

50. Committee Appointments

***RESOLUTIONS

- 50/1.** The Conference appointed the Connexional Council:
The President and Vice-President of the Conference;
The Secretary of the Conference;
The chair of the Council: The Revd Sonia Hicks
The chair of the Mission Committee: The Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling
The chair of the Ministries Committee: Barbara Easton
The chair of the Resourcing Committee: Ms Alethea Siow
The chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee: Mr Keith Hickey
Up to fourteen other persons: The Revd Mucharutya Chisvo; Mr Thomas Hart; the Revd Michael Long, Ms Anna Malnutt (deputy chair), Prof David Matthews, Mrs Judith Neal; the Revd Sarah Parkin, the Revd Cliff Shanganya; Mr Paul Spray, Ms Dawn Wood.
- 50/2. The Conference appointed the Authorisations Committee:**
The Revd Andrew Charlesworth (Chair), Mrs Lorraine Darlow, the Revd Helen Jenkins, the Revd Jennifer Matthews and the Revd Sally Thornton
In attendance: the Revd Gillian Newton
- 50/3. The Conference appointed the following officers of the Conference Diaconal Committee:**
Recording Officer: Deacon Tracey J Hume
Reporting Officer: Deacon Gail Morgan
- 50/4. The Conference appointed the Faith and Order Committee:**
A senior member of the Connexional Team representing the Secretary of the Conference:
The Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler.
The Secretary of the Committee: The Revd Dr Mark Rowland.
The Revd Moses Agyam, Deacon Angie Allport, the Revd Jonny Bell, the Revd Yanyan Case, Ms Anna Clough, Mr Dudley Coates, the Revd Dr Graham Edwards, Prof Alan Gillies, the Revd Dr Kennedy Gondongwe, the Revd Dr Catrin Harland-Davies, the Revd Kevin Highfield, the Revd Dr Eleanor Jackson, the Revd Dr Clement Matarirano, the Revd Jo Rand, the Revd Neil Stubbens, the Revd Dr Martin Wellings (Chair), the Revd Dr Caroline Wickens, the Revd Ian Yates.
- 50/5. The Conference appointed the Law and Polity Committee:**
Mrs Joanne Anderton (Convener/ Secretary), Mr Simon Birks, the Revds James A Booth, Andrew Charlesworth, James A Cruddas, Jennifer M Dyer, Mrs Susan Eldridge, Mr David Gibson, the Revds Helen R Hollands, Kenneth Howcroft, Mrs Susan R Howdle, the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, Mrs Nwabueze Nwokolo, Miss Elizabeth Ovey, Mr Richard Price, Mr Thomas Pye, the Revd Keith A Reed, Professor Diane Rowland, the Revds Ian S Rutherford, Dr James N Tebbutt (Chair), E Adam Wells.
- 50/6. The Conference appointed the Nominations Committee:**
The Revd Thomas J Osborne (Chair), the Revd Bonni-Belle Pickard, Mr Nick Garrett, the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler (convener), Ms Cathryn Martin, Mr Brian Oakley, *two vacancies*
- 50/7. The Conference appointed the JDS Scrutiny Group:**
Ruby Beech, Bala Gnanapragasam, John Robinson
- 50/8. The Conference appointed the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee:**
Mrs Sarah Atwell-King, Mr Adrian Burton, Mr Keith Hickey (Chair), Mrs Susan M Mortimer, Mr Michael Rickard.
- 50/9. The Conference appointed the Safeguarding Committee:**
Judith Davey-Cole (Chair), Deacon Lorraine Brown, Mrs Carolyn Godfrey, the Revd John Hellyer, Mr David Jones, the Revd Susan McIvor, the Revd Nicholas Oborski, Ms Constantia

Pennie, Ms Tina Pokuaah, Mrs Sarah Simpkin, Mr Graham Snelling, Ms Jane Stacey, Mrs Georgina Tagoe, Ms Crystal Williams
In attendance: Mr Tim Carter, the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Mr Donald Urquhart

50/10. The Conference appointed the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation:

The Revds Dr Iain M Ballard, Nicola Briggs, Richard J Byass, Mark Carrick, Benjamin P Clowes, Dr Graham M Edwards, Dr Simon C Edwards, Mark P Hammond, Helen E Hickson, Catherine Hutton, Philip J Jackson, David Jebb, Naomi Kaiga, Saidu Kanu, Dr Elizabeth A Kent, Julie King, M Susan E Lawler, Farai Mapamula, Vindra Maraj-Ogden, Paul Mellor, Andrew C Moffoot, Charity Nzegwu, Gill Newton [SO 250(1)(i)], Mary Sachikonye, Christopher L A Sandy, Matt Sheard, Cleopas Sibanda, Vivienne G Smith, Tina F Swire, Etleva Walker, Bethany Willers

Deacons Melanie Beaven, Richard D Goldstraw, David Keegan, Jonathan Miller, Julie Morton, Suzanne Peat, Kerry R Scarlett, Sian M Street, Suzie Viana, Linda Watkin, Helen Webster, Jacqueline L Wright, Ruth Yorke,

Ms E Jane Allin, Ms Charlotte Ballard Scott, Mr Geoffrey Best, Ms Anne Browse, Ms Jenny Cheung, Ms Sharon Clutterbuck, Ms Paula Dawson, Ms Jo Henderson-Merrygold, Mrs Jane Lloyd, Mrs Catherine Roots, Ms Denise Tomlinson, Mr Dan Bishop [SO 250(1)(i)]

The Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order has the right to attend but not to vote.

