agreed by the Committee or requested by the CFB;
- other significant matters for discussion (including climate change and extractive industries as standing items);
- CFB engagement, including company notes and briefings;
- a CFB ethical performance review including the CEO Report, voting summary reports, ethical exclusions and a note of any disinvestment on ethical grounds;
- significant collaborative engagement work.

The Committee should:

- hold four meetings a year (in 2017/2018 five meetings took place in June, September, December February and March);
- have its own identity with an address located at Methodist Church House;
- advise the CFB in relation to current Methodist Church policy;
- examine all aspects of a company's operations rather than simply focus on one particular issue;
- take responsibility, where appropriate, for making public any ethical policy of the CFB and in particular any investment decision taken on ethical grounds; and

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- seek ways to make the advice provided by the Committee available to the wider Methodist Church.

Committee members are empowered to:

- contact the Secretary between meetings about issues of concern to them and to
- email their comments on position papers or other matters if unable to attend a particular meeting.

The Committee receives and reviews the CFB work plan at every meeting, which sets medium-term policy priorities.

The Committee revised its way of working during 2017/2018 following a strategy day held in February 2017. In order to maximise its use of time, routine items of business are now reported via a CEO Report to JACEI, which the Committee receives and reviews.

### **Committee membership**

The Revd Dr Stephen Wigley is Chair of the Committee. He assumed the role of Chair on 1 July 2016.

The JACEI Chair is independent, nominated from among the membership of the District Chairs, and appointed by the Methodist Council.

Members nominated by the Methodist Council are:

- The Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson (from 1 July 2017)
- Professor Brian Gennery
- Ms Alison Jackson
- Ms Rachel Lampard
- Mr Chris Moorhouse

Nominated by the Central Finance Board (CFB) are:

- Dr Keith Aldred
- Mr Stephen Beer
- Mr Alan Emery
- Mr John Sandford
- Mr Terry Wynn

The Revd Dr John Stephens attended as a representative of the Trustees of the Methodist Church in Ireland until 12 March 2018, and is succeeded by Mr David Hopley.

## 18. Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI) – Summary Report

In attendance from time to time to facilitate the workings of the Committee were: Mr David Palmer, Mr Christophe Borysiewicz, Mr Miles Askew, Mr Matthew Jones, Mr Matthew Richards, Mr Steve Hucklesby and Ms Sophie Leake.

The Special Advisor to the CFB, Mr Bill Seddon, also attends.

Ms Ashma Ponniah is the JACEI Minutes Secretary.

Mr Neville White is the CFB Ethical Consultant and JACEI Secretary. The Secretary can be contacted at: [neville.white@cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:neville.white@cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk)

The Committee has a reciprocal arrangement with the Church of England Ethical Investment Advisory Group (EIAG) whereby representatives of JACEI and the EIAG attend as observers of each other's meetings and exchange minutes.

Mr Adam Matthews (Secretary to the EIAG) and Mr Stephen Barrie attended JACEI meetings in this capacity during the year. Mr Stephen Beer attended meetings of the EIAG.

Mr Richard Nunn, Chair of the United Reformed Church Ministers' Pension Trust Ltd attends JACEI as an observer.

*Enquiries about the Committee's work are encouraged, with letters to be addressed to the Committee's Chair c/o 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR, or by email to: [jaceichair@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:jaceichair@methodistchurch.org.uk)*

The CFB may be contacted through Mr Christophe Borysiewicz at 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PE Telephone: 020 7 496 3630 or email [Christophe.borysiewicz@cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:Christophe.borysiewicz@cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk)

## 19. Managing Trustees of John Wesley's Chapel, the New Room, Bristol, and 4-5 Charles Street, Bristol

<b>Contact name and details</b>	Jenny Carpenter Secretary to the Trustees Jennyc106@btinternet.com
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The New Room has seen a step change in its operation, as it seeks to maximise its potential as a place of pilgrimage, delight, worship, exploration, nourishment, community building and spiritual growth.

