

1/1 The Conference in its Presbyteral Session assembled in Leeds at 14.15, The Revd Gillian M Newton, the President of the Conference, in the Chair.

1/2 **HOLY COMMUNION**

The Conference shared in a service of Holy Communion, during which The Revd Ruth M Gee, Past President of the Conference, preached.

1/3 The Conference adjourned at 15.28.

1/4 The Conference reassembled at 16.15.

1/5 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE**

The Conference adopted the membership of this Session of the Conference, being those presbyters who are listed in the Agenda (pp 737-742) as members of the Representative Session, with any substitutions duly made, together with the officers of this session appointed by the last Conference, associate members, and those presbyters listed in the Agenda (p 743) who have received the permission of their Synods or, where appropriate, the President to attend this Session by their own arrangement, with the following notes, substitutions and corrections:

Conference Secretariat and other Officers

11 The Revd Catherine Dixon is unable to attend the Conference

Wales Synod Cymru

66 The Revd Janet Park is unable to attend the Presbyteral Session of the Conference

Bolton and Rochdale

80 The Revd Faith Nyota *vice* The Revd Wilfred W Robinson

PRESBYTERS ATTENDING THE PRESBYTERAL SESSION UNDER THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS

deleting The Revd Dr Valentin Dedji

deleting The Revd Pauline M Salter

adding The Revd Wendy Kilworth-Mason

deleting The Revd Rosemarie E G Clarke, but noting that as the Assistant Record Secretary of the Presbyteral Session of the Conference, Ms Clarke is a full member of the Session by virtue of Clause 14(2)(iv) of the Deed of Union and Standing Order 101(3)

1/6 **LETTERS**

The Conference directed that letters of greeting be sent to presbyters with more than 70 years of service:

The Revd Trevor S Bates (1953)

The Revd W Graeme Butler (1954)

The Revd Joseph F Collinson (1951)

The Revd John H S Crossley (1951)
 The Revd Kenneth Cupit (1954)
 The Revd Ralph E Fennell (1953)
 The Revd Harry W Gillespie (1949)
 The Revd Stephen J Grieves-Smith (1952)
 The Revd Antony M Hearle (1947)
 The Revd Ivan R Homer (1954)
 The Revd Peter G Jarvis (1951)
 The Revd Rowland G Joiner (1954)
 The Revd Roy Kilner (1953)
 The Revd George W S Knowles (1949)
 The Revd Frederick G J Manuell (1954)
 The Revd John L Mitchell (1952)
 The Revd Dr Albert W Mosley (1948)
 The Revd J Clive Pugh (1953)
 The Revd Eric J Renouf (1954)
 The Revd Colin G Rowe (1951)
 The Revd Frank W Smith (1953)
 The Revd John E Stanfield (1948)
 The Revd Alan M Thompson (1954)
 The Revd Dr John J Vincent (1953)
 The Revd E Raymond Watker (1954)

1/7 **HOURS OF SESSION**

The Conference agreed that these should be 14.15-15.45 and 16.15-18.30 on Thursday, 27 June; 09.15-10.45, 11.15-12.15, 12.30-13.00, 14.15-16.15 and 16.45-18.30 on Friday, 28 June.

1/8 **APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS**

The Conference appointed the Scrutineers as follows:

The Revd R Margaret K Mwilu (Chief Scrutineer)	The Revd Leigh A Maydew
The Revd Iris R Bray	The Revd Stephen J Radford
The Revd Julie Hassall	The Revd Julia Skitt
	The Revd Luke G S Smith

1/9 **APPOINTMENT OF ATTESTORS**

The Revds Calvin Cheung and Andrew C Moffoot were appointed to attest the 'written portion' of the Daily Record of the Presbyteral Session.

1/10 **4. REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERAL SESSION BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

The Conference adopted Resolution 4/1.

1/11 **5. CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS**

1/11/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 5/3 in the form:

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.

1/11/2 The Conference adopted Resolutions 5/4, 5/5 and 5/6.

- 1/12 The President of the Conference facilitated a discussion on the theme ***Doing Things Right or Doing the Right Thing?*** in which The Revds Etleva Walker, Andrew C Moffoot, Julia Skitt and Stephen J Charman made contributions.
- 1/13 The Conference shared in worship, and adjourned at 18.31.

- 2/1 The Conference assembled at 9.15, and shared in worship.
- 2/2 **PASTORAL ADDRESS**
The President addressed the Conference.
- 2/3 The Conference adjourned at 10.40.
- 2/4 The Conference reassembled at 11.15.
- 2/5 The Conference engaged in discussion of **Agenda item 32. Review of Part 11 of Standing Orders.**
- 2/6 **OBITUARIES**

The Conference adopted the Obituaries as printed and circulated to the Conference, and the Obituaries below,

for 'Lionel Edward Osborn' reading 'Lionel Edwin Osborn',

and directing that if, after checks have been carried out in the Conference library, it is necessary to correct inaccuracies in these Obituaries, the Secretary of the Conference be authorised to make such corrections before the Obituaries are published in the Minutes of the Conference.

Cesar Anibal Guidi: Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 28 May 1944, and spent the first twenty-three years of his life there. After completing secondary education, Cesar entered the Faculty of Theology in Buenos Aires. From there he decided to become a volunteer for the World Council of Churches and was sent to Sicily for a year where he worked in a children's home in Palermo. It was with the 'Italian Team' and their regular retreats that he met Gill. In 1970 Cesar and Gill were married in Gill's home town of Harrow, and began their life together. The next year they were able to make their way to Argentina by ship, taking as many belongings as they were allowed. Cesar's first ministerial appointment was in Patagonia where he worked amongst the Welsh community. He was then moved a thousand miles north to minister to a small church community near the River de la Plata. When their first son Pablo was born the new family decided to travel back to England to visit Gill's relatives. It was about this time that the military government was in power in Argentina and things were very unsettled. Cesar decided to stay in England and spent several years working in non-church jobs. Their second son Robert was born in 1975. In 1982 Cesar applied to Wesley College to complete his ministerial training. He served in the following Circuits: Bristol (Frome Valley), Oxford, Newquay, Perranporth and St. Agnes, and Watford. He retired to Amersham but eventually moved with Gill to Ormskirk to live near their oldest son, Pablo. In his retirement amongst his hobbies he enjoyed singing with the local community choir, cooking and running the local U3A Philosophy Group. He was much missed by family in the UK and in Argentina with whom he kept close contact. An Argentinian hymn was sung at his funeral: "Heaven is singing for joy Hallelujah, for in your life and mine is shining the love of our God". Cesar died on 27 February 2024 in the eightieth year of his age and the forty-third year of his presbyteral ministry.

Martin Howard Wray: Born in Halifax on 21 July 1946. His father died when he was young and his mother and aunt helped to bring him up. He went to catering college and subsequently worked in the kitchens at Leeds University, and pubs in the Yorkshire Dales. His uncle Tom was a Methodist local preacher and Martin followed in his footsteps, eventually candidating for the ministry and, after acceptance, being sent for training at Wesley College, Bristol. Forming part of his studies was a period of two years at The Methodist Theological School in Delaware, Ohio with a placement in a local church there. Martin served in the following Circuits: Tonbridge, Grays, Otley and Aireborough, Middlewich, Chorley, where he was superintendent minister, and Bolton. In 1998 he was given permission by the Methodist Conference to move into ministry in the sectors, giving him the freedom to develop his interest in spiritual direction, particularly drawing on the insights of St Teresa of Avila and St Ignatius Loyola. In 2010 Martin was invited to give an ecumenical perspective of St Teresa in a lecture to the International Teresian Conference in Avila, Spain. More locally, this next part of his ministry led to significant involvement at the Tabor Retreat Centre in Preston and Loyola Hall, Rainhill, Merseyside. Those post-1998 years opened a door, literally, Martin and Anne's house door, to many ministers and lay people from within the Methodist Church and beyond who came to benefit from Martin's wide reading, his profound sensitivity to the ebbs and flows of the human soul and his reminding them of the everlasting and unfailing mercies of God. For Martin, the joys of family were special. His wife Anne, children Laura, Tom and Melanie, and his grandchildren were held high in affection. At the time of Martin's death, Anne had been running for over thirty years a financial advisory service which proved helpful to many clergy. In his final years Martin became involved in the life of the parish church of Chorley and so it was fitting that Methodist, Anglican and Roman Catholic clergy took part in his funeral. Martin died on 23 April 2024 in the seventy-eighth year of his age and the fifty-second year of his presbyteral ministry.

2/7 The Conference adjourned at 12.03.

2/8 The Conference reassembled at 12.30.

2/9 **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

A solemn Memorial Service was held during which the Secretary of the Conference read the names of those presbyters who had died during the year, as follows:

Crispian Thomas Acher**	Stephen Richard Donoghue*
Frances Anne Ballantyne**	Donald McNaughton Eadie*
Goh Peng Beh	Roy Sidney Everitt
Margaret Mary Bethel	John Farrimond
David Blanchflower	Geoffrey Norman Kay Gee
John David Bland	Robert Drummond Gillespie
Richard Martin Broadbent*	John Goatley
Peter Brooks	Margaret Winifred Graham
Vernon Thomas Bullock	Peter Charles Graves**
Keith Burchell	David John Griffiths*
Jack Robert Burton	Dennis Griffiths**
Elizabeth Alice Childs**	Cesar Anibal Guidi
Norma Beryl Couldwell	Terence Harris**
David Stanbury Cruise**	John Barrie Hirst
Derek Hubert Alfred Davidson*	Keith Angus Horton
William Rhys Davies**	James Housman Hunkin
John Edward Davis	Derek Richard Illsley
Douglas Allan Dennis	Keith Jump*
Harry Alan Dodd	Alfred Lawson

David Wilfred Le Poidevin*
 David Lee
 Kenneth Mankin
 Robert Arthur Marsh*
 Ian Mason
 Robert Brian Mavers
 John Brian McCarthy
 Roger Lionel Moore
 Irene Elizabeth Morrow
 Ian Wesley Mutton
 James Needham
 Brian Newbold**
 Lionel Edwin Osborn
 Daniel James Reid Paterson*
 Marcus Alwyn Pattern
 Julia Mabel Pellett*
 Stanley Ralph Pipe
 Terence William Porter
 Antony Howard Price
 John Edward Pullen*
 Janet Elizabeth Roe*
 Geoffrey William Scarlett

William Frederick Seymour*
 Brian Norman Shackleton**
 Gordon Shaw
 John Brian Sherrington*
 John Basil Siddons*
 Barrie David Snook
 Martine Keala Stemerick
 Mary Stott**
 Albert Juan Thompson
 Clifford Topping
 Ioane Tupou
 Laurence John Turner
 Joan Margaret Verity
 Marion Isabella Enid Warren
 Paul Trevor Waterfield
 Stanley Maurice Weary*
 Robert White
 John Mark White
 Donald Morley Wilkes
 Thomas Mercer Witham**
 Martin Howard Wray
 Maurice Harold Wright

* Presbyters who had died before or during the previous Conference but whose Obituaries are presented to this Conference.

** Obituaries for these presbyters will be presented to the next Conference.

2/10 The Conference adjourned at 13.06.

2/11 The Conference reassembled at 14.15.

2/12 The Revd Michaela A Youngson facilitated the Conference in a discussion about ***The Stationing Review***.

2/13 The Conference went into closed session at 15.15.