50/11. The Conference appointed the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee:

- (i) no more than two representatives of oversight committees of training institutions: The Revd R Margaret K Mwilu, the Revd Mucharutya Chisvo
- (ii) three persons each of whom has recent and relevant experience of discerning vocation for candidates: The Revd Jackie Bellfield, Deacon Jenny Jones. Miss Marion Mear (Deputy Chair)
- (iii) three persons each of whom is a current or recent member of a district Probationers Committee: Mr Dave Kitchen, Mrs Carol Reeves, Mrs Denise Tomlinson
- (iv) one district Chair: The Revd Helen Kirk (Chair)
- (v) one recent ordinand in their third, fourth or fifth year of ministry: The Revd Fiona Weir
- (vi) two of the Team members responsible for presbyteral candidates, initial presbyteral training and presbyteral probationers: The Revd Gillian M Newton, Ms Katie Deadman-Vernall
- (vii) further deacons where necessary to ensure that the committee includes at least two, including: Deacon Jacqueline Esama-John
- (viii) further lay people where necessary to ensure that the committee includes at least two: Mrs Anne Baldwin
- (ix) further presbyters where necessary to ensure that the committee includes at least two: The Revd Donald Ker, the Revd Leigh A Maydew, the Revd Stephen E Robinson
- (x) the Warden or deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order: Deacon Michelle Legumi (Deputy Warden of the MDO)
- (xi) up to five further members, selected in collaboration with the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Committee, to ensure that leadership is offered regarding the concerns of justice, dignity and solidarity, having regard to the leadership also offered by other members of the committee;
- (xii) a further member to be the safeguarding adviser to the committee if no other member of the committee is able to act as the safeguarding adviser.

[The committee does not believe additional nominations are needed under (xi) or (xii)]

50/12. The Conference appointed the oversight tutors [in accordance with Standing Order 321(5)(b)]:

Where more than one oversight tutor is appointed for the same institution one shall be identified as having oversight responsibility. In the following list, that person is identified by an asterisk.

Queen's Foundation, Birmingham: the Revd Dr George Bailey, the Revd Sylvester Deigh, the Revd Dr Christine Dutton, *the Revd Dr Catrin Harland-Davies, Deacon Julie Hudson, the Revd Dr Nicola Price-Tebbutt, the Revd Dr Judith Rossall.

50/13. The Conference appointed the Stationing Committee:

- (i) Lay chair and lay deputy chair: Ms Jenny Jackson (chair) and Mr Chris Beckett
- (ii) The Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Conference: The Revds Dr Jonathan R Hustler and Michaela A Youngson
- (iii) Seven district Chairs and seven district Lay Stationing Representatives

South-East	<u>The Revd Dr Jonathan Dean</u>
	Mr Keith Norman
South-West	<u>The Revd Rachel Bending</u>
	Mr Chris Beckett
Wales/Midlands	<u>The Revd Andrew Charlesworth</u>
	Mrs Val Mayers
Yorkshire	<u>The Revd Vicky Atkins</u>
	<u>Dr Julia Branson</u>
East Midlands	<u>The Revd Angela J Long</u>
	Mrs Sue P Walters
North-West	<u>The Revd Dr James N Tebbutt</u>
	Mr Malcolm Aspey
North/Scotland	<u>The Revd Jona Sewell</u>
	Sue Marshall-Jennings
- (iv) No more than two Team members with responsibility for presbyteral and diaconal selection; and for the stationing of probationers: The Revd Gillian Newton
- (v) ~~I[deleted]~~
- (vi) ~~[deleted]~~
- (vii) The chair of the Stationing Advisory Committee: The Revd S Mark Slaney
- (viii) The Warden or deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order: Deacon Karen McBride
- (ix) The chair and lay member of the Diaconal Stationing Sub-committee: The Revd Dr Dan Haylett, Mr Steve Cooper
- (x) The chair of the group responsible on behalf of the Stationing Committee for overseeing the matching of particular presbyters to appointments: The Revd Jennifer A Impey
- (xi) The convener of the Stationing Action Group: The Revd Kerry Tankard

50/14. The Conference appointed the Methodist Independent Schools Trust

The Revd Stephen Burgess, Ian McCaig (Chair), Tim Emmett, Bernasia Halikowa, Stephen Holiday, John Jefferson, Henrietta Mbeah-Bankas, Lady Fiona Mynors, Adam Proctor, Simon Small, Mark Wakelin.

50/15. The Conference appointed the Forces Board

Cdr Mark Barton, the Revd Rachel Bending, the Revd Stephen Caddy, the Revd Mark Davidson, the Revd Kevin Highfield, Mr Philip Maltby, the Revd Alasdair Nicoll, the Revd Mark Noakes, the Revd Richard Smith, Mrs Sue Walters, Mr Robin Waugh, the Revd Dr Andrew Wood, the Revd Michaela Youngson.

50/16. The Conference appointed the panel for Connexional Discipline, Pastoral and Appeal Committees and persons with associated functions:

Connexional Complaints Officer: Professor Diane Rowland, the Revd James A Booth (deputy).