The new building, now open in the Horsefair Courtyard, has some snags still to be resolved and the final cost has not yet been established, but is likely to be around £2.3m (original contract £2.058m). It has been widely praised and has transformed the New Room aesthetically and functionally. We can now offer state of the art museum and library space, meeting rooms for education and training, a cafe and delightful atrium, associated shop, office accommodation for staff and up to date toilet facilities, as well as the incomparable chapel itself. Charles Wesley's House at 4 Charles Street has been refurbished too as part of the overall project. The scale of activity both at and instigated from the New Room since last summer has been remarkable, and media interest continues to be keen. Increasingly, the staff are developing productive partnerships with other organisations, such as the Bristol Record Office, the District and local Circuit, Wellspring Healthy Living Centre and Second Step, a mental health charity. Monthly folk concerts are well-attended and the weekly lunchtime community choir has proved popular.

The challenge now is to ensure that what has been achieved can be expanded and sustained beyond the point at which the ongoing financial support from Heritage Lottery Fund ends – February 2020. The current income from the museum needs to treble, while that of the cafe, the shop and the events/room rental needs to double. Whether this can be achieved in the timescale remains to be seen. We will seek additional grants including those which support particular initiatives involving “hard to reach” groups. We call on Methodism to recognise not only the New Room's worldwide significance but also its proven potential for mission and to respond with appropriate ongoing financial support.

The current New Room staff are funded in the following ways:

Director (full time) - Connexion; David Worthington

Assistant Manager (part time) - Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF); Elizabeth Worthington

Education Officer (full time) - 50% HLF and 50% Bristol District; Mandy Briggs

Community Engagement Officer (part-time) - HLF; Lucie Connors

Visitor Services Officer (full time) - HLF; Louise Wratten

Collections Manager (part time) - HLF; Kate Rogers

Cafe Manager (full time) - New Room; Ewa Kozdeba

Assistant Cafe Manager (full time) - New Room; Niamh Archbold

The senior staff member, previously called the Manager, has been renamed *Director* and,

## 19. Managing Trustees of John Wesley's Chapel, the New Room, Bristol, and 4-5 Charles Street, Bristol

though accountable to the Trustees, is accorded wider executive powers, being trusted to run the New Room in accordance with its aims and ethos.

New volunteers continue to be recruited: a significant number of overseas students among them. They all undergo a training programme which includes safeguarding training and input about the Wesleys and Methodism. Work with schools is expanding and brings in a modest income as well as raising awareness with teachers and pupils about Wesley, Methodism and other issues such as slavery and abolition in Bristol. The New Room enjoys a positive relationship with the Bristol and West Midlands region of the Learning and Development Network and often hosts events with them, especially book launches and talks.

The cafe has established itself as a delightful space in which to relax, promoting Fairtrade products and developing speciality snacks with great customer service. There is scope to encourage more events to take place with in-house catering, especially in the early evening. We are still facing some reluctance of casual or occasional visitors to visit the museum, for which there is an entrance fee. Previously, one could visit the Preachers' Rooms without charge, though donations were expected. The exceptional quality of the museum is attested by all who experience it, and many plan a return visit, as they have not allowed enough time to do it justice.

Overall visitor numbers since we opened the new facilities have remained higher than ever previously recorded and it is expected that in the first year of opening some 36,000 visitors will be welcomed. The Friday lunchtime communion service continues to grow with a good number of regulars, and many groups schedule their visit in order to play an active part in it. To do so provides a highly valued spiritual experience.

It has become clear that our system of governance, which had only been slightly tweaked over decades, is no longer appropriate. Our Chair, the Revd A Ward Jones, the Warden, Gary Best and our Manager (now recognised as Director), David Worthington have worked diligently to devise a system much better suited to overseeing a complex enterprise relying on a varied team of staff and volunteers. This has been adopted by the Board of Trustees and will come into force from September 2018, subject to the Conference's approval. The addition of the Secretary of the Conference or his/her nominated substitute as an ex-officio Trustee would provide a strong wider connexional link, and says a great deal about the significance that British Methodism now accords to mission through heritage.

Gary Best, in his roles as Warden, historian, author and the person who developed the concept of the new museum in the Preachers' Rooms, has been key in the transformation of the New Room. Along with the Manager, David Worthington, he has devoted an enormous amount of time and energy over the years of the Horsefair Project, and now needs to moderate his input. He will remain in a capacity for which he is eminently fitted: that of Historical Consultant. The Trustees recognise that the name of *Warden* failed to describe Gary's role. From September 2018 the name and the role will be discontinued. The role of Chair of the Trustees requires a

## 19. Managing Trustees of John Wesley's Chapel, the New Room, Bristol, and 4-5 Charles Street, Bristol

person of faith and foresight, preferably living in the vicinity, with proven leadership skills and the ability to steer and champion the New Room through the next few years.