2/14 **41. MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES' AND PROBATIONERS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**
2. Candidates for Presbyteral Ministry

2/14/1 The Conference concurred with the recommendation of the Candidates' Appeals Committee.

2/14/2 The Conference, with the required majority, recommended acceptance by the Representative Session of the following candidates, to proceed unconditionally into pre-ordination training:

Kieran Matthew Bohan
 Thomas Richard Clayton
 Paul Michael Coleman
 Samantha Ashley Cree
 Thomas Ferguson
 Susan Elinor Groves
 Kerry Louise Halliday
 Jonathan Hood
 Hayley Anne James

Ka Fai Stephen Lau
 Mwadzipaura Magaisa
 Luke Rhys McLeod
 Genevieve Mawufemor Musey
 Claire Louise Nott
 Sophia Jemima Odoom
 Joanne Rose Peek
 Sarah Jane Reed
 Aqeela Tanveer

Louisa Joanne Taylor

Marc Alexander Stuart
Williamson

2/14/3 The Conference, with the required majority, recommended acceptance by the Representative Session of the following candidate, to proceed into pre-ordination training upon fulfilment of a stated condition:

Sue Ann Mak

2/14/4 The Conference, with the required majority, adopted Resolution 41/2.

2/15 **1. Special Reports**

2/15/1 The Conference received a report that the following conditionally accepted candidate has still to fulfil the stated condition:

Olive Ruvimbo Ruzvidzo

2/15/2 The Conference agreed the following changes in expected date of Reception into Full Connexion:

To a later date:

Chi Lok (Rocky) Chan

2027 (from 2026)

Rachel Read

2027 (from 2026)

2/15/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 41/1.

2/16 **3. Preachers Recommended for Continuance on Trial**

The Conference adopted Resolution 41/4,

<i>for</i>	* Chan	Chi Lok (Rocky)	2026
<i>reading</i>	* Chan	Chi Lok (Rocky)	2027
<i>for</i>	Read	Rachel	2026
<i>reading</i>	* Read	Rachel	2027

2/17 **4. Preachers on Trial presented to the Conference for Reception into Full Connexion**

2/17/1 The Conference accepted the recommendation of the Candidates' and Probationers' Oversight Committee that the following are fit to be admitted into Full Connexion with the Conference as presbyters:

Jonathan Bell
Evelyn Bhajan
Sarah Louise Caddell
Rachel Irene Collins
Tiras Philip Dainty-Share
Anne Mary Day
Steven David Donnison
Rebecca Elizabeth Fugill
Catharine Hughes
Juliet Aritey Kisob
Joyce Mayisiri
Alexandra Dagmar Middleton-Laing

Rachel Moss
Rosemary Mutopo
Michelle Onyett
James Alan Patterson
Philip Robinson
Matthew Barrie Smith
Steven Sutton
Marcia Yvonne Tull
Wendy Walker
Fiona Weir
Blayze Kyle White

- 2/17/2 The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted Resolution 41/5.
- 2/18 **38. PRESBYTERAL TRANSFERS AND REINSTATEMENTS**
- 2/18/1 **1. Recommendations of the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation acting as a Transfer Committee (under S.O.730)**
- 2/18/1 The Conference, with the required majority, recommended acceptance by the Representative Session of the following applicants for transfer to be received into Full Connexion:
- Quophie Anochie Ababio (Methodist Church Ghana)
 Kim Leslie Alexander (Methodist Church of Southern Africa)
 Tokunbo Ezekiel Olusegun Asogbon (Methodist Church Nigeria)
 Fiona Marie Calverey (Methodist Church of Southern Africa)
 Kennedy Gondongwe (Methodist Church Zimbabwe)
 Helen Lawson (Church of the Nazarene)
 Allen Moyo (Methodist Church Zimbabwe)
 Peggy Mulambya-Kabonde (United Church of Zambia)
 Adrian Trevor Roux (Methodist Church of Southern Africa)
 Bethany Marie Willers (United Methodist Church, Iowa Annual Conference)
- 2/18/2 The Conference, with the required majority, recommended acceptance by the Representative Session of the following former presbyter of another church to be received into Full Connexion:
- Steven Granville Jones (ex Methodist Church of Southern Africa)
- 2/18/3 The Conference accepted the recommendation of the Transfer Committee that the following be recognised and regarded as presbyters in Full Connexion with the Conference under Standing Order 732(2) and (3):
- Christopher Nyarko Andam (Methodist Church Ghana)
 Opeyemi Olufemi Awe (Methodist Church Nigeria)
 Donna Lynne Fowler-Marchant (United Methodist Church, North Carolina Conference)
 Jacqueline Anne (Rivas) Jones (Methodist Church of Southern Africa)
 Sean Colin Turner (United Methodist Church, Western North Carolina Conference)
- 2/18/4 The Conference adopted Resolution 38/1,
- pp 455-456, *moving* those listed under 1.5 to 1.3 and the person listed under 1.7(b) to 1.7(a)
- 2/18/5 The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted Resolution 38/2.
- 2/19 **37. PERMISSION TO SERVE**
- The Conference adopted Resolution 37/1,
- p 454, **2. Transfer to other Conferences and Denominations**
for No case
reading Darren J Holland (United Reformed Church)
 Robert D Lewis (United Methodist Church, Virginia Conference)

2/20 **RESIGNATIONS**

The Conference received a report that the President had accepted the resignation of the following presbyters in Full Connexion, according them the status indicated:

J Andrew M Clark	no status
Edwin T Myers	no status
Mervyn P Oliver	no status
Fidelio R Patron	no status
Peter J Pillinger	no status
Judith M Satchell	no status
Christine Taylor	member

2/21 **REPORT OF CONNEXIONAL DISCIPLINE AND APPEAL COMMITTEES**

2/21/1 A report was presented to the Conference on behalf of the Convenors of Connexional Discipline, Pastoral and Appeal Committees.

2/21/2 The Conference noted that Andrew M Emison and Christopher J Collins had ceased to be presbyters in Full Connexion with the Conference.

2/22 The Conference adjourned at 16.03.

2/23 The Conference reassembled in open session at 16.47.

2/24 The Revd Dr Mark Rowland and the Revd Kerry W Tankard introduced **Agenda Item 28: The Role of the District Chair**. The Conference engaged in discussion.

2/25 **44. PRESBYTERS BECOMING SUPERNUMERARY OR RETURNING TO THE ACTIVE WORK**

2/25/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 44/1,

p 501, in **1. Recommended to return to the active work**
for No case
reading Hee Gon Moon
 Ernest Grimshaw

p 501, in **4. Presbyters requesting permission to become supernumerary**
adding Sally Binymin (16)

2/25/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 44/2, noting the correction under **4.** above.

2/26 **ANNUAL INQUIRY**

The Chairs of the Districts gave to the Conference the assurances as to the character and discipline of the presbyters and presbyteral probationers required by Standing Order 154, noting the number of those who had not been able to answer in the affirmative this year.

2/27 The Conference shared in worship.

2/28 The Conference resolved by a Standing Vote to adjourn to 14.15 on Saturday 29 June for the Representative Session.

2/29 The Conference adjourned at 17.40.

2/30

LETTERS

Letters of thanks were sent in the name of the Conference to the musicians who had played for the worship during the session.

3/1 The Conference in its Representative Session assembled in Leeds at 14.15, The Revd Gillian M Newton, the President of the Conference, in the Chair.

3/2 **PRAYERS**

The Conference shared in worship, during which the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, The Revd Dr John Alderdice, led prayers.

3/3 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE**

The Conference adopted the membership of this session of the Conference as set out in the Agenda (pp 737-742), as amended by Daily Record 1/5, with the following notes, substitutions and corrections:

Bristol

89 Ingram Rose *vice* Mr Michael C Pryke

East Anglia

109 The Revd Jacqueline S Goddard is unable to attend the Conference

Nottingham and Derby

141 Deacon Ruth Richey *vice* Deacon Helen Snowball

Yorkshire North and East

187 Mrs Lydia Harrison is unable to attend the Conference

Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire

199 Angela Brydon *vice* Ms Pauline Jackson

South East

221 *for* Mr Henry Cheung *reading* Mr Henry Chung

Associate Members

231 *for* 'to be confirmed' *reading* Prelate his Eminence Revd Dr Oliver Ali Aba

234 *for* The Revd Emmanuel Mollick *reading* 'not attending'

3/4 **APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS**

The Conference appointed the Scrutineers as follows:

Anna Malnutt (Chief Scrutineer)

The Revd R Margaret K Mwailu

Deacon Stephen F Roe

3/5 **PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE**

3/5/1 The Revd Helen Dixon Cameron, having been nominated according to rule at the preceding Conference, was duly elected by a Standing Vote as President of the Conference (Resolution 1/1).

- 3/5/2 Carolyn Jayne Godfrey, having been nominated according to rule at the preceding Conference, was duly elected by a Standing Vote as Vice-President of the Conference (Resolution 1/2).
- 3/5/3 The Induction of the President and the Vice-President took place.
- 3/6 **THE LOYAL ADDRESS**
The Conference directed that a letter of greeting be sent to His Majesty the King.
- 3/7 **WORLD CHURCH AND ECUMENICAL REPRESENTATIVES AND GUESTS**
- 3/7/1 The Conference welcomed full members and associate members of the Conference from The Methodist Church in Ireland, The United Methodist Church, The Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma, The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, Methodist Church The Gambia, Methodist Church Nigeria, The Methodist Church of Southern Africa, United Church in Papua New Guinea, L'Église Protestante Unie de France, L'Opera per le Chiese Evangeliche Metodiste in Italia, United Methodist Church Nordic, Baltic & Ukraine Area, Iglesia Evangélica Metodista en Bolivia, Iglesia Evangélica Metodista en El Salvador, Iglesia Metodista del Perú and from among our Mission Partners.
- 3/7/2 Bishop Pumla Nzimande of The Methodist Church of Southern Africa responded on behalf of the World Church guests.
- 3/7/3 The Conference welcomed the ecumenical associate members of the Conference from The Church of England, The Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, The United Reformed Church and The Scottish Episcopal Church, and the General Secretary of Churches Together in England.
- 3/7/4 The Revd Father Jan Nowotnik of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales responded on behalf of the ecumenical guests.
- 3/8 **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**
The President of the Conference delivered her inaugural address.
- 3/9 The Conference adjourned at 16.09.
- 3/10 The Conference reassembled at 17.00.
- 3/11 **VICE-PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**
The Vice-President of the Conference delivered her inaugural address.
- 3/12 **2. FIRST REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**
- 3/12/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 2/1.
- 3/12/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 2/2,
p 15, third paragraph
sixth line, *for* 'This provision includes any Memorials' *reading* 'This provision does not include any memorials'
- 3/12/3 The Conference received the following additional report:

The Methodist Council nominates Dr Daleep Mukarji to the Conference as Chair for the Conference Business Committee for the Conferences of 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Daleep Mukarji is a past Vice-President of the Conference (2013-14). Daleep has also served as Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee since 2019. This has meant that Daleep has also had positions on various connexional committees such as the Council, the CLF and the Oversight and Trusteeship Task Group. Daleep has a wide knowledge and experience of the Church and the Conference which he will be able to bring to the role to support the work of the Business Committee.

3/12/4 The Conference adopted as Resolution 2/3:

The Conference appoints Dr Daleep Mukarji as the Chair for the Conference Business Committee for the Conferences of 2025, 2026 and 2027.

3/13 **36. SECOND REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

The Conference adopted Resolution 36/1.