Chairs: Mr Stephen Allinson, Mr Graham Danbury, Mr Robert Gaitskell, Sir Alastair Norris, Miss Elizabeth Ovey.

Advocates: Mr Stephen Allinson, the Revd Jennifer M Dyer, Mr Adrian Turner, the Revd Stuart Wild.

Conveners: Discipline, Appeals and Pastoral: The Revd C Mary Austin, the Revd Andrew Cordy, Mr David Kendrew, Mr Chris Kitchin, Mrs Shelagh Morgan, the Revd Ian S Rutherford,

The Revds Derek A Aldridge, C Mary Austin, Peter E Barber, Inderjit S Bhogal, Neil A Bishop, Nick Blundell, Jill B Bowden, Kathleen M Bowe, Dr Stuart J Burgess, R Graham Carter, David Clowes, John A Cooke, K Hilary Cooke, Judy M Davies, Paul H Davis, Dr Valentin Dedji, Christine A Dybdahl, Jennifer M Dyer, Stuart Earl, Hazel M Forecast, Albert Gayle, Anne E Gibson, Dr Barbara C Glasson, Yvonne Haye, John Hellyer, David A Haslam, Sonia M Hicks, Brian R Hoare, Kenneth G Howcroft, Jimione Kaci, Jacob Kaiga, Prof Teddy Kalongo, Saidu Kanu, Ermal Kirby, Christina Le Moignan, Helen R Hollands, Julie A Lunn, Charity Madenyika, Paul Martin, Loraine N Mellor, William R Morrey, Siperire Mugadzaweta, Dr Paul Nzacahayo, Nicholas A Oborski, Hayford Ofori-Attah, R Stephen Penrose, Dr David W Perry, Stephen J Poxon, Dr Kathleen M Richardson, Dr Neil G Richardson, J Roger Roberts, John D Robinson, Ian S Rutherford, Calvin T Samuel, D Paul C Smith, Ian Souter, Kenneth Stokes, Thomas J Stuckey, Richard J Teal, G Jeff Thomas, Graham Thompson, Alison Tomlin, Martin H Turner, Dr Mark H Wakelin, C Norman R Wallwork, Dr Roger L Walton, Peter Whittaker, Julia M Wiktorska, Sharon Willimott, Ian Yates.

Deacons Kate Barrett, Sue Culver, Myrtle Poxon, Rowland H Wilkinson.

Mrs Jane Allison, Mr Donald B Appleyard, Mrs E Jill Baker, Dr B Jill Barber, Mr John A Bell, Mr Simon Birks, Mrs Stella Bristow, Mrs Teresa Broadbent, Mr Dudley Coates, Mr John Connor, Mr Colin Cradock, Mr Andrew Cross, Ms Gillian M Dascombe, Mr Brian Davies, Mr Peter Dawe, Mrs Barbara Easton, Mr Balachandren M Gnanapragasam, Prof Peter Howdle, Mr David Kendrew, Mr Michael P King, Mrs Sophie Kumi, Ms Rachel J Lampard, Prof Clive Marsh, Dr Daleep S Mukarji, Mrs Nwabueze Nwokolo, Mrs Margaret Parker, Mrs Ruth Pickles, Mr Timothy Ratcliffe, Mrs Jean Schroeder, Mr Stephen Schroeder, Dr Alan Thomson, Mr Brian Thornton, Mrs Rosemary Wass, Mr Ivan Weekes.

50/17. The Conference appointed the Connexional Panel on Deliverance Ministry:

Vacant (Chair), the Revd Robert Birnie, Ms Sarah Chadwick, the Revd Dr Neil Cockling, the Revd William Davis, the Revd Dawn Saunders.

50/18. The Conference appointed the Methodist Diaconal Order Support and Advisory Group:

Bala Gnanapragasam (Chair), the Revd Adrian Burdon, the Revd Cathy Gales, Ms Caroline Hutchings, Deacon Lemia Nkwelah, Ms Omobolaji Nzekwe, *a vacancy*

50/19. The Conference appointed the panel for Connexional Complaints Teams:

The Revds Timothy J Bradshaw, Hilary Cheng, Molly Chitokwindo, Edson Dube, Jacquie P Evans, Maree Farrimond, Andrew F Goodhead, Oluyemisi Jaiyesimi, David Jebb, Christopher Jones,

Saidu Kanu, Simon H Leigh, Charity Madenyika, Farai Mapamula, R Margaret K Mwailu, Nicholas A Oborski, Stephen Penrose, David M Shaw (A), Kate Strange, Ruth E Whittard, Stuart Wild, Linda M Woollacott, Mmasape Zihle.

Deacons Myrtle Poxon, Stephen F Roe.

Ms Trudi Awuku, Miss Joan Ball, Mr Malcolm Bell, Ms Charlotte Boaitey, Mr David M Chandler, Mr Leo Cheng, Mr Peter Dawe, Mrs Eve DeGraft, Mr Daniel Djaba, Mr David Kendrew, Mr Chris Kitchin, Miss Kathryn Larrad, Mr David Laycock, Ms Betty Maynard, Mrs Nwabueze Nwokolo, Mrs Jean Schroeder, Mr John Scott

50/20. The Conference noted that the trustees of Action for Children for the current year are:

Sarika Patel (Chair), Dawn Warwick (Vice-Chair), Mike Long, Enda Johnson, Steve Bell, Peter Curran, Lynne Atkin, Leslie Evans, Charles Geekie, Navin Kaul.

