

Minutes of a meeting of the Methodist Council held on 15-16 October 2018 at High Leigh Conference Centre, Huddesdon

- Present:** The President, the Vice-President and 47 voting members as follows:
Ms Janet Baker, Mrs E Jill Baker, Mr Tim Baker, Mrs Carole Burgess, the Revd Linda J Catlow, the Revd Rory J Dalgliesh, Ms Sue Draper, the Revd Mark Dunn-Wilson, Mrs Aileen Fox, the Revd Dr Andrew M Fox, the Revd Dr Barbara C Glasson, the Revd Novette S Headley, the Revd Beverly Hollings, Professor Peter D Howdle, the Revd Dr Jennifer Hurd, the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, the Revd Philip J Jackson, the Revd Dr Vincent Jambawo, Mrs Carolyn Lawrence, Mrs Heather Lovelady, Professor Clive Marsh, Professor David Matthews, Deacon Karen McBride, the Revd Loraine N Mellor, Deacon Jonathan Miller, Professor Ken Mortimer, the Revd Michael Parker, the Revd Rachel E Parkinson, the Revd Mary M Patterson, the Revd Malcolm Peacock, the Revd Gareth P Phillips, the Revd Canon Gareth J Powell, Mr Peter Prescott, the Revd Sally A Ratcliffe, the Revd Jarel A Robinson-Brown, Mr Graham Russell, the Revd Peter D Sheasby, the Revd David Shirliff, the Revd Billy Slatter, Mrs Susan Snowden, Mr Doug Swanney, the Revd Timothy A Swindell, Miss Margaret Webber, Mrs Louise C Wilkins, Mr Richard Wills, the Revd Dr Andrew D Wood, the Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle.
- Apologies:** Ms Roxanne Bromley, Ms Gemma Curtis, Ms Gill Dascombe, the Revd Stephen J Poxon, Mrs Anne Pryke
- Substitutes:** None
- Observers:** Mr Martin Ashford, Ms Jude Levermore (members of the senior management group of the Connexional Team), Dr Daleep Mukarji (shadow chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee), Ms Jasmine Yeboah (Youth President), the Revd Nigel Uden (URC observer).
- In attendance:** Ms Jane Bates (Minutes), Ms Sharon Hassanali, Ms Louise Taylor (Administration)
- Letters:** The Council sent letters of greeting and concern to the following:
Traidcraft
The Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal
The Revd Stephen Poxon

18.3.1 Minutes of the Council

The minutes of the meeting held on 14-16 April 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record.

18.3.2 Report from the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 30 April 2018 and 13 September 2018 [MC/18/67]

The Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee presented MC/18/67.

The Council noted the large amount of extra work that the consultation regarding the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church has necessitated for members of staff who are members of the scheme. The Council was assured that this is being treated carefully and the conflict is being managed.

67/1. The Council received the report.

18.3.3 Connexional Team Update [MC/18/68]

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/18/68.

68/1. The Council received the report.

18.3.4 Update on work from the Conference [MC/18/69]

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/18/69.

- 69/1. The Council received the report.**
- 69/2. The Council directed that further work is undertaken relating to Notice of Motion 2018/211, and further directed that update reports are brought to future meetings of the Council.**
- 69/3. The Council directed the Conference Arrangements Team to implement the spirit of Notice of Motion 2018/210, from the 2020 Conference onwards, where it is practicable to do so.**
- 69/4. The Council appointed a task group to consider the issues of human trafficking as directed by Notice of Motion 2018/207, as set out in paragraph 7.**

18.3.5 21st Century Development Fund – Funding of Property Developments [MC/18/71]

Ted Awty, Connexional Treasurer, presented MC/18/71.

- 71/1. The Council received the report.**
- 71/2. The Council agreed to establish the 21st Century Development Fund upon the terms set out at paragraph 4 for the purpose of funding property projects.**
- 71/3. The Council delegated to the Strategy and Resources Committee responsibility for approving the loan agreement with the Central Finance Board and authorised two members of the Strategy and Resources Committee to sign the loan agreement and such other legal documents to establish the 21st Century Development Fund.**

18.3.6 Concordat 50th Anniversary Celebrations [MC/18/76]

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/18/76.

- 76/1. The Council received the report.**
- 76/2. The Council endorsed the draft statement at paragraph 10 of this report.**
- 76/3. The Council appointed the members of the group as set out in paragraph 11 to take this work forward.**

18.3.7 Camden Methodist Church [MC/18/77]

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/18/77.