3/14 **THIRD REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

3/14/1 The Business Committee brings this update to its Reports printed in volumes 1 and 2 of the Agenda (items 2 and 36).

1. As set out in paragraph 7 of the first report (page 13), the Conference is required to elect one member of the Business Committee, a minister, to serve on the Committee for three years (the Conferences of 2025, 2026 and 2027). Nomination forms have been circulated by email and are available from the Helpdesk; they should be placed in the ballot boxes by 17:30 on Monday 1 July, with voting taking place on Tuesday 2 July.
2. Paragraph 9 of the First Report sets out the criteria and procedure for requesting that a letter be sent on behalf of the Conference. Members of the Conference are asked, if possible, to email conferenceletterwriter@methodistchurch.org.uk with the details of the request. Where that is not possible, please contact the Help Desk.
3. The schedule of business has been available on the Conference website and regularly updated. It now shows the current situation. Any Conference member wishing to have a hard copy can obtain one from the Helpdesk.
4. The Committee recommends the use of an electronic voting system for any counted votes.
5. The ballots for the President and Vice-President of the Conference of 2025 and a member of the Conference Business Committee will be distributed via email and the elections conducted via an online voting system.
6. Nominees for President and Vice-President of the Conference for 2025 are kindly asked to have their photographs taken, for use in the visual projection during breaks. Nominees are asked to see June Howard-Norman in the Conference Arrangements Team office as soon as possible and no later than the closing times for nominations given in the Agenda page 14. In the event that nominees are not present at the Conference, it would be most helpful if

those making the nominations could arrange for nominees' photos to be sent electronically to asc@methodistchurch.org.uk.

7. There are two ballot boxes on each side of the hall. These can all be used at any time on Saturday until 19:00 and from Monday morning onwards for all nomination papers, strictly observing the deadlines given on page 14 of the Agenda.

8. Memorials will be taken as shown in the table below:

Number	Title	Business
M1	The Theology of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	<i>En bloc</i>
M2	Disciplinary Process	32. Review of Part 11 of Standing Orders
M3	Telling our story	20. God For All
M4	Heritage Sites	<i>En bloc</i>
M5	Resourcing	<i>En bloc</i>
M6	Nassar Family	with a presentation from the Tent of Nations
M7	Nassar Family and Israel/ Palestine	22. Methodist Council, part 2: Section M
M8	Responding to the Conflict in Gaza	<i>En bloc</i>
M9	Israel and Gaza	<i>En bloc</i>
M10	Methodist Conference and Defence and Security Convention	<i>En bloc</i>
M11	Report of the Independent Commission	<i>En bloc</i>
M12	Mission Partners	22. Methodist Council Part 2 Section G
M13	Mission Partners	22. Methodist Council Part 2 Section G
M14	Connexional Financial Support	22. Methodist Council Part 2 Section K
M15	Connexionalism and Expense Cost	22. Methodist Council Part 2 Section K
M16	Ministers' Housing Allowance	<i>En bloc</i>
M17	Prolonged Ministers Suspension	22. Methodist Council Part 2 Section K
M18	Ministerial Stress	<i>En bloc</i>
M19	Mandatory Training Requirements	<i>En bloc</i>
M20	Mandatory Training Requirements	<i>En bloc</i>
M21	Modified Constitutions	20. God For All
M22	Modified Constitutions	20. God For All

Any recommended reply to a memorial which is the subject of an amending notice of motion will automatically be removed from the *en bloc* list. A memorial can only be removed from the *en bloc* list if an alternative reply is proposed by way of a notice of motion.

9. The list of *en bloc* items of business (page 453) is now as printed below:

3. Methodist Council part one sections A, B, D

6. Trustees for the Bailiwick of Guernsey Methodist Church Purposes
7. Trustees for Jersey Methodist Church Purposes
10. New Room
11. Forces Board
12. Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland
13. Revision to MIST Articles
15. Methodist Schools appointments
22. Methodist Council part two sections F, I, N, O, Q, S
23. Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
27. Methodist Homes
30. Stationing Committee
31. Referred Memorials and Notices of Motion
33. Managing Trustees of Central Hall Westminster
34. Methodist Ministers' Housing Society
39. Ecumenical Report
40. Central Finance Board
53. Methodist Diaconal Order General Report
56. Trustees for Manx Methodist Church Purposes

Memorials to the Conference as listed in paragraph 8 above.

Under the terms of SO 134A, if Notices of Motion are received about items in the en bloc list (including memorials), those items will automatically be removed from the above list. In addition, by giving notice to the Secretary of the Conference (via Jane Bates at batesj@methodistchurch.org.uk), any six members of the Conference may, without proposing an amendment, require that any item, except a recommended reply to a memorial, be removed from the list and debated. Such notice must be given before the close of business on Monday 1 July (SO 134A(1)(c)).

10. As part of the Conference's commitment to inclusion and to ensuring accessibility, the committee has discussed how it might monitor the diversity of those participating in the conversations and debates at the Conference. Members of the Conference will be aware that every member of the Conference is asked to complete an EDI monitoring form. The Record Office therefore has statistical data which show the proportions of the Conference members who have declared protected characteristics. Those forms are anonymised. The Conference is therefore recommended to authorise that in future years members of the Conference will be asked to give permission for some of the information included on the form to be held confidentially by those who will monitor the diversity of the Conference.

11. Members of the Conference also indicate for the purposes of their badges their preferred pronouns. It is therefore possible for the gender diversity of contributors to debates to be monitored. It is also possible to note whether a speaker is lay or ordained. The Business Committee recommends that the Conference authorises this monitoring this year (enabling a pilot for more extensive monitoring in future years) and that a brief statistical report on the previous day's debates be presented to the Conference each morning.

3/14/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution B/1:

The Conference adopts the Report.

- 3/14/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution B/2:
- The Conference adopts the recommendation of the Business Committee in paragraph 10.
- 3/14/4 The Conference adopted as Resolution B/3:
- The Conference adopts the recommendation of the Business Committee in paragraph 11.
- 3/15 **54. REPORT TO THE REPRESENTATIVE SESSION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED BY THE CONFERENCE DIACONAL COMMITTEE**
- The Conference adopted Resolutions 54/1 and 54/3,
- p 673,
paragraph 4.11, *deleting* Dorice Williams
paragraph 4.12(a), *for* No case *reading* Dorice Williams
p 674,
in the chart *deleting* Williams Dorice 2026
- p 676, at the end of the report *adding*:
Transfers to other Conferences and Denominations
Bryanell Rop (United Methodist Church)
- 3/16 **ORDINATION SERVICES: SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT FROM THE FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE**
- 3/16/1 The Conference received the following report:
1. Ordination services are one of the highlights of the meeting of the Conference and are both solemn and joyful occasions as we celebrate God's gift of new presbyters and deacons to the Church. Ordinations in the Methodist Church take place on the Conference's behalf, at its direction and with its authorisation: no one else in the life of the Methodist Church holds such authority. This is an outworking of the corporate oversight of the Conference over all our ministry. As a result, the leadership of ordination services is different from leading any other act of Methodist worship. Our usual practice is that much is committed to those who lead our worship and preach: generally speaking, provided that what is done is not contrary to our doctrines those who preach and lead worship enjoy considerable creative freedom. However, because ordinations are acts of worship conducted on behalf of the Conference, those who take leadership roles within them do so in a particular representative capacity which signals the relation of what is taking place to the Conference. It is, therefore, expected that those who lead these services do not make alterations to their authorised texts.
 2. In the preparations for this year's Conference, it was suggested that the address to the congregation 'Sisters and Brothers' (no. 12 in both the ordination of presbyters and the ordination of deacons) be amended to provide for a gender-neutral form. The ordination services are authorised liturgies and there is not time for authorising a new form before the ordination services take place. Further, if amendments are to be formally made, there may be other matters also worthy of consideration. It is appropriate that

proper time and attention be given to this as part of the overall process of revising the *Methodist Worship Book*.

3. Nevertheless, the amendment suggested is in line with the Conference's strategy on *Justice, Dignity and Solidarity*. The words in question address the whole congregation gathered for an ordination service and a gender-neutral form would indicate more clearly the intention that it include all people, of all genders. The Faith and Order Committee therefore proposes, as an interim measure, that the Conference give permission for the President, or the President's deputy, presiding at any given service of ordination, at that person's discretion, to use an alternative form of words. The Committee proposes 'People of God'. This maintains a distinction from the form 'Beloved in Christ' at no. 13 which addresses the ordinands specifically.

3/16/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution FO/1:

The Conference receives the Report.

3/16/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution FO/2:

The Conference gives its permission, in connection with any given service of ordination, for the President, or a presbyter deputising for the President, at that person's discretion, to use the form 'People of God' in place of 'Sisters and Brothers' at no. 12 in the services as printed in the *Methodist Worship Book*.

3/17 **25. CONNEXIONAL CENTRAL SERVICES BUDGET 2024/2025**

3/17/1 The budget was presented.

3/17/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 25/1,

Table 3 (p 310) and Table 4 (pp 311-312)
for 'Methodist Council & Governance' reading 'Governance and Oversight'

3/17/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 25/2.

3/18 **PRESBYTERAL SESSION BUSINESS COMMITTEE ELECTION**

The Conference elected the following to serve on the Presbyteral Session Business Committee at the Conferences of 2025-2027:

The Revd Kevin R Highfield

3/19 The Conference shared in worship, and adjourned at 18.12.

- 4/1 The Conference assembled at 10.45.
- 4/2 The Conference shared in worship, during which the President preached. The following business was transacted.
- 4/3 **RECEPTION INTO FULL CONNEXION AS PRESBYTERS**
The following persons were presented for admission into Full Connexion, the Presbyteral Session having judged that they were fit for such admission and, if not already ordained, for ordination:
- 4/3/1 The preachers on trial:
- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Jonathan Bell | Rachel Moss |
| Evelyn Bhajan | Rosemary Mutopo |
| Sarah Louise Caddell | Michelle Onyett |
| Rachel Irene Collins | James Alan Patterson |
| Tiras Philip Dainty-Share | Philip Robinson |
| Anne Mary Day | Matthew Barrie Smith |
| Steven David Donnison | Steven Sutton |
| Rebecca Elizabeth Fugill | Marcia Yvonne Tull |
| Catharine Hughes | Wendy Walker |
| Juliet Aritey Kisob | Fiona Weir |
| Joyce Mayisiri | Blayze Kyle White |
| Alexandra Dagmar Middleton-Laing | |
- 4/3/2 The following persons to be received by transfer:
- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Quophie Anochie Ababio | Helen Lawson |
| Kim Leslie Alexander | Allen Moyo |
| Tokunbo Ezekiel Olusegun Asogbon | Peggy Mulambya-Kabonde |
| Fiona Marie Calverey | Adrian Trevor Roux |
| Kennedy Gondongwe | Bethany Marie Willers |
- 4/3/3 One person to be received by reinstatement and transfer:
- Steven Granville Jones
- 4/3/4 The Conference resolved by a Standing Vote that those persons whose names had been read to the Conference and are printed in the Agenda and Daily Record be now received into Full Connexion with the Conference as presbyters, and that those not already ordained be ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands on the afternoon of this day, the thirtieth day of June 2024, at:
- Batley Central Methodist Church
Bradford Cathedral
Brighouse Central Methodist Church
Wesley Chapel, Harrogate

(Resolution 41/6)

4/4 **RECEPTION INTO FULL CONNEXION AS DEACONS**

4/4/1 The following persons were presented for admission into Full Connexion and as full members of the Methodist Diaconal Order, the Conference Diaconal Committee having judged that they were fit for such admission and, if appropriate, for ordination:

Janet Amey
Margaret Chipandambira
Douw Gerbrand Grobler
Marie Poole
Clare Purfit
Suzanne Marie Sale
Vicky Ann Welsh

4/4/2 The Conference resolved by a Standing Vote that those persons whose names had been read to the Conference and are printed in the Agenda be now received into Full Connexion with the Conference as deacons and into full membership of the Methodist Diaconal Order, and if not already ordained, be ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands on the afternoon of this day, the thirtieth day of June 2024, at Morley Central Methodist Church.