50/21. The Conference appointed the Trustees of Epworth Old Rectory:

The Revd Vicky Atkinson, Dr Tom Dobson, Mrs Sarah Friswell (Chair), Professor William Gibson, the Revd Stuart Gunson, the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, the Revd Angela Long, Mr John Purdy (Secretary), Mrs Susan Storey, the Revd Paul Wilson, Mrs Maggie Woods

World Methodist Council Trustees:

The Revd Dr Reynaldo Ferreira Leao Neto, Ms Shayla Jordan, the Revd Dr Joe Kenston, Mrs Gillian Kingston, Mr Joshua Rathnam, Bishop Teresa Snorton

50/22. The Conference appointed the following officers of the 2026 Conference:

Representative Session

Journal Secretary: Martin Harker

Record Secretary: The Revd Rosemarie E G Clarke

Convener of the Memorials Committee: Gill Dascombe

Presbyteral Session

Record Secretary: The Revd Rosemarie E G Clarke

Assistant Record Secretary: The Revd Leigh A Maydew

50/23. The Conference appointed the panel for the nomination of District Chairs:

The Revds Anne E Brown, Richard J Byass, William Davis, David P Easton, John Hellyer, Christine Jones, Nichola G Jones, Charity D Madenyika, Paul Nzacahayo, Keith A Reed, Daniel P Reed, D Paul C Smith, Graham Thompson, Martin H Turner, Dr Martin Wellings.

Deacons Melanie Beaven, Josephine F A Critchley, David C Hunt, Suzie Viana.

Ms Jane Allin, Ms Janet Arthur, Mrs Sue Chastney, Ms Evelyn de Graft, Prof Peter D Howdle, Miss Marion Mear, Miss Elizabeth Ovey, Mr Malcolm Pearson, Mr Noel Rajaratnam, Mrs Caroline Stead, Mrs Rosemary Wass, Mrs Ruth Wilton, Mrs Helen Woodall, Mr Rob Wylie with the Secretary of the Conference as convener.

50/24. The Conference appointed representatives to ecumenical bodies as follows:

- (a) *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI): Annual General Meeting*
Mr Bala Gnanapragasam
- (b) *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland: Senior Representatives' Forum:*
Mr Bala Gnanapragasam; the Revd Steven R M Cooper
- (c) *Churches Together in England (CTE): Enabling Group*
The Revd Dr David M Chapman, the Revd Steven R M Cooper
- (d) *Scottish Christian Forum (formerly Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS)): Members' Meeting:* The Revd S Mark Slaney; the Revd A James Patron Bell
- (e) *Scottish Christian Forum – Scottish Church Leaders Forum:*
The Revd Mark Slaney
- (f) *Scottish Christian Forum – Scottish Ecumenical Officers Forum:*
The Revd A James Patron Bell
- (g) *Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales): Enabling Group*
The Revd Dr Jennifer A Hurd
Proxies: The Revds Dr Ian D Morris, Phillip A Poynor

50/25. The Conference elected the following persons to the Central Finance Board for a period of one year from 1 September 2025:

Dr Keith Aldred, Jennie Austin, Ruby Beech, Julian Blakemore, Graham Boyd, Julian De Garis Parker, Revd Anne Ellis, Ashley France, Bala Gnanapragasam, Anne Goodman, Sue Haworth, Peter Hobbs, Revd Dr Peter Howson, David James, Nick Moore, the Revd Leslie Newton, Colin Pearson, the Revd Jennifer Potter, Martin Rees, John Sandford, Nicola Sivori, Andrew Slim, the Revd Eleanor Smith, the Revd Timothy Swindell, Matthew Tattersall, the Revd Graham Thompson, Morwenna Williams

50/26. The Conference appointed the Managing Trustees of the Conference Property at Central Hall Westminster:

The Revd Paul Regan (Chair), the Revd Anthony D Miles (Superintendent, London Westminster – ex officio), the Revd Dr Jonathan Dean (Chair of the London District – ex officio), Mr Nevil Tomlinson (Treasurer to the Trustees), Mr Bala Gnanapragasam (Secretary to the Trustees), Mrs Ama Ackah-Yensu, Mrs Judith Mitchell, Mr John Robinson