- 77/1. The Council received the report.**
- 77/2. The Council rescinded resolutions 10/2, 10/3, 10/5(ii), 10/6 (January 2016, minute 16.1.11).**
- 77/3. The Council resolved that the property known as Camden Town Methodist Church shall be for connexional purposes (as defined by the Model Trusts of the Methodist Church) in connection with the Methodist Council from a date to be agreed between the Superintendent of the Islington and Camden Mission Circuit and the Chair of the Property Development Committee.**
- 77/4. The Council resolved, in accordance with Standing Order 904, that the Connexional Trustees for Camden Town Methodist Church shall be the members of the Property Development Committee annually appointed by the Council.**
- 77/5. The Council directed the Property Development Committee to oversee the redevelopment of Camden Town Methodist Church and to make regular reports to the Strategy and Resources Committee on the feasibility and funding of the redevelopment.**
- 77/6. The Council authorised any two of the following members of the Council, the Chair of the Council, Secretary of the Council, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee or the Connexional Treasurers, upon the direction of the Strategy and Resources Committee, to sign any documentation relating to the funding arrangements for the redevelopment of**

Camden Town Methodist Church.

- 77/7.** *The Council authorised any two of the following members of the Council, the Chair of the Council, Secretary of the Council, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee or Connexional Treasurers, upon the direction of the Property Development Committee, to sign a development agreement, agreement for lease and such other legal documentation necessary for the completion of the redevelopment and leasing of Camden Town Methodist Church upon completion.*
- 77/8.** *The Council accepted that the preference would be for the party entering into such legal agreements and contracts for the redevelopment to be an incorporated body and therefore authorised the Strategy and Resources Committee to exercise the authority granted in resolutions 6 and 7 to apply to contracts and agreements being entered into by a trading subsidiary company of the Methodist Council.*

18.3.8 Methodist Council Objectives [MC/18/72]

The Connexional Secretary presented MC/18/72.

- 72/1.** *The Council adopted the tasks, aims and priorities as set out in the report.*

18.3.9 Connexional Priority Fund levy and Replacement Projects

The Secretary of the Conference and the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice made a presentation, and the Council discussed possible options in small groups. The outcomes of the group discussions will be considered as part of the consultation and proposals brought back to a future meeting of the Council.

18.3.10 Connexional Financial Strategy [MC/18/73]

The Lead Connexional Treasurer presented MC/18/73.

18.3.11 Connexional Property Strategy [MC/18/74]

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/18/74.

The two strategies were considered together and the following resolutions agreed.

- 73/1.** *The Council adopted the connexional financial strategy.*

- 74/1.** *The Council adopted the connexional property strategy 2018-2020.*

18.3.12 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE

18.3.13 Reinvitations [MC/18/91]

The Revd Dr Jennifer Hurd, convener of the Council's scrutiny group to consider presbyteral and diaconal extensions which are the responsibility of the Council, presented MC/18/91.

The Council adopted the following resolutions with the required majority:

- 91/1.** *Under Standing Order 315(2), the Council agreed to recommend the extension of the Revd Graham Jones's appointment as Ministry Development Officer in the Yorkshire Plus region for a period of five years from 1 September 2019.*
- 91/2.** *Under Standing Order 315(2), the Council agreed to recommend the extension of the Revd Elizabeth Clark's appointment as National Rural Officer for a period of two years from 1 September 2019.*
- 91/3.** *Under Standing Order 315(2), the Council agreed to recommend the extension of the Revd Jonathan Mead's appointment as Network Officer for a period of five years from 1 September 2019.*

91/4. Under Standing Order 315(2), the Council agreed to recommend the extension of the Revd Paul Wood's appointment as Ministry Development Coordinator for a period of five years from 1 September 2019.

18.3.14 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE

18.3.15 Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC) [MC/18/75]

The Secretary of the Conference presented MC/18/75.

75/1. The Council received the report and noted the final results of the 2017 actuarial variation.

75/2. The Council noted the update on the consultation with Scheme members regarding future benefits within the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church and the anticipated timetable for consideration of the responses.

75/3. The Council agreed the rule change in respect of de minimus payments up to £10,000.

75/4. The Council noted that the Deed of Amendment clarified the position by making reference to payments prescribed by regulation.

18.3.16 Committee appointments [MC/18/81]

81/1. The Council appointed the committees, trustees, governors, management bodies and representatives as set out in the paper and on the Additions and Corrections sheet circulated to the Council.

81/2. The Council nominated the Revd Dr Tim Macquiban to the Roehampton University Council, as set out at section 31.

18.3.17 Matters arising [MC/18/82]

82/1. The Council received the report.

82/2. Further to minute 18.2.37, the Council appointed the Revd Novette Headley to the scrutiny group appointed by the Council to work on its behalf in the fulfilment of SO 401(2).