(Resolution 54/4)

4/5 The Conference adjourned at 12.06.

5/1 The Conference assembled at 9.15 and shared in worship.

5/2 **APPOINTMENT OF ATTESTORS**

5/2/1 John Heard and Hope Wild were appointed to attest the Daily Record and related documents.

5/2/2 The Revd David M Goodall and Anna Malnutt were appointed to attest the Journal and related documents.

5/3 **22. METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 2, Sections E, K, L, R,**

5/3/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/1.

5/3/2 **ADDITIONAL REPORT OF THE REVIEW OF THE RESOURCING OF LEARNING FOR MINISTRY**

As reported to the Conference, the Methodist Council in April accepted and referred to the Ministries Committee a recommendation from the Strategy and Resources Committee that there be a review of the provision for learning for ministry.

The Ministries Committee in May agreed terms of reference for the review:

- To note the criteria and competencies which have been agreed by the Conference.
- To review, and assess the efficacy of, the Connexion's work at Cliff College and the Queen's Foundation, in the light of the budgetary constraints, the changes in the HE sector since the 2017 HE Act, the priorities for training set by the Conference, especially in the 2021 reports Ministry in the Methodist Church and Changing Patterns of Ministry, and the circumstances in which ministry is exercised in the mid-21st century.
- To review any agreements that the Council has made with other institutions, both in the delivery of learning for ministry and in the generation of revenue.
- To note the role of the newly introduced Connexional Learning Forum.
- To review the collaboration between the institutions and the Connexional Team (principally but not solely the Learning Network) in the delivery of training for lay and ordained ministry.
- To make recommendations to the Ministries Committee for report to the Connexional Council and the Conference.

The Committee also discussed how this work should be reported. Noting that this is primarily a review of the resourcing of the provision (and that finance and governance have been the key factors in its initiation), the committee agreed that the Connexional Council would need to receive regular reports and that the Conference should be kept informed. The committee therefore directed that the review be directed to report to the committee in February of next year (which would subsequently be reported to the

Connexional Council) and to ask that the 2025 Conference receive a progress report including such recommendations as might have emerged at that point.

Members of the Conference might be aware that the Team is currently in the process of recruiting to the post of Director of Learning for Ministry (DLM); the process of and support for the review will be agreed with the appointee and the Ministries Committee will keep the Council updated on progress. The committee agreed to the appointment of a consultant for this work but the detail of this will need to be worked out by the new DLM.

The Conference is assured that those responsible for the review will be directed to ensure that there is full consultation with all the institutions involved.

5/3/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution TR/1:

The Conference receives the report and authorises the review to provide an interim report to the Conference of 2025.

5/3/4 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/10,

p 238, paragraph 72, line 1, *for '2003' reading '2023'*

p 239, paragraph 77, *amending* to read:

The Council concurred with the recommendation of the Ministries Committee that changes be made in Standing Orders 013(11) and 1105(10) and that an additional cross-reference be included in Standing Order 365(7).

p 240, Standing Order 365, *amending* to read:

(7) Payment may also be made out of the fund at the discretion of the council or of any committee or officer to which the council may delegate this discretion:

- (i) to reimburse any person or body... where an application is made under Standing Order 013(11) **or Standing Order 1105(10)**; or...

p 240, Standing Order 1105(9), *amending* the formatting to read:

(9) When a person within the scope of Standing Order 801(1) is suspended under clause (1) or (3) above, the Circuit or other body responsible for provision of the stipend must continue to provide that stipend and pay all expense allowances which are of a continuing nature (except those for expenses which cease during suspension) until:

- (i) the suspension ceases; or
- (ii) the expiration of the quarter during which the initial hearing of any charge occurs; or
- (iii) the expiration of the quarter during which a complaints team decides not to bring a charge

whichever is the earlier. The person suspended is entitled to continue residing in the manse for the same period.

5/3/5 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/11.

5/3/6 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/12,

noting the amendments to Standing Order changes at 5/3/4 above

5/3/7 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/13.

5/3/8 **Memorials M14, M15, M17**

The Conference received Memorials M14, M15 and M17 and adopted as its replies those recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorials and the replies appearing on Agenda pp 724-729.

5/3/9 The Conference adopted Resolutions 22/14, 22/15 and 22/25.

5/4 **16. UNIFIED STATEMENT OF CONNEXIONAL FINANCES**

The Conference adopted Resolution 16/1,

p 81, **5. Financial review**, second paragraph, line 2,
for '(2020: £12.0m losses)' reading '(2022: £12.0m losses)'

5/5 **19. CONNEXIONAL ALLOWANCES COMMITTEE**

5/5/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 19/1,

p 118, last line of the table,
for 'paragraph 1.15' reading 'paragraph 1.14'

paragraph 1.17, line 1,
for '801(1)(a)' reading '801(1)(b)'

5/5/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 19/2 in the form:

The Conference adopts the recommendations in Sections 1, 2 and 3, noting advice from the Law and Polity Conference Sub-committee that no amendment is required to Standing Order 801(1)(b).

5/6 **26. ONLINE CHURCH AND ONLINE COMMUNION**

5/6/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 26/1,

p 324, paragraph 4.6, line 4,
for 'may a different approach' reading 'may mean a different approach'

p 324, paragraph 4.9, line 2,
for 'in relation occasional offices' reading 'in relation to occasional offices'

5/6/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 26/2.

5/6/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 26/3 in the form:

The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference, in consultation with the Faith and Order Committee, to establish a task group to consider the recommendations of this report and to bring appropriate proposals to the Conference of 2026.

5/7 **24. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

5/7/1 **Report from the Law and Polity Conference Sub-committee**

1. At the time item 24 was included in the Agenda it was believed that, as stated in paragraph 3, the proposed Model Trust amendments referred to in the report had been submitted to the Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Scotland and Shetland Synods for consideration as required by Standing Order 126(1)(a). Unfortunately it transpired that, through illness, that had not been done and the omission had not been

appreciated until after the relevant spring Synods. The Law and Polity Conference Sub-committee has considered how best to deal with the situation which has therefore arisen.

2. The Sub-committee's advice is that, in the light of that omission, it would not be appropriate to bring the proposed amendments to the Conference for confirmation this year. The Sub-committee therefore proposes to seek the permission of the Conference to withdraw the resolution in Agenda item 24. Instead it proposes that alternative steps should be taken, as follows.

3. The Model Trust amendments set out in paragraph 9(A) and (B) of item 24 were proposed as consequential upon the decisions taken by the Conference relating to the establishment of the Connexional Council. The amendments in (A) effectively replace the definition of "Methodist Council" with a definition of "Connexional Council" and then substitute "Connexional Council" for "Methodist Council" in the specified paragraphs of the Model Trusts. If the amendments are not confirmed this year, the definition of "Methodist Council" will remain in place and the substitutions will not be made. The Methodist Council, however, is defined as "the body of persons of that name for the time being constituted by the Conference under the Deed of Union and Standing Orders for the despatch of connexional business ...". As from 1 September 2024 the Deed of Union will not itself constitute any body as the Methodist Council and, if resolution 50/5 is passed and the relevant Standing Orders are revoked, there will be no body so constituted. This has some similarities with the situation resulting from the abolition of the Property Division and the office of Property Secretary, which was addressed by Standing Order 331. It is suggested that in the present case there should be a new Standing Order to the effect that the functions, duties and responsibilities assigned to the Methodist Council by the Model Trusts shall be exercised and performed by the Connexional Council.

4. If the amendments in (B) on page 302 are not made, the Conference will continue to appoint the Conference trustees of Conference property, but could delegate the exercise of its power to the Connexional Council under clause 21 of the Deed of Union with effect from 1 September 2024. (The Conference is already being invited to exercise its power of appointment this year by resolutions 46/22 and 46/23.) The definition of "Connexional Trustees" will continue to refer to the persons constituting the connexional trustees for the relevant property in accordance with Standing Orders. The Sub-committee suggests that SO 904 should be amended to identify the Connexional Council as the connexional trustees. (The new Standing Order proposed in 3 above could appear here also, under a revised heading.) This would be consistent with the work which has been done on references to the Connexional Council in Part 9 and which appears elsewhere on the Order Paper.

5. The issue arising in relation to resolution 42/5 amending Model Trust 26 is obviously much less significant. The Sub-committee thinks, however, that since MT 26(1) does not oblige anyone to execute a memorandum of consent and (3) and (4) are on the basis that there will be a memorandum, the Conference could direct that, since such memoranda no longer serve a useful purpose under the law of England and Wales, no further memoranda should be executed in that jurisdiction. That should remove the administrative burden without requiring an amendment to the Model Trusts.

6. The Sub-committee suggests that the relevant business be brought again this year in the form in which it was brought in 2023, so that the two year period starts

running again. The definition of “special resolution” in section 2 of the Methodist Church Act 1976 makes clear that confirmation must take place in the year following the year in which the resolution making the amendment was first passed, so it is not possible simply to bring the resolutions of 2023 to the Conference of 2025 for confirmation.

7. The special resolutions passed by the Conference of 2023 are also the subject of Section E of Agenda item 49, partly by way of cross-reference to Agenda item 24 and partly by way of inadvertent duplication. The Sub-committee proposes to seek the permission of the Conference to withdraw the resolutions in Section E.

8. The resolutions set out below are intended to give effect to the foregoing.

5/7/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution LP/1:

The Conference receives the report and grants permission to withdraw Resolution 24/1 as printed in the Agenda and Resolutions 49/11 and 49/12.

5/7/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution 24/2:

The Conference amends Standing Orders as follows:

904 ~~Connexional Trustees~~. Trusteeship Provisions consequent on the establishment of the Connexional Council.

With effect from 1 September 2024:

- (i) ~~Unless otherwise provided in the Standing Orders relating to the connexional organisation concerned~~ ***the Connexional Council shall constitute*** the connexional trustees for any connexional property or part or category of such property ~~shall be the persons, being church members, annually appointed as such by the parent body; and~~
- (ii) ***the Connexional Council shall perform and exercise the functions, powers, duties and responsibilities assigned to the Methodist Council in the Model Trusts and for this purpose only is the body of persons of that name constituted by the Conference.***

5/7/4 The Conference adopted as Resolution 24/3:

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 21 of the Deed of Union, the Conference resolves to delegate to the Connexional Council with effect from 1 September 2024 its power of appointment of the Conference trustees contained in paragraph 1 of the Model Trusts.

5/7/5 The Conference adopted as Resolution 24/4:

The Conference, noting that the execution of a memorandum of consent under paragraph 26 of the Model Trusts no longer serves a useful purpose in England and Wales and that in practice the preparation and execution of such memoranda is burdensome and time-consuming, directs that no further such memoranda in respect of property in England and Wales shall be executed.