- 50/27. The Conference appointed the following trustees of John Wesley's New Room and Charles Wesley's House, Bristol:**
- Prof Clifford Friend (Chair), Ms Jane Allin, the Revd Ivan Fowler, Mr Geoffrey Gollop OBE (Treasurer), the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler (ex-officio), Mrs Linda Jones (secretary), the Revd A Ward Jones, the Revd Teddy Kalongo (ex-officio), the Revd Sharon Lovelock, Mr Michael Rose, the Revd Marcus Torchon (ex-officio), the Revd David Weeks, the Revd Martin Wellings.
- 50/28. The Conference appointed the Revd Dr Kennedy Gondongwe as a trustee of the Peake Trust.**
- 50/29. The Conference appointed Mrs Alison Mitchell and Mrs Rebecca Gough as trustees of the Epworth Education Trust.**
- 50/30. The Conference reappointed Dr Christopher Stephens as a trustee of the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust from August 2025 until August 2028.**
- 50/31. The Conference reappointed Steve Myers as a trustee of the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust from August 2025 until August 2031.**
- 50/32. Pursuant to SO 291, the Conference appointed the connexional panel for review groups: the Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson, Janet Arthur, the Revd Paul Booth, Mark Braithwaite, the Revd Deborah Caulk, Peter Gregson, the Revd Richard Hall, Carolyn Hothersall, the Revd Elaine Lindridge, the Revd Charity Madenyika, Val Mayers, Deacon Lemia Nkwelah, Keith Norman, Hellen Okello, Deacon Andy Packer, the Revd Romeo Pedro, the Revd Julian Pursehouse, the Revd Dr Jonathan Pye, Deacon Ruth Richey, Sandie Smith, the Revd Howard J Stringer, the Revd Timothy A Swindell, the Revd Caroline Weaver.**
- 50/33. The Conference delegates to the Connexional Council the making of any outstanding appointments required to be made by the Conference of 2025 and directs that any such appointments be reported to the Conference of 2026.**

Reasoned Statements

Sheryl Anderson	is a supernumerary minister who most recently served as the Chair of the Liverpool District. In the past, among other things, she has served on the Methodist Council, was part of working group reviewing the Complaints Process, and was involved in the pilot project which contributed to the connexional supervision policy. In retirement she continues to be active as a supervisor and is part of the connexional training team.
Janet Arthur	has worked as HR and Organisational Development specialist at senior and executive level for many years. She is currently an Organisational Development and Change Management Consultant, as well as providing advice on complex and senior level HR issues on a consultancy basis. Janet was a member of the Strategy and Resources Committee (where she chaired the Pay and Grading Sub-Committee) and the Connexional Allowances Committee. She is a member of both the London District and Connexional Chairs' Nomination Committees and acts as Lay Employment Secretary for the London District.
Vicky Atkins	designated as Chair of the Sheffield District, and nominated to represent the Yorkshire region.
Rachel Bending	Chair of the Southampton District, and nominated to represent the South West region.
Chris Beckett	member of the Stationing Committee, as lay stationing representative representing the South West region. He is nominated as lay deputy chair of the Stationing Committee.

Dan Bishop	Director of Ministry Development in the Connexional Team.
Paul Booth	is a supernumerary minister having been a Superintendent in his last station. Paul is currently very involved in supervision as a supervisor as well as serving as a trainer. Paul has previously served on the Methodist Council and as a convener for a Connexional Reconciliation Group. Prior to ministry Paul gained experience in training and people management.
Mark Braithwaite	has been a member of the Methodist Church for 40 years. Prior to his retirement from Police Service he held the post of Detective Chief Superintendent – Head of Crime with Cleveland Police a post that included the Protecting Vulnerable People Portfolio. Mark has served on the Methodist Council; he continues to Chair the Regional Safeguarding Group (Newcastle & Darlington Districts); he is the Circuit Safeguarding Officer for the Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Circuit and is active in his local church as a Church Council member, property steward and Safeguarding local point of contact.
Julia Branson	Lay Stationing Representative for the Yorkshire North and East District, and nominated to represent the Yorkshire region.
Deborah Caulk	is a presbyter stationed in the Epworth, Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Circuit. She previously served on the Methodist Council as East Anglia District representative, and served on the Model Trust 20 review committee, East Anglia District Policy Committee, and Regional Probationers Committee. She is a connexionally appointed governor for the Queen's Foundation.
Andrew Charlesworth	Chair of Wales Synod Cymru, and nominated to represent the Wales/West Midlands region.
Mucharutya Chisvo	Superintendent of the Birmingham West and Oldbury Circuit. Brings a passion to offer strategic thinking in areas such as risk assessment and relationships with communities in the wider Connexion, along with wide experience of dealing with social and political issues with bodies outside the Church both in the UK and in Zimbabwe. His ministry has included giving especially careful support and guidance to the minister from an overseas conference in the Circuit. He brings empathy, pastoral insight and connexional perspective to serve well on MCPOC.
Rosemarie Clarke	is a presbyter in the West Sussex (Coast and Downs) Circuit and is the Assistant Record Secretary for the Presbyteral Session.
Dudley Coates	a former Vice-President of the Conference with wide experience of Methodist committees and working groups, including being involved in the creation of <i>The Methodist Worship Book</i> and chairing a commission on the Conference which reported in 1996. He is a local preacher in the Salisbury Circuit and holds MAs in both theology and liturgy.
Gill Dascombe	was Vice-President of the Conference 2014-2015, and has experience of serving on connexional committees.
Katie Deadman-Vernall	is Director of Ministry Learning in the Connexional Team
Tom Dobson	a Research Fellow with the Westminster Oxford Research Network, serving on the Methodist Church's Archives and Records Advisory Group, having previously worked as the 'Collections, Digitisation, and Research Officer' at the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History. His PhD, awarded by Oxford Brookes University in 2024, explored the history of Westminster College and the development of Methodist teacher training in the 20th century.