18.3.18 Decisions made by the Council since the last meeting [MC/18/83]

83/1. The Council received the report.

18.3.19 Authorisations and Delegations [MC/18/84]

84/1. The Council received this report.

84/2. The Council approved the list of authorisations and delegations with effect from 16 October 2018.

18.3.20 Heritage Committee [MC/18/85]

85/1. The Council received the report.

18.3.21 Connexional Grants Committee annual report [MC/18/86]

86/1. The Council received the report.

18.3.22 Investment Committee annual report [MC/18/87]

87/1. The Council received the report.

18.3.23 Update on process in relation to the Marriage and Relationships work [MC/18/88]

88/1. The Council received the report.

18.3.24 M21 (2016) Accounting Software [MC/18/89]

89/1. The Council received the report.

89/2. The Council agreed the approach to the work as outlined in the report.

18.3.25 Report on the Forum of Churches Together in England [MC/18/90]

90/1. The Council received the report.

18.3.26 Redevelopment of Oxford Place, Leeds [MC/18/78]

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/18/78.

78/1. The Council received the report.

78/2. The Council resolved that, following the resolution of the Yorkshire West Synod on 8 September 2018, the property known as Oxford Place, Leeds shall henceforth be for connexional purposes (as defined by the Model Trusts of the Methodist Church) in connection with the Methodist Council.

78/3. The Council resolved that, in accordance with Standing Order 904, the Connexional Trustees for Oxford Place, Leeds shall be the members of the Property Development Committee annually appointed by the Council.

78/4. The Council directed the Property Development Committee to make regular reports to the Strategy and Resources Committee on the feasibility and funding of the redevelopment of Oxford Place, Leeds.

78/5. The Council authorised the Strategy and Resources Committee to approve the funding arrangements for the redevelopment of Oxford Place Leeds.

78/6. The Council authorised any two of the following members of the Council, the Chair of the Council, Secretary of the Council, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee or the Connexional Treasurers, upon the direction of the Strategy and Resources Committee, to sign any documentation relating to the funding arrangements for the redevelopment of Oxford Place, Leeds.

78/7. The Council authorised any two of the following members of the Council, the Chair of the Council, Secretary of the Council, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee or Connexional Treasurers, upon the direction of the Strategy and Resources Committee, to sign a development agreement, agreement for lease and such other legal documentation necessary for the completion of the redevelopment and leasing of Oxford Place, Leeds upon completion.

78/8. The Council accepted that the preference would be for the party entering into such legal agreements and contracts for the redevelopment to be an incorporated body and therefore authorised the Strategy and Resources Committee to exercise the authority granted in resolutions 6 and 7 to apply to contracts and agreements being entered into by a trading subsidiary company of the Methodist Council.

78/9. The Council approved the principle of an annual grant to the Yorkshire West District to support the city centre mission in Leeds and authorises the Strategy and Resources Committee to agree the final figure for the grant.

18.3.27 Guy Chester Centre – Governance and Oversight [MC/18/79]

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/18/79.

79/1. The Council received the report.

79/2. The Council delegated the adoption of the Articles of Association for the Guy Chester Centre to the Strategy and Resources Committee.

79/3. The Council appointed the directors of the Guy Chester Centre as follows: Ms Alethea Siow, Mr Dov Whittle, the Revd Jennifer R Pathmarajah and Professor Roy Swanston.

79/4. The Council delegated the matters reserved to it as the parent body set out in Article 29 of the Articles of Association to the members of the Property Development Committee until such time as this resolution is revoked.

18.3.28 Centenary Hall Trust [MC/18/80]

The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice presented MC/18/80.

- 80/1. The Council received the report.**
- 80/2. The Council agreed to seek consent from the Charity Commission to amend the purpose of the Centenary Hall Trust to the purposes of the Methodist Church as set out in section 4 of the Methodist Church Act 1976.**
- 80/3. The Council approved the widening of the Centenary Hall Trust to permit commercial leases of Methodist Church House and for income to be used for the general purposes of the Methodist Church and for consent to be sought from the Charity Commission.**
- 80/4. The Council delegated authority to the Chair of the Council and Secretary of the Council to seek further amendments to the terms of the Centenary Hall Trust as advised by the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice following receipt of Counsel's opinion.**
- 80/5. The Council agreed to the establishment of the charitable company limited by guarantee to be the sole managing trustee of the Centenary Hall Trust and delegated authority to the Strategy and Resources Committee to approve the terms of the governing document for the charitable company.**

The thanks of the Council were expressed to Martin Ashford, Head of Mission and Advocacy, who was attending his last meeting of the Council.