5/7/6 The Conference, with the required majority, adopted as Resolution 24/5:

The Conference, by special resolution, amends the Model Trusts as follows:

[A. *Amendments relating to the Connexional Council*]

1. Interpretation In this Schedule [*i.e. the Model Trusts*], unless the subject or context otherwise requires – ...

~~‘Methodist Council’~~ **‘Connexional Council’** means the body of persons of that name for the time being constituted by the Conference under the Deed of Union and Standing Orders for the despatch of connexional business in relation to (inter alia) property affairs or other the body of persons constituted for the time being under Standing Orders to discharge the responsibilities of the Property Division, and includes, where appropriate, any person or persons **or other body of persons** to whom any functions of such body under any provision of this Schedule may have been delegated by such body in accordance with any Standing Order made pursuant to paragraph 11 of this Schedule, and ‘board of the Property Division’ has the same meaning;

...

Replace ‘Methodist Council’ by ‘Connexional Council’ in the following instances:

3(2)(a), 3(3), 4(1), 5(2), 6(1), 6(2), 8(3), 11 (title and text), 11A, 18(1), 19(2), 19(3), 21A(c), 26(1)

[B. *Amendments relating to Connexional and Conference property*]

1. Interpretation

...

‘Conference trustees’ means, in relation to any Conference property or any part of such property, the persons or body of persons, being members of the Church, annually appointed by the ~~Conference~~ **Connexional Council** to be the managing trustees of such property or part property;

‘Connexional Trustees’ means, in relation to any Connexional property or any part of such property, **the Connexional Council** ~~the person or persons for the time being constituting, in accordance with Standing Orders, the Connexional Trustees for that property or part property;~~

2. (1) [specifying who are the managing trustees]

...

(d) Connexional property: the Connexional **Council** Trustees;
(dA) Conference property: the Conference Trustees;

[for a direction regarding consultation, see 7/42/1]

5/7/7 The Conference, with the required majority, adopted as Resolution 24/6:

The Conference, by special resolution, amends Model Trust 26 by deleting the definition of ‘memorandum of consent’ in sub-paragraph (1) and deleting sub-paragraphs (3) and (4). *[for a direction regarding consultation, see 7/42/1]*

5/8 The Conference adjourned at 11.05.

- 5/9 The Conference reassembled at 11.36.
- 5/10 The Conference engaged in Bible study, led by Jenny Sinclair of 'Together for the Common Good'.
- 5/11 **49. COMMITTEE ON METHODIST LAW AND POLITY, Section C**
- 5/11/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/4,
p 534, paragraph 11, final word, *for* 'Council' *reading* 'Conference'
- 5/11/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/5.
- 5/11/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/6,
p 541, *correcting* the text of Standing Order 132(3) to appear in bold italics throughout
- 5/12 **50. OVERSIGHT AND TRUSTEESHIP**
- 5/12/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/1,
p 564 paragraph 1.9, line 4, *adding* 'has been established' after 'report to them'
- 5/12/2 The Conference adopted Resolutions 50/2 and 50/3.
- 5/13 **45. REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**
The Conference adopted Resolution 45/1.
- 5/14 **18. METHODIST MEMBERSHIP IN THE 21ST CENTURY: FURTHER ISSUES**
The Conference adopted Resolution 18/1,
p 112, paragraph 6.7, line 2,
for 'seen in by newer' *reading* 'seen in newer'
p 113, paragraph 6.12, line 6,
for 'there may questions' *reading* 'there may be questions'
- 5/15 **9. ALL WE CAN**
- 5/15/1 The Conference received a presentation about the work of All We Can led by the Interim CEO, Angela Zamaere Smith.
- 5/15/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 9/1.
- 5/16 The Conference adjourned at 13.02.
- 5/17 The Conference reassembled at 14.18.
- 5/18 **52. BRIEFING FOR CONFERRING ON THE JUSTICE PRIORITY: POVERTY IN THE UK**
The Conference engaged in discussion of this item, led by Rachel Lampard, Director of Social Justice and Social Action in the Connexional Team.

5/19 **8. FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE**

5/19/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 8/1,

pp 38-39, *renumbering* the second paragraph 2.3 to 2.4 and *amending* subsequent paragraph numbers accordingly

p 42, *renumbering* the second paragraph 5.4 to 5.5, and the following paragraph from 5.5 to 5.6

5/19/2 The Conference adopted Resolutions 8/2 and 8/3.

5/20 **TENT OF NATIONS**

5/20/1 The Conference received a presentation regarding the Tent of Nations farm near Bethlehem in the Occupied West Bank.

5/20/2 **Memorials M6, M7**

The Conference received Memorials M6 and M7 and adopted as its replies those recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorials and the replies appearing on Agenda pp 714-716,

p 715, reply to Memorial M6
first paragraph, penultimate line, *for* 'month's' *reading* 'months'

and *replacing* the second paragraph of the reply with:
The Conference accepts the memorial and affirms its prayerful solidarity with the Nassar family. The Conference welcomes the representations made to the Embassy of Israel and the British Government by the Secretary of the Conference in April 2024. The Conference directs the Secretary to ensure that a letter of support is written to the Nassar family and that appropriate further representations are made, drawing attention in such representations to the appeal of the Sheffield Circuit and this reply, and encourages local churches, circuits and districts which are making their own representations also to draw attention to the appeal and this reply. The Conference also expresses appreciation for the international Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem and its work in facilitating relationships and encounter between Palestinians, Israelis and Methodist people worldwide. *[as corrected by 6/22]*

p 716, *adding* to the reply to Memorial M7,
'substituting references to the Burnley and Pendle Circuit for the references to the Sheffield Circuit'

5/21 **3. METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 1, Section C**

The Conference adopted Resolutions 3/4 and 3/5,

p 24, *amending* SO 48A1(1) to read:
(1) Subject to the further provisions of this Section, a District may at any Synod pass a resolution that this Section shall apply to that District, ***or to a District to be formed by amalgamation under Standing Order 401 of which it will become a part***, with effect from *[then continuing as on Agenda p 24]*

p 24, SO 48A1(2), line 3,
for 'two ~~three~~ months' *reading* '**two** ~~three~~-months'

p 25, amending SO 48A1(7) to read:

(7) If a draft modified constitution provides as set out in clause (3) above, the Districts which have passed the relevant adoption resolution shall form one new District from the date on which the adoption resolution takes effect *relates to a District to be formed by amalgamation under Standing Order 401, the resolution under clause (1), if validly passed under clause (5), will take effect on the date specified in the resolution (or the later date resulting from the operation of clause (6)) only if that date is approved by the Connexional Council and otherwise will take effect on the alternative date which the council specifies.* and ~~the~~ The form in which the constitution and enumeration of the Districts is set out pursuant to Standing Order 400 shall reflect that change *the amalgamation from the date so approved or specified.*

5/22 **49. COMMITTEE ON METHODIST LAW AND POLITY, Sections A, B, D, F, G**

5/22/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 49/1 and 49/2.

5/22/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/3,

p 528, SO, 654(4)(ii), line 3,
for '**to most closely**' reading '**most closely to**'

5/22/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/7,

p 541, Section D, paragraph 1, line 2,
for 'category' reading 'Conference'

p 542, line 2 on page,
for 'there' reading 'therefore'

5/22/4 The Conference, with the required majority, adopted Resolution 49/8,

p 543, taking Clause numbers 17 and 43 out of italics

and in Clause 17(a)(ii), for '**Synod**' reading 'Synod'

5/22/5 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/9,

p 544, SO 102(1), putting the numbers (i) to (viii) in bold italics

p 545, SO 129, for '(4)' reading '(1)'

p 545, SO 336(4), for 'Standing Order 102(1)(vii)(g)' reading 'Standing Order 102(1)(**vii**)(~~g~~)'

5/22/6 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/10,

p 547, Deed of Union Clause 14(2), for '(ix)' reading '(x)'

5/22/7 The Conference adopted Resolutions 49/13 and 49/14,

p 549, paragraph 4, final line for 'as a apart' reading 'as a part'

p 550-551, amending SO 581(1) to read:

(1) Subject to the further provisions of this Section, a Circuit may at any Circuit Meeting pass a resolution that this Section shall apply to that Circuit, **or to a Circuit to be formed by amalgamation under Section 501 of which it will become a part**, with effect from [then continuing as on Agenda p 551]

p 552, amending SO 581(7) to read:

(7)(a) The district Policy Committee shall report to the Synod and to the Conference Office the passing of any resolution under clause (1) above which relates to an existing Circuit and the date on which, subject to the provisions of clause (6) above, the modified constitution is to take effect.

(b) If a draft modified constitution provides as set out in clause (3) above, the Circuits which have passed the relevant adoption shall form one new Circuit from the date on which the adoption resolution takes effect *relates to a Circuit to be formed by amalgamation under Standing Order 501 the Synod, when making its recommendation to the Conference under that Standing Order, shall also state whether or not it approves the draft modified constitution and the Conference shall consider the draft amended constitution in making any directions or passing any resolutions in connection with the proposed amalgamation. If the Conference decides to give effect to the proposed amalgamation, the relevant resolution under clause (1), if validly passed under clause (5), will take effect on the date specified in the resolution (or the later date resulting from the operation of clause (6)) only if that date is approved by the Conference and otherwise will take effect on the alternative date which the Conference specifies.* and the form in which the constitution and enumeration of the Circuits is set out pursuant to Standing Order 501(1) shall reflect that change *the amalgamation from the date so approved or specified.*

5/22/8 The Conference adopted Resolutions 49/15 and 49/16,

p 557-558, amending the proposed changes to SO 718 to read:

(1) Any student minister seeking to change order of ministry shall complete an application form. A student requesting to move into diaconal ministry shall have an interview with the diaconal tutor of the training institution and the Warden, who shall jointly write a report. A student requesting to move into presbyteral ministry shall have an interview with the student's personal tutor [then continuing as on Agenda p 557 to the end of the paragraph]

1. [as on Agenda p 557]

2. Recommending a suspension of the current training whilst the student undertakes further guided discernment (and the timing and nature of that discernment is determined).

3. [as on Agenda p 558]

(2) Any probationer seeking to change order of ministry shall have a vocational conversation with the Chair of District and complete an application form. A probationer requesting to move into diaconal ministry shall have a formal interview with the Warden, who shall write a report. A probationer requesting to move into presbyteral ministry shall have a formal interview with the Chair of District [then continuing as on Agenda p 558]

(3) Any ordained minister wishing to change order of ministry shall have a vocational conversation with the Chair of District and shall complete an application form. A presbyter requesting to move into diaconal ministry shall have a formal interview with the Warden, who shall write a report. A deacon requesting to move into presbyteral ministry [then continuing as on Agenda p 558]

5/23 **55. CIRCUIT AMALGAMATIONS**

The Conference adopted Resolutions 55/1, 55/2 and 55/3.

5/24 The Conference adjourned at 16.12.

5/25 The Conference reassembled at 16.45.

5/26 **DAILY RECORD**

5/26/1 The Daily Record of the Presbyteral Session on Thursday 27 June and Friday 28 June was presented, taken as read, and adopted.

5/26/2 The Written Portion of the Daily Record of the Presbyteral Session was presented in headings only and adopted.

5/26/3 The Daily Record for Saturday 29 June and Sunday 30 June was presented, taken as read, and adopted.