Barbara Easton	appointed by the Connexional Council as Chair of the Ministries Committee from September 2025. Connexional Director of Education from 2014, prior to which Barbara Easton was an RE teacher, inclusion and interfaith specialist, safeguarding lead and secondary head teacher in the West Midlands. She went on to lead the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust, and served as Vice-President of the Methodist Conference for 2021/22. Barbara is a local preacher and is currently Area President of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.
Reynaldo Leão Neto	General Secretary of the World Methodist Council. He served previously in the Connexional Team. From 2011-2018, he was the superintendent minister of the Harlesden Circuit.
Bala Gnanapragasam	Vice-President 2018-19, is an experienced chair and has worked in a range of areas in the life of the Church, most recently as chair of the Nominations Committee. Bala greatly values and is passionate about the work of the MDO.
Alan Gillies	a Professor of Healthcare Management and a local preacher. He has published extensively and has particular expertise in leadership, management and education, including serving as Chair of Governors for a Methodist-Anglican Primary School. In theological terms, he has engaged in research on the relation of science and theology and has interests in practical theology, liberation theology and the interaction between ethics, philosophy and theology.
Kennedy Gondongwe	is stationed in the Oldham Circuit. He has a PhD in Christian History from the University of KwaZulu Natal and has previously served as Mission Director of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, Academic Dean of United Theological in Zimbabwe and as Principal of United Theological College. Kennedy Gondongwe is a holder of a Law Degree and therefore was a registered Legal practitioner in Zimbabwe. His research interests includes the interaction of faith and law and he brings his wide experience of theological education.
Rebecca Gough	has been in education for 21 years and has been Headteacher at Wood Fold Primary School in Standish, Wigan for 10 years. In her governor roles Rebecca is involved in reviewing and reflecting on information shared and providing challenge to the Headteachers to enable them to reflect on actions taken and the rationale for these. Rebecca is also an Ofsted Team Inspector which provides a strong insight into the role of Ofsted and their framework.
Peter Gregson	has been a Church Steward and a Circuit Steward. He has been a member of the Probationers' Committee for both the former Cumbria District and the North West England District. Peter was a member of the Regional Review Group which worked to bring together five Districts into the new North West England District. Now happily retired, he recently stepped down as the Chair of Trustees of a charity dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable children and families in Uganda, and is a Member of a local Multi Academy Trust.
Richard Hall	served as Superintendent in the Brigg Circuit, Ambleside and Windermere Circuit, Penrith Circuit and, in his final appointment, as District Chair in the Isle of Man. Across these appointments Richard has held various district offices including Probationers' Secretary, Ecumenical Officer and Synod Secretary. Richard was granted permission to sit down in 2021.
Martin Harker	is the Record Secretary for the Representative Session and brings experience as convener of the Memorials Committee.
Tom Hart	Youth President 2023-2024. Brings experience of connexional bodies and an understanding of the life of the Connexional Team and o the mission of the

Church in the present age. He is committed to principles of JDS and desires to offer spiritual leadership and theological thinking.

Dan Haylett	Chair of the South West Peninsula District, and nominated as Chair of the Diaconal Stationing Subcommittee.
Stephen Holliday	an education specialist with extensive experience as a Head Teacher, Advisor, and Independent Schools Reporting Inspector. Member of the Methodist Church and Lay Preacher. Stephen is a serving Trustee and currently in his second term of office.
John Jefferson	an active member of the Methodist Church, having served in various roles within Local Churches and Circuits. He is a Trustee and Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee for the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). He also serves as Board Chair and Chair of the Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee for Methodist Insurance PLC. John is a serving MIST Nominated Trustee and currently in his first term of office.
Shayla Jordan	a doctoral candidate in Theology at Villanova University, USA, focusing on Christian Ethics and Systematic Theology. She teaches undergraduates at Villanova, serves as a delegate to the World Methodist Council, and is a certified elder candidate in the UMC.
Carolyn Hothersall	has over 30 years teaching experience, now working as a circuit Lay Worker. She is an active member of the Methodist Church having served in multiple roles within Church, Circuit and District. She is a Local Preacher, School Governor, District Trustee and Synod Secretary.
Joseph Kenaston	currently serving at Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC, having previously served as Southern District Superintendent and at Lewisburg UMC; Wayside UMC; as well as being Associate Pastor at Christ Church UM. He spent 1984 – 1987 in Stretford-Urmston Methodist Circuit, Manchester. His interests include history: Study of the Wesleys and the Methodist movement in Britain and the United States.
Julie King	a presbyter ordained in 2022, Julie is serving in the Harrow and Hillingdon Circuit. She brings experience of chairing Churches Together groups and as a community based Lay Pastor before she candidate.
Gillian Kingston	a local preacher in the Methodist Church in Ireland and a former Lay Leader of that Conference. A teacher by profession, she was a chaplain at University College, Dublin, for ten years. She has been a member of the European Methodist Council and was Vice President of the World Methodist Council from 2014 until 2024. She served on the Methodist/Roman Catholic International Commission for twenty years and has a life-long involvement in things ecumenical, both in Ireland and further afield.
Elaine Lindridge	is a presbyter in the Newcastle upon Tyne District. She oversees the work of the Mother House which is the District New Places for New People project.
Charity Madenyika	is a presbyter in the Newham Circuit. She is a certified reconciliation and mediation practitioner, accredited by Scottish Mediation, and an accredited interpersonal conflict practitioner. A registered BACP therapist, she brings over 16 years' experience supporting individuals with mental health and relationship issues. Charity is a reflective supervisor within the church. She has worked extensively with people facing challenges such as substance misuse, grief, and bereavement.
Leigh Maydew	is a presbyter in the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit and is a member of the Conference Business Committee.

