

38. Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme

Contact name and details	Matt Tattersall – Executive Director of Finance and Resources tattersallm@methodistchurch.org.uk
Action required	For approval
Resolutions	38/1. The Conference received the report. 38/2. The Conference approved the re-appointment of Martin Tingle as a Director of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Trust Limited (the Trustee body of MMPS) for a period of three years commencing September 2025.

Pensions Administration

- 1 The MMPS Trustee undertook a review of the current provision of administration services in the light of a number of emerging risks. This review concluded that:
 - deficiencies in the current IT system meant compliance with the November 2025 statutory deadline for connection to the Pension Dashboard was at significant risk;
 - these same IT deficiencies meant that there was too much reliance on manual systems and processes which used complex spreadsheets. The service therefore was inherently riskier, prone to error (despite the high degree of diligence by the current admin team) and less efficient than you would expect, and
 - as the administration team is small, meeting activity spikes is challenging. Furthermore, the admin team was also overly reliant on a key individual for critical tasks such as pensioner payroll with lack of capacity leading to insufficient sharing of tasks throughout the team.
- 2 Having shared these findings with the Connexional Council it was agreed that a joint project would be established (between the Church and the Scheme Trustee) to address the issues. However, it was noted that any change to the administrative provision was a decision for the Trustee.
- 3 Critical to this project was the implementation of a new IT system to replace the previous administration system which had been introduced around 10 years previously and had never functioned as planned. Given the current market for Defined Benefit Pension IT systems, there were no suitable systems identified that reflected the relatively small size of MMPS. The systems were designed for much larger schemes and were consequently prohibitively expensive. In addition, a new system would not address the small team challenges. As a consequence, it was determined a third party administrator would need to be appointed to provide the administration service and ensure that the scheme could continue to meet its statutory obligations.
- 4 A procurement exercise is underway to appoint a new administrator to commence in late 2025. The implications of this change will be communicated to members as the implementation progresses. However, as well as mitigating risks to the MMPS Trustee, it is anticipated the new service will provide an enhanced service to members. In addition to providing pension professionals who can answer pension queries by letter, phone or email, some services will also be provided (in addition) on-line.
- 5 The consequences for the existing Pensions Admin Team are being dealt with on an individual basis in line with Connexional Team policy and support is being offered through the Wellbeing service.

Employer Nominated Directors

- 6 Under its Articles, six directors of Methodist Ministers' Pension Trust Limited (the Trustee body of MMPS) must be nominated by the Council and appointed by the Conference.
- 7 The Council recommends Martin Tingle is re-appointed as a director of the MMPTL for a period of three years commencing 1 September 2025. Martin has served as a director for three years and is being appointed for a second term.

***RESOLUTIONS

38/1. The Conference received the Report.

38/2. The Conference approved the re-appointment of Martin Tingle as a Director of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Trust Limited (the Trustee body of MMPS) for a period of three years commencing September 2025.