5/27 **20. GOD FOR ALL: THE CONNEXIONAL STRATEGY FOR EVANGELISM AND GROWTH – STRATEGIC UPDATE AND RENEWAL (2025-2032) [as corrected by 6/22]**

5/27/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 20/1 and 20/2.

5/27/2 **Memorials M3, M21, M22**

The Conference received Memorials M3, M21 and M22 and adopted as its replies those recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorials and the replies appearing on Agenda pp 709-711 and pp 733-736.

5/28 **17. SINGLENESS**

The Conference adopted Resolutions 17/1 and 17/2.

5/29 The Conference shared in worship, and adjourned at 18.16.

5/30 **LETTERS**

5/30/1 Letters of thanks were sent in the name of the Conference to those involved in organising and running the ordination services: Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, preachers, World Church Representatives, local venue organisers and Connexional Team representatives.

5/30/2 A letter of thanks was sent in the name of the Conference to The Revd Dr Albert Mosley for over thirty years' work compiling and maintaining the Methodist Missionary Register.

5/30/3 Letters of thanks were sent in the name of the Conference to Barbara M Easton, Donna Clark and Catherine Freze who produced the schools video shown at the

Opening of the Conference on Saturday, and to Angela Zamaere Smith for the presentation by All We Can.

5/30/4 Letters were sent in the name of the Conference to Joanne Anderton, the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice, and to The Revd Catherine Dixon, Convener of the Memorials Committee, expressing the Conference's regret that they are unable to be present due to ill health.

6/1 The Conference assembled at 9.15 and shared in worship.

6/2 **REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

6/2/1 In the light of the amendments brought to Agenda item 13 (Methodist Independent Schools Trust – Revision to Articles of Association) by the Law and Polity Conference Sub-committee, the Business Committee informs the Conference that this report will be removed from the *en bloc* list.

Executive Summary

This report presents the findings from the gender diversity monitoring conducted at the Conference on 1 July 2024. There were a total of 57 speakers throughout the day. The data reveals a balanced male and female representation with 27 male, 28 female, two non-binary speakers. Speakers who were Lay: 20 (35%), Ordained: 37 (65%).

Introduction

The purpose of this monitoring is to gain an understanding of the gender distribution of speakers, giving an insight into issues of inclusion and representation. This report covers data collected on 1st July 2024. Further analysis will take place post Conference.

Methodology

Data were collected by volunteers who recorded the gender of speakers as described on their name badges and whether speakers were Lay or Ordained for each session. Tally sheets were compiled and analysed to provide an overview of gender diversity.

6/2/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution B/4:

The Conference receives the Report.

6/3 **35. PENSION SCHEMES**

6/3/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 35/1,

p 451, paragraph 22, line 5,
for 'turmoil crated' reading 'turmoil created'

6/3/2 The Conference adopted Resolutions 35/2, 35/3, 35/4, 35/5, 35/6 and 35/7.

6/3/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution 35/8:

The Conference reappoints Fred King and Anne Fairchild as directors of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Trust Limited for a period of three years commencing 1 September 2024.

6/3/4 The Conference adopted as Resolution 35/9:

The Conference delegates to the Connexional Council the finalisation and signing of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme valuation.

6/4 **32. REVIEW OF PART 11 OF STANDING ORDERS**

6/4/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 32/1, 32/2, 32/3, 32/4, 32/5, 32/6, 32/7, 32/8, 32/9, 32/10, 32/11, 32/12 and 32/13.

6/4/2 **Memorial M2**

The Conference received Memorial M2 and adopted as its reply that recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorial and the reply appearing on Agenda pp 707-709.

6/5 The Conference adjourned at 10.42.

6/6 The Conference reassembled at 10:47.

6/7 **22. METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 2, Section H**

6/7/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/5.

6/7/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/6 in the form:

The Conference adopts the revised policy for electing the President and Vice-President of the Conference as set out in the Report and directs the Law and Polity Committee to prepare new Standing Orders to give effect to it, taking into account issues raised in this debate.

6/8 The Conference adjourned at 10.59.

6/9 The Conference reassembled at 11.33.

6/10 The Conference engaged in Bible study, led by Jenny Sinclair of Together for the Common Good.

6/11 **29. SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE**

6/11/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 29/1,

p 353, first paragraph, line 6,
for 'should such a disclosure' reading 'until such a disclosure'

6/11/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 29/2 in the form:

The Conference:

- (1) reaffirms the requirements set out in Book VI Part 1 of *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline* relating to qualification for appointment and the duty of specified office-holders to obtain disclosures from the Disclosure and Barring Service or its equivalent in other jurisdictions;
- (2) restates the policy set out in Part 4 of the Methodist Church's *Safer Recruitment Policy, Procedures and Guidance* that checks should be renewed every five years and applications for renewal should be made in time to ensure that the new certificate is in place before the end of the five year period;

- (3) draws attention to the responsibility of the relevant office-holders themselves to comply with the requirements of the Church's safeguarding policies;
- (4) notes that failure to do so constitutes a possible ground for suspension under Standing Order 013;
- (5) expects responsible officers within the meaning of that Standing Order to consider the exercise of their power of suspension in cases of breach of the requirements identified above for the purpose of mitigating the risk of damage to those who are vulnerable and enhancing confidence that within the Methodist Church safeguarding precautions are taken seriously.

6/12 **22. METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 2, Section P**

6/12/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/20,
 p 273, first paragraph, line 2,
 for 'clear responsibly' reading 'clear responsibility'

6/12/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/21 in the form:

The Conference approves the principles of the proposed unified safeguarding structure outlined in the Report, notes the intention that the new structure be implemented by 1 September 2025 and directs the Safeguarding Committee, in consultation with the Law and Polity Committee, to bring the necessary Standing Order amendments to the Conference of 2025.

6/12/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/22.

6/13 The Conference adjourned at 13.01.

6/14 The Conference reassembled at 14.15.

6/15 **51. DISTRICT AMALGAMATIONS**

The Conference adopted Resolutions 51/1, 51/2, 51/3, 51/4, 51/5 and 51/6.

6/16 **28. THE ROLE OF A DISTRICT CHAIR**

The Conference adopted Resolution 28/1.

6/17 **50. OVERSIGHT AND TRUSTEESHIP (continued)**

6/17/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/10,

p 577, SO 426(2)(iii), *amending* to read:
 (iii) the appointment shall be for a specified period not exceeding **threefive** years in the first instance (but capable of extension for a further period or periods each of which shall not exceed three years, *[then continuing as on Agenda p 577]*)

p 578, SO 426(6)(i)
 for '**be in the active work stationed**' reading '**be in the active work and stationed**'

6/17/2 The Conference, with the required majority, adopted Resolution 50/11. *[for a direction regarding consultation, see 7/42/1]*

6/18 **22. METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 2, Section G, J, T**

6/18/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/3,

p 204, paragraph 21, line 3,
for 'recommends' reading 'recommended'

6/18/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/4. [see also 7/42/3-4, 7/43/1(7) and 7/43/5]

6/18/3 **Memorials M12, M13**

The Conference received Memorials M12 and M13 and adopted as its replies those recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorials and the replies appearing on Agenda pp 721-724,

p 723, third paragraph,
line 3, for 'a range of option' reading 'a range of options'
line 5, for 'with who' reading 'with whom'

6/18/4 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/9.

6/18/5 **SUMMARY REPORT OF THE JUSTICE, DIGNITY AND SOLIDARITY SCRUTINY GROUP TO THE CONFERENCE**

The JDS Scrutiny Group has continued to meet together during 2023/2024 and has also met with the Secretary of the Conference and the Connexional Secretary and with the Co-Chairs of the JDS Committee and the Director of Inclusion.

We are pleased that there has been movement on JDS strategy related issues during the year whilst recognising that some things have not been able to move as quickly as would have been wished due to the Implementation Officer role ending last summer and the new JDS Programme Co-ordinator not being able to be in post until this September. A detailed project plan has not yet been produced and therefore robust project management of the delivery of the JDS strategy is not yet in place. We continue to believe that the project plan will support the JDS Committee and ourselves in ensuring that the strategy moves forward in a timely manner with appropriate scrutiny.

We were pleased to see the report of the Susanna Wesley Foundation research carried out to explore awareness of and progress in implementing the Methodist Church's JDS strategy. It revealed that the strategy is welcomed but hardly off the ground in most local churches. They make a number of interesting points such as "Methodist culture blocks progress; whilst many Methodists would want to be working within a JDS approach, the culture of not wanting to make mistakes or change beloved ways of doing things mitigate against it happening. They say that "a greater sense of priorities and stages towards implementation is needed". They also recognise that "it may take many years for the Church to feel significantly different unless there is more connexional clarity and guidance on the steps to take in order to move forward".

The Susanna Wesley report also sets out that a joined up approach is needed; "existing connexional strategies and policies including safeguarding and "God for all" need to be harmonised with the JDS approach (and vice versa)". Whilst recognising that there has been progress on developing such an approach, and on recommended work related to worship resources, we look forward to seeing further progress on these and other aspects of this helpful report.

We hope that discussion on the practical outworking of the structures as set out in the Trustee and Oversight work will be able to facilitate the needed joined up approach further. There has been some movement on this as set out in the JDS Committee report, but we hope that going forward the JDS awareness in all major policies of the Church including the ongoing stationing review and the outcomes of the review of part 11 of Standing Orders (Complaints and discipline). There is mention of the DARS programme in the Part 11 report but there is not clarity about how it would be integrated with all complaints including safeguarding although we understand that the Director of inclusion has been working with colleagues around safeguarding and Part 11 and we hope to see the connections made clearer. In adopting the resolutions in the Part 11 review report it would have been helpful to have spelled out which complaints – from Part 11, safeguarding and DARS will be included in the record management, case management and reporting systems and a simplified 3 tier model for addressing complaints (Recommendations 5, 6, 7 and 8) There has been active engagement with “Justice seeking church” and “God for all” colleagues and we look forward to this continuing. There has also been collaborative working with the Learning and Development team, and it is good to see training being encouraged and delivered around the Connexion including the EDI induction and the mandatory training. The work being done in Districts is also encouraging although standard record keeping would enable the Church to have more assurance about the training and other work being carried out. In relation to the Conference we welcome the proposal in part 2 of the Methodist Council report section T that on the recommendation of the JDS Committee the equality impact assessment will be incorporated alongside the Notice of Motion form to ensure issues related to discrimination can be actively considered and prevented. We look forward to the further work being considered to ascertain the reach and impact of the JDS strategy.

Unfortunately, there has not been an opportunity to have a meeting with representatives of the Oversight and Trusteeship Task Group (OTTG) who we know have had an enormous workload in looking at all the things which needed to be brought to the Conference this year. This means that we have not been able to follow up on the concerns we expressed in our report last year about how the JDS Committee will be able to exercise its responsibilities in Standing Orders under the new reporting arrangements, that is via the Mission Committee. No consultation was able to take place with the JDS Committee either. The difficulties around this are not covered in the latest Oversight and Trusteeship report. The SO re the Mission Committee does not set out its role in relation to the implementation of the JDS strategy or in ensuring that the JDS Committee has all the information that it needs in order to for example “Make strategic recommendations and give support and guidance to the council in all matters relating to equality, diversity and inclusion” (SO 330(2)(i)). We note the careful consideration that the Mission Committee has given to other areas of its responsibility and are aware that it takes its own responsibilities with regard to JDS matters seriously. We are, however, disappointed that the JDS Committee Chair is not on the Connexional Council alongside the Chairs of the Mission, Ministries, Resourcing and Audit and Risk Assurance Committees as JDS matters are integral to all of the work of the Church – trusteeship, ministries and resourcing as well as mission. It has been agreed that conversations will need to take place to ensure that all the affected bodies have a shared understanding of the way forward and any subsequent proposals for changes to reporting or Standing Orders brought to the 2025 Conference. This may be the kind of thing that the Task Group envisage when saying in their report that “All Committees, working parties and task groups will need a “Ways of Working document”. We would be happy to be part of such discussions. We hope that such conversations will also include SO 221 related to the scrutiny group.