Val Mayers	served for four years on the Methodist Council as District representative and is currently a member of the Stationing Committee.
Henrietta Mbeah-Bankas	a health care professional with over twenty years' experience in the mental health and nursing fields. Experience in lecturing on Culture and Diversity Experience in commissioning higher educational resources via technology. Member of the Methodist Church. Henrietta is a serving Trustee and currently in her first term of office.
Alison Mitchell	is a member of Rowlands Methodist Church. She has experience of teaching the full primary range including management of two school based nurseries, EYFS is her specialism and passion. She has extensive governance experience through various roles in governance during her teaching and advisory career.
Steve Myers	has extensive experience as a former school Governor and Chair of Governors at a founding Methodist school within the Wesley Trust and subsequently the Epworth Education Trust. Steve is also a Trustee of the Epworth Education Trust and has served one term of office as a MAST Trustee. Steve presently works in Local Government and also has prior experience in financial services management.
Judith Neal	Lay worker and local preacher in the Derby Circuit. Brings experience as a Justice of the Peace and a member of the Health Authority Research Ethics Committee, and an ability to think strategically and theologically.
Gillian Newton	appointed as the Ministerial Coordinator for Oversight of Ordained Ministries in the Connexional Team.
Lemia Nkwelah	is currently stationed in Birmingham. Lemia has previously served in the Ealing Trinity Circuit of the London District and in North Norfolk Circuit of the East Anglia District. Lemia has also served on the London District Candidating Committee, in the Religious Order Advisory Committee (ROAC), as the Area Group Facilitator East Anglia MDO Area Group, and as the Conference Worship Coordinator. Lemia is a member of the Ministries Committee, the Stationing Advisory Committee and the MDO Support and Advisory Group.
Keith Norman	is a retired deputy head teacher. He is a Worship Leader and part of the leadership team of his local church in Essex. Having been deputy chair of Methodist Independent School Trust and, until recently the Connexional Ministries Committee, he is the Lay Stationing Representative for the Beds, Essex & Herts District and member of the Stationing Committee.
Nick Oborski	superintendent of the Hants-Surrey Border Circuit and Synod Secretary for the South East District. He serves as chair for Complaints Panels and therefore has the transferable skill set to chair Discipline and Appeal Committees. He is a member of the Safeguarding Committee which provides useful expertise.
Hellen Okello	is currently a member of the Northampton District Executive and the Northampton Circuit Leadership Team. She has previously served as the Northampton District representative to the Methodist Council and has held stewardship roles at her local church and circuit. Hellen is currently serving as a Trustee for a UK charity working to promote access to education for children in Kenya. Her experiences serving in these roles will enable her to contribute to the tasks of the panel.
Thomas J Osborne	is Superintendent of the Tendring Circuit and he has been serving as a member of the Nominations Committee since December 2024. Prior to candidating for ministry, Mr Osborne worked in recruitment and HR in the charity and Further Education sectors.

Andy Packer	is stationed in the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit where I have served for five years and I am due to start a two year extension. Previously I have served in Telford, Bristol, Peterborough and Thames Valley. He have been in ministry for thirty one years and have experienced a wide variety of settings and demands. Andy has been involved with Candidates and Probationers both at District and Connexional level, the Methodist Diaconal Order's, Religious Order Advisory Committee, Ministerial Candidates Appeal Committee and some interview panels for significant roles within the Connexion. He currently serves on the Connexional Ministries Committee.
Romeo Pedro	is passionate about bringing marginal voices into connexional conversations. He is a Black Minister of multiple mixed ethnic background. Romeo has served the church as a local minister, superintendent minister, deputy district chair, on various connexional committees, and on Methodist Council.
Bonni-Belle Pickard	a presbyter in the British Methodist Church since 2001. She has been active at circuit, district, and connexional levels, serving as a Superintendent, on District Councils, on the Connexional EDI committee and the Presbyteral Session Conference Business Committee. She developed a Nominations Committee protocol for local churches and circuits, which has been presented to the Superintendents' Conference and used in many circuits.
Julian Pursehouse	is serving as a presbyter in the Aire and Calder Circuit in the Yorkshire West District. He was Chair of the East Anglia District from 2014 - 2024. He is a qualified reflective supervisor and spiritual director and has thirty years' experience of pastoral ministry. He has extensive experience of connexional committees, including the Law and Polity Committee, the Stationing Matching Group and the Stationing Committee, and has also contributed to the work of various working groups including, the Candidating Review Group and the Stationing Review Group. He currently chairs the Editorial Board of the Holiness Journal at Wesley House Cambridge and holds a doctorate in Wesleyan Theology.
Jonathan Pye	is a supernumerary minister in the Lindisfarne Circuit. Up until 2024 he was Chair of the Bristol District of the Methodist Church and is currently co-chair of the Methodist-Anglican Panel for Unity in Mission (MAPUM) and a member of the Life in Covenant (LiC) Group. He was formerly Principal of Wesley College, Bristol and has served on several Connexional and Ecumenical Committees and Working Parties, including the Faith and Order Committee, the Faith and Order Executive and the Enabling Group of Churches Together in England. He is a Governor of the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education.
Joshua Rathnam	a layman from India. He studied at Wesley School & College in Hyderabad. During his college days, he entered politics as student leader and was actively involved in Youth for Christ Ministry. He served as Secretary of The Minority Department of the ruling political party and as the Special Executive Officer, Government of Maharashtra. He is Director of an Education Institute and serves on the Board of Converge South Asia; Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, India Board; Biblica, India and is a Mission Council Member EMS Germany. He was on the Strategic Planning and Nominations Committees of the World Methodist Council and is currently its Vice-President.
Ruth Richey	has 24 years of itinerant service as a deacon within the Methodist Church currently serving as the Mission Area Lead in the South West Peninsula District. Ruth has served on many and varied committees and has previously held the role of Deputy Warden of the MDO. Ruth recognises the importance of this work in upholding the values of justice, accountability, and grace within our shared life and is committed to engaging with humility and integrity, and to contributing constructively to the panel's vital responsibilities.