A number of Trustees who have served faithfully for years will be stepping down at the end of this connexional year, though some will continue to be involved with the New Room in other voluntary capacities. The following will be leaving: David Bainbridge, Jennifer Carpenter, Philip Carter, Mike Culshaw, Stephen Duckworth, Martin Hunt, Jong-Sin Lee, Peter Knowles and Bob Wood. We are particularly grateful to Peter Knowles, who, as Treasurer, has coped with the vastly increased scale and complexity of our finances, and nonetheless has agreed to serve as Assistant Treasurer, dealing with day-to-day transactions.

### SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2016-17
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
Donations, Legacies and Grants	53,574		1,570,604		<b>1,624,178</b>
Charitable Activities	40,273	2,123			<b>42,396</b>
Other Trading Activities	42,232				<b>42,232</b>
Interest and investment income	6,354		1,466		<b>7,820</b>
Other	9,589				<b>9,589</b>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>152,022</b>	<b>2,123</b>	<b>1,572,070</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,726,215</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Raising Funds	66,478				<b>66,478</b>
Charitable Activities	82,785	43,736	2,276,979		<b>2,403,500</b>
Other					
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>	<b>149,263</b>	<b>43,736</b>	<b>2,276,979</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,469,978</b>
Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	-185		-1,721	13,717	<b>11,811</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>2,574</b>	<b>-41,613</b>	<b>-706,630</b>	<b>13,717</b>	<b>-731,952</b>
Transfers between funds		112,875	-112,875		<b>0</b>
Other gains/(losses)					<b>0</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>2,574</b>	<b>71,262</b>	<b>-819,505</b>	<b>13,717</b>	<b>-731,952</b>
Total funds brought forward	73,263	0	1,286,102	129,342	<b>1,488,707</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>75,837</b>	<b>71,262</b>	<b>466,597</b>	<b>143,059</b>	<b>756,755</b>

## 19. Managing Trustees of John Wesley's Chapel, the New Room, Bristol, and 4-5 Charles Street, Bristol

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

**19/1. The Conference adopts the Report.**

**19/2 The Conference amends Standing Order 220 as follows:**

(i) ~~[deleted]~~ **the Secretary of the Conference;**

**19/3. The Conference appoints the following as the Managing Trustees of the New Room for 2018/19:**

Chair - Mr John Savage

- (i) The Secretary of the Conference or her/his nominated substitute.
- (ii) The Chair of the Bristol District – the Revd Dr Jonathan Pye.
- (iii) The Superintendent of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit – the Revd David Alderman.
- (iv) Mrs Jane Allin, Mr Gary Best, the Revd Josette Crane, Mr Geoffrey Gollop (Treasurer), Mr John Hirst, the Revd A Ward Jones, Mrs Linda Jones (Secretary), Mrs Rachel Newton, Mr Niall Philips, Mr. Michael Rose, Mrs. Aroona Smith, Ms Anne Topping, the Revd David Weeks, the Revd Steven Wild.

### Reasoned Statements:

**The Revd Josette Crane** undertook a placement at the New Room during her training and is currently “Without Appointment” and resident in the Bristol District. She brings her experience of serving as a trustee of Dorothy House Hospice.

**Mrs Rachel Newton** is trained in drama and has performed in the role of Susanna Wesley. She has contributed to the furnishing of Charles Wesley House and to activities there. She has previously served as a New Room Trustee.

**Mr Niall Philips** is the architect who fronted the Horsefair scheme.

**Mr John Savage** is a lay canon of Bristol Cathedral and a member of its governing body. He has recently retired after serving for 13 years as chair of the University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust.

**Ms Anne Topping** brings a wide range of experience, including earlier consultancy to the New Room.

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**The Revd Steve Wild** is Chair of the Cornwall District and a former President of the Conference. He has a passion for mission through heritage and serves on the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee.

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