In summary we reflect further on these words from the Susanna Wesley report that “implementing the JDS strategy is both an important and difficult task” and look forward to further progress during the coming year.

6/18/6 The Conference adopted as Resolution 22/9A:

The Conference receives the Report.

6/18/7 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/28.

6/18/8 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/29,

p 287, SO 136A(1), line 5,
for ‘the Connexional Treasurer’ reading ‘the Connexional Treasurer’

p 288, SO 136A(4), replacing clause (4) with:
(4) For the purposes of this Standing Order, an ‘impact assessment’ is an assessment of the impact on the connexion as a whole in accordance with the provisions of clause (2) above of any proposal contained in material coming before the Conference.

6/19 **13. METHODIST INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS TRUST (MIST) – REVISION TO ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

6/19/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 13/1.

6/19/2 **Report from the Law and Polity Conference Sub-committee**

The Law and Polity Conference Sub-committee has considered the proposed revision of the MIST Articles of Association and reports to the Conference as follows.

Report

1. Under the present Articles of Association, any amendment requires the consent of the Conference which is to be evidenced by a resolution signed by the President of the Conference. The Law and Polity Conference Sub-committee, having considered a complete copy of the Articles containing the proposed revisions in draft form, is able to advise the Conference that the report at Agenda item 13 sets out at pp 60-62 the new form of the individual articles which will result from the proposed revision. For completeness, the Sub-committee draws to the attention of the Conference the fact, as there are no longer any schools falling under the definition of “Acquired Schools” (see the report at p 60) it is proposed to delete from article 2.2 the words “or Acquired School and to act as member of any Acquired School”, from article 16.2 the definition of “Acquired Schools” and from Schedule 1 the words “and Acquired Schools” in the title (which will read “The Schools and Associated Schools” as shown on p 61) and Part 3, listing the Acquired Schools.
2. The report in item 13 helpfully explains that the revisions are intended:
 - 2.1 to allow for the appointment of up to 17 Trustees (see the revised articles 3.2, 3.4.3 and 3.4.5 (the existing article 3.4.5, providing for a Connexional Representative Trustee, being deleted). This is a net increase in the maximum number of Trustees from 16 to 17 and is accompanied by an increase in the minimum number of Trustees from 10 to 11;

- 2.2 to reduce the minimum proportion of Trustees who must be Methodists from one half to one third (again see the revised article 3.2);
- 2.3 to reflect the preference expressed on behalf of the Methodist Church that there should no longer be a Connexional Representative Trustee but rather a Connexional Representative with the right to attend Trustee meetings and to speak but not to vote (see the revised articles 3.6 and 3.8.7, removing provisions relating to the Connexional Representative Trustee, the new article 4.9 and the new definition of “Connexional Representative” in article 16.2, by amendment to the previous definition of “Connexional Representative Trustee”
- 2.4 to cover “housekeeping” points resulting from the fact that there are no longer any Acquired Schools.
3. The Sub-committee notes that the numbering of the new article 4.9 results from an amendment to article 4.7, which has been divided into articles 4.7 and 4.8 so that the attendance of Heads at Trustees’ meetings is dealt with in a separate article from the attendance of the General Secretary and the Business Director of MIST. It further notes that there is additionally a new article 4.10, as shown on p 61. The existing 4.9 therefore becomes 4.11.
4. The Sub-committee does not perceive any difficulty with the principles of the revisions outlined above, but draws attention to the following points.
5. First, by way of clarification, “Chairs of Governors Trustees” is a term defined in article 16.2 to mean Trustees appointed on the recommendation of the Chairs of Governors (or as there set out). The Trustees do not themselves have to be Chairs of Governors.
6. Secondly, the existing articles contain in 16.2 a definition of “Methodist Council Trustees” as Trustees appointed on the nomination of the Methodist Council and the existing article 3.4.3 provides for the appointment of five Methodist Council Trustees. Although the report at p 61 refers to “Connexional Council Trustees” in a revised 3.4.3, no definition of “Connexional Council Trustees” is proposed and there is no proposal to delete the definition of “Methodist Council Trustees”. The Sub-committee’s understanding is that the Connexional Council Trustees are to be nominated by the Connexional Council, so that effectively the Connexional Council will replace the Methodist Council in this context. This will require further amendments to the Articles of Association, as reflected in the revised resolution 13/2 set out below.
7. Thirdly, in the Sub-committee’s view the Connexional Representative should be nominated by the Connexional Council rather than “the Methodist Church” and an amendment to the definition on p 61 is therefore proposed, again as reflected in the revised resolution 13/2. It is assumed that “or” at the end of line 2 of the definition of “Connexional Representative” is a typographical error for “for”.
8. Finally, the Sub-committee understands that Shebbear College has been sold and therefore should be deleted from Schedule 1 Part 1.
9. The Sub-committee advises the Conference that it can properly consent to the proposed revisions to the MIST Articles of Association subject to the further revisions identified above.

10. If the Conference consents to the proposed revisions as revised, the draft Standing Order 273 on p 611 of the Agenda will require to be amended to read:

(1) ...

(iii) up to ~~five~~**six** persons nominated by the Methodist **Connexional** Council;

(iv) one person nominated by the District Chairs; and

(v) up to ~~five~~**six** persons nominated by the Company.

6/19/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution LP/2:

The Conference receives the report.

6/19/4 The Conference adopted Resolution 13/2 in the form:

The Conference consents to the revisions to the Articles of Association for the Methodist Independent Schools Trust as set out in the Report subject to the following further revisions:

(1) Add the following definitions in article 16.2 in alphabetical order:

Connexional Council means the body of persons known by that name and constituted under the Deed of Union and the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church;

Connexional Council Trustees means those trustees who have been appointed by the Conference on the nomination of the Connexional Council;

(2) Delete the definition of **Methodist Council Trustees**;

(3) Amend the definition of **Connexional Representative** to read:

Connexional Representative means an individual who is a senior staff member within the Connexional Team of the Methodist Church with responsibility for oversight of education and who, at the nomination of the Connexional Council, has been appointed ...

(4) Delete 'Shebbear College' from Schedule 1 Part 1.

6/20 The Conference adjourned at 16.08.

6/21 The Conference reassembled at 16.45.

6/22 **DAILY RECORD**

The Daily Record for Monday 1 July was presented, taken as read, and adopted,

5/20/2, *noting* the following further amendment to the reply to Memorial M6 on p 715:

and *replacing* the second paragraph of the reply with:

The Conference accepts the memorial and affirms its prayerful solidarity with the Nassar family. The Conference welcomes the representations made to the Embassy of Israel and the British Government by the Secretary of the Conference in April 2024. The Conference directs the Secretary to ensure that a letter of support is written to the Nassar family and that appropriate further

representations are made, drawing attention in such representations to the appeal of the Sheffield Circuit and this reply, and encourages local churches, circuits and districts which are making their own representations also to draw attention to the appeal and this reply. The Conference also expresses appreciation for the international Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem and its work in facilitating relationships and encounter between Palestinians, Israelis and Methodist people worldwide.

5/27, for EVANGELISM reading EVANGELISM

6/23 **14. 3GENERATE – THE VOICE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN BRITAIN 2023**

The Conference adopted Resolutions 14/1, 14/2, 14/3, 14/4 and 14/5.

6/24 **Notice of Motion 2024/201: Fairtrade**

6/24/1 Notwithstanding the preference of the President and Vice-President for Yorkshire Tea, the Conference recalls previous resolutions that Conference venues should be required to provide Fairtrade beverages, notes that in recent years this has not always been the case and reaffirming its commitment to Fairtrade, the Conference calls on those responsible for booking venues to take notes of these resolutions in future.

6/24/2 The Conference adopted the Motion.

6/25 The Conference went into closed session at 18.05.

6/26 A report was presented to the Conference on behalf of the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice regarding the reporting of serious incidents to the Charity Commission.

6/27 A report was presented to the Conference on behalf of the Conveners of Connexional Discipline and Appeal Committees regarding disciplinary processes concluded during the past year.

6/28 The Secretary of the Conference updated the Conference on a matter of concern from the 2023 Conference.

6/29 The Conference reassembled in open session at 18.15.

6/30 The Conference shared in worship, and adjourned at 18.30.

6/31 **LETTERS**

6/31/1 A letter was sent in the name of the Conference to The Revd Stuart Earl, thanking him for six years' service on the Presbyteral Ordinands' Retreat team.

6/31/2 A letter of concern was sent in the name of the Conference to Beatrice Cloke, a past member of the Conference.

6/31/3 A letter of sympathy was sent in the name of the Conference to Jane Goodfellow, a member of this year's Conference.

6/31/4 A letter was sent in the name of the Conference to Jenny Sinclair, director of Together for the Common Good, thanking her for the three Bible studies she has contributed to the Conference.

- 6/31/5 A letter was sent in the name of the Conference to David Orford, thanking him for his work as consultant in the review of the complaints and discipline processes.
- 6/31/6 A letter was sent in the name of the Conference to Bishop Juan Simpson of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, offering the concern of the Conference following Hurricane Beryl.

7/1 The Conference assembled at 9.15 and shared in worship.

7/2 **REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

7/2/1 **EDI Monitoring Report**

This report presents the findings from the gender diversity monitoring conducted at the Methodist Conference on Tuesday 2nd July 2024. There were a total of 76 speakers throughout the day. The data revealed 35 male speakers, 36 female speakers, 1 non-binary speaker and 4 speakers preferred not to state their gender. Speakers who were lay: 28 (37%), ordained: 48 (63%).

Because of absences, there have been 220 representatives at the Conference. 117 female representatives, 87 male representatives, 2 non-binary representatives and 14 representatives who preferred not to state a gender.

There were a total of 113 ordained (51% of representatives) representatives and 107 lay (49% of representatives) representatives.

Statistical Summary

Total Number of Speakers: 76

Gender Distribution of Speakers

Female: 36 Male: 35 Non-Binary: 1 Prefer Not To Say: 4

7/2/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution B/5:

The Conference receives the Report.

7/3 **DESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE**

The Revd Richard M Andrew was designated for appointment as President of the Conference of 2025.

7/4 **DESIGNATION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE**

Matthew A Forsyth was designated for appointment as Vice-President of the Conference of 2025.

7/5 **CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE ELECTION**

The Conference elected The Revd Stephen J Radford to serve on the Representative Session Business Committee at the Conferences of 2025-2027.

7/6 **22. METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 2, Section M**

The Conference adopted Resolution 22/16.

7/7 **50. OVERSIGHT AND TRUSTEESHIP (continued)**

7/7/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/4.