Stephen Robinson	Deputy Chair of the Southampton District. He has previous experience on the Connexional Candidates Committee. From 2012-2018 he served as a Panel member and then from 2018 to 2024 he served as a Panel Chair. This work has also included the discernment process of ministers applying to come to the Methodist Church in Britain from overseas and ministers who wanted to transfer from other denominations.
Jonathan Sewell	Chair of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne District and nominated to represent the North/Scotland region.
Cliff Shanganya	Presbyter stationed in the Thames Valley circuit, with experience of working in different cultural contexts. Brings a commitment to JDS, an appreciation of shared discernment through working collaboratively, extensive experience as a charity trustee, and a commitment to social justice as a major part of the Church's calling.
Matt Sheard	a presbyter ordained in 2021 and currently serving in the Bede Circuit in the Newcastle District. He has experience in interviewing, chaplaincy, working under pressure and various forms of discernment. He has skills of critical thinking, appropriate challenge, theological reflection and collaboration.
Mark Slaney	is Chair of the Scotland and Shetland Districts.
Sandie Smith	has been involved in many parts of the Methodist Church from communion steward, Church Council Secretary, Church Treasurer, Circuit Treasurer, CLT member, District Council trustee, District Council Secretary, District Representative on Methodist Council, member of Oversight and Trusteeship Task Group. Outside of her church activities she is an accountant with her own practice.
Teresa Snorton	the Ecumenical and Program Development Officer for the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. She previously served as Presiding Bishop of the CME Districts that include Alabama, Florida and ten countries in East Africa. She is the Chair of the Board of Directors of Friendship Press, the publishing arm of the National Council of Churches in the USA (NCC). She is the immediate past Chair of the Governing Board of NCC. She is active in Churches Uniting In Christ, the Pan-Methodist Commission, the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, the World Methodist Council, and the World Council of Churches.
Christopher Stephens	Head of Southlands College, the Methodist college of the University of Roehampton. For a number of years, Christopher led the Research and Statistics team at Methodist Church House, moving from there to Southlands College in 2011. At Southlands, alongside holding a senior role within the university, Christopher established the Susanna Wesley Foundation, acting as its Director until 2018.
Howard Stringer	has served in circuit ministry for 26 years as a presbyter. He has exercised a leadership role for 15 of those years as a superintendent, and currently also as deputy chair. He has offered encouragement, discernment and constructive criticism on district candidates and probationers committees. He has a strong sense of vocation to the work of a preacher and pastor. He cherishes his place in the Church which has nurtured him and developed his understanding of collaborative and relational ordained ministry.
Tim Swindell	was a Council member of the Central Finance Board, Non-executive director of Epworth Investment Management and Methodist International Centre (The Wesley hotel). Connexional Treasurer 2015-23. A Chartered Accountant with a professional career in insurance, education and hospitality both before and after ordination. Extensive Board and Trustee experience.

Kerry Tankard	is Chair of the Yorkshire West District.
Caroline Weaver	is a presbyter with 25+ years' experience of circuit ministry alongside Prison Chaplaincy. Caroline's experience includes many years as District Candidates Secretary, mentoring and supervising Ministers, serving on MCPOC where she leads on mental health issues, including the impact of trauma and bereavement and serving on the Ministries' Committee. Caroline has been involved in the leading of retreats for Ministers in their Early Years and also Ministers having served 28-30 years in ministry. She also serves as Assistant Synod Secretary and has recently been nominated as a Local Resolution Officer for the district.
Fiona Weir	a presbyter currently stationed in Durham and Deerness Valley circuit who was ordained in 2024. She has learned to navigate the challenges of bringing up neurodivergent children alongside the demands of ministry. MCPOC have a policy that one of their members is always a recent ordinand and Fiona is nominated to fulfil this role.
Bethany Willers	a presbyter ordained in 2015 in the United Methodist Church, Bethany transferred to ministry in the Methodist Church in Britain in 2020, firstly as 'Recognised and Regarded'. She was received into full connexion in 2024. Bethany currently serves in the Newport and Lower Wye circuit. Having been through the transfer processes recently, she has an insight into the work of the committee and experience of ministerial formation from beyond the British context.