7/7/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/5,

p 582, SO 200(1)(c), *adding* a second sentence:

'No person shall be a member of the council who is stationed (other than as President, Vice-President or Secretary of the Conference) to serve in or is employed in the Connexional Team.'

p 583, SO 200(2)(a), line 2, *amending* to read:

'... subject to the final sentence of this provisions of ...'

p 583, SO 200(4)(a)(i), *adding* the further text:

',' or becomes stationed (other than as President, Vice-President or Secretary of the Conference) to serve in or becomes employed in the Connexional Team;'

p 583-584, *setting out* SO 200(4)(a)(iv) as follows:

(iv) if

(A) in the written opinion given to the council of a registered medical practitioner treating a person appointed to the council under clause (1)(viii) above that person has become mentally or physically incapable of acting as a trustee and may continue to be so for more than three months; or

(B) a person so appointed is absent from the meetings of the council for six months without the consent of the council

and in either case the council has resolved that the relevant person shall cease to be a member of the council;

and *renumbering* the second (iv) on p 584 as (v)

p 591, SO 211(6), line 3,

for 'secretary' reading '***convener***'

p 592, SO 220(4),

deleting 'the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee'

p 592, SO 221(1), *amending* the proposed wording to read:

'The Conference shall appoint a scrutiny group ("the JDS scrutiny group") to provide strategic scrutiny of the implementation and embedding of the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity strategy, and assurance that the strategy is implemented in the work for which the Connexional Council is responsible to the Conference.'

p 593, *amending* SO 222 to read:

'(2) The committee shall consist of no fewer than three persons, including one appointed by the Conference to chair the committee and, if the Conference thinks fit, one appointed as deputy chair, all of whom shall be members of the Methodist Church and all of whom shall normally serve for an initial term of four years and thereafter on an annual basis for a maximum of three years. No person shall be eligible to be a member of the committee who is a member of the Connexional Team, or the Strategy and Resources Committee, or the council.

(3)(a) With the exception of the person appointed to serve ex officio on the Connexional Council by virtue of Standing Order 200(1)(b)(vii), no member of the council shall be eligible to be a member of the committee.

(b) No member of the Connexional Team shall be eligible to be a member of the committee.'

and renumbering clauses (3) to (7) as (4) to (8)

p 595, SO 230(4)(iv), line 2,
for '713(7A)' reading '~~713(7A)~~**714A**'

p 599, SO 232(6), line 3,
for 'his or her absence' reading '~~his or her~~**the** absence'

p 607, SO 260(2) line 3,
for 'in the first instance for six years' reading 'in the first instance ~~for six years~~'

p 611, SO 273(1), replacing (iii) and (iv) with:
'(iii) up to ~~five~~**six** persons nominated by the ~~Methodist~~**Connexional** Council; ~~and~~
(iv) **one person nominated by the District Chairs; and**
(~~iv~~)(v) up to ~~five~~**six** persons nominated by the Company.'

p 617, SO 293(1), lines 4-5, amending to read:
'in the exercise of ~~his or her~~**the** particular responsibilities **of the office,**'

p 625, SO 330(2)(v), line 1,
for 'co-chairs **or deputy chair**' reading '~~co~~-chairs **or deputy chair**'

p 630, SO 350(1), last line,
for '~~Methodist Council~~' reading '~~Methodist~~**Connexional** Council'

p 631, SO 362(2), last line,
for 'by the council' reading 'by the **Connexional** Council'

p 632, SO 362,
deleting clause (7) and renumbering clauses (8) and (9) as (7) and (8)

p 636, setting out the end of SO 375(1) as follows:
'(vii) The spouses or civil partners of deceased ministers and probationers and other members of their immediate households who, in any such case, are in need;
and to make such grants or payments as appear in clauses (2) and (3).'

p 637, SO 376(5), line 1,
for 'out of the ~~Methodist Church Fund~~' reading 'out of the ~~Methodist Church~~ **Fund**'

p 637, SO 376(6)(i), line 6,
for 'Standing Order 013(11); or'
reading 'Standing Order 013(11) **or Standing Order 1105(10);** or'

p 638, SO 378, last undeleted line, amending to read:
'or any charity connected with the work of the Church.;~~and~~'

p 638, SO 380(1), line 2,
for 'to provide a ~~coherent~~ **efficient**' reading 'to provide a ~~coherent~~ **an efficient**'

p 639, SO 381(4),
for '~~Methodist Council~~' reading '~~Methodist~~**Connexional** Council'

p 639, SO 382, amending the title to read:
'The Connexional Team: other specific responsibilities'

p 639, SO 383(1), line 3,
for 'in the execution of his or her **the** overall responsibilities' reading 'in the execution of ~~his or her~~ **the** overall responsibilities'

p 641, SO 385(4)(ii),
for 'clause (8) below' reading 'clause (9) below'

p 643, SO 387(1), lines 1-2 on the page,
for 'within the control of the Methodist C council' reading 'within the control of the ~~Methodist Council~~'

7/7/3 **Supplementary report**

As a result of the further consultation and consideration referred to in Section 7, three areas have been addressed:

1) The definition of "parent body": it is proposed that the Connexional Council be excluded from the definition in SO 907, as the provisions relating to parent bodies are not appropriate for application to the council in its trustee body role. The amendment to SO 907 and the consequential amendments in Section 91 below deal with this point.

2) The appropriate requirements to apply to the Connexional Council where the council proposes to carry out projects on connexional property of which it has the managing trusteeship: it is recommended that the council be exempted from the normal consent requirements in SO 930, again because of its particular trustee role in our governance structures, but that there be a new SO 931A which lays upon the council some requirements as to consultation as set out below.

The exception to this exemption is where the project involves work being undertaken which falls within the compass of Section 98 ("Listed Building Works"). In this case, it is essential that the church is able to demonstrate, for the purpose of retaining its ecclesiastical exemption from local planning authority control, that there is a robust consent system (including provision for reviews and appeals). The new SO 986 lays down how this system, working through the Listed Building Committee, shall apply to the council.

3) A very minor amendment of the Model Trust Consultation Regulations is proposed to reflect the constitution of the Connexional Council.

Further amendments to Part 9 appear elsewhere in the Order Paper in relation to the Special Resolutions, but the adoption of those amendments does not affect the proposals set out here.

All the amendments set out below form part of Appendix B, proposed for adoption in Resolution 50/6 and accordingly are to be understood as appearing in Section 7 on page 655 of the Agenda.

7/7/4 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/6 in the form:

The Conference receives the Supplementary Report to Section 7 and makes the consequential amendments to the remainder of Standing Orders set out in Appendix B of the Report.

Amendments added to Appendix B by virtue of the Supplementary Report:

907 Interpretation – Parent Bodies. In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires, “parent body” means in relation to district property or district trustees the relevant Synod or Synods; **and** in relation to conference property the Conference and in relation to connexional property or connexional trustees the council, board, general committee or other body administering the affairs of the relevant connexional organisation.

910 Proceedings of Trustees.

...

(2) The proceedings of conference trustees, ~~connexional trustees~~ and district trustees ...

(3) Subject to clauses (1) and (2) above **and (3A) below**, the determination ...

(3A) The Connexional Council acting as managing trustees may not make any determination within clause (3) above unless any quorum requirement applicable to the relevant meeting is met.

(4) Subject to clauses (1), (2), ~~and (3)~~ **and (3A)** above ...

912 Committees and Officers. (1) The appointment and dismissal of committees, stewards, treasurers or other officers or servants by ~~connexional trustees or district trustees~~ ...

(2) Subject to clause (1) above and to the Standing Orders affecting appointments by **the Connexional Council**, Circuit Meetings and Church Councils ...

913 Accounts.

...

(2) All such accounts ... for connexional property ~~and~~ **shall be appointed by the Connexional Council. The auditors or examiners for** district property shall be appointed by the relevant parent ~~bodies~~ **body**. ...

915 Capital and Income.

...

(3) ...

(vi) in the case of connexional property, allocations from the general income administered by the ~~parent body~~ **Connexional Council**

...

916 Application of Capital Money. (1) Subject to clauses (2) and (3) below,

...

- (ii) unless the parent body (in the case of connexional property) or the appropriate connexional authority (in any other case) otherwise permits ...

929 Authorised Uses of Dwellings, *revoking* clause (3)

930 Consents generally.

...

(6) In the case of district, ~~connexional~~ and general property ...

931A Connexional Trustees and Consultation. (1) *The following provisions apply to the exercise of its powers by the Connexional Council when acting as connexional trustees.*

(2) *In cases in which other trustees bodies are required pursuant to Standing Order 930(6) or Standing Order 931(1) to obtain the consent of the appropriate connexional authority to a step or matter, the council shall consult with the Connexional Team before taking any such action.*

(3) *Clause (3) of Standing Order 931 applies with the substitution of the word "comment" for the word "approval".*

(4) *The council shall consult with the Team before making any application such as is referred to in Standing Order 931(4) and shall submit to the Team for comment any drafts such as are there referred to before they are accepted.*

(5) *Clause (5) of Standing Order 931 applies with the substitution of the words "prior consultation with" for the words "written consent of".*

(6) *Except to the extent specified above, the provisions of Standing Order 930 do not apply to the council when acting as connexional trustees.*

986 Application to Connexional Trustees. (1) *The following provisions apply if the Connexional Council in exercise of its powers as connexional trustees wishes to take action which would constitute a project within the meaning of Standing Order 905 if the consent of the appropriate connexional authority were required.*

(2) *The functions of the appropriate connexional authority set out in this Section, including its function of giving consent, shall be exercised by the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee, subject to any necessary modifications.*

(3) *The provisions of Standing Order 983A as to reviews and appeals shall apply for the benefit of the council as they apply to other trustee bodies.*

(4) *The powers of the council under Standing Order 985(4) to require restoration and reinstatement shall be exercisable by the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee.*

Book VI Part 2 Model Trusts – Consultation Regulations

(3)(i) ~~a connexional organisation or its~~ **the** connexional trustees: **the chair of the Connexional Council and one other member** ~~the secretary or other principal officer and a treasurer;~~

Other amendments to Appendix B:

p 645, section 1, *deleting* '755(1)'

p 646, section 4,
for '565(1)' *reading* '565(1) – make the replacement twice here'

p 646, section 6,
for '803(1)(c)' *reading* '803(1)(c) – also in this subclause replacing 'council' with 'committee' '

p 647, SO 137,
for 'The Methodist Council' *reading* '(2) The Methodist Council'

p 648, SO 974(3), *amending to read:*
'All grants shall be at the discretion of the ~~committee~~ **Connexional Council**'

p 648, SO 136(1)
amending to read: and ~~the connexional Treasurer and the connexional Press Officer shall attend as consultants~~ **a consultant** when required

p 649, new SO 110(3A), *deleting* 'Chairing of Committees.'

p 651, SO 190(5)(a),
for '(up to 25 words) about the nominee.' *reading* '(up to 25 words) about the nominee.'

p 651, **4. Memorials Committee**, *inserting the following as the second sentence of the explanatory introduction:*

'However, in two instances it would be helpful to clarify the processes for identifying the membership of the committee.'

further amending SO 138 as follows:

'(2)(i) a former President or Vice-President, **also appointed by the previous Conference**, who shall chair the committee;

(viii) ... according to a rota **maintained by the Secretary of the Conference.**'

and noting that the amendment to SO 138(2)(vii) on p 651 had already been made by Resolution 50/5 (p 646)

p 652, SO 755,
for '(3)(ii)' *reading* '(4)(ii)'
and amending to read: 'for consulting the Methodist Diaconal Order on matters referred to it by the Conference or the ~~Council~~ **Ministries Committee.**'

p 653, SO 013A(1)(iii), line 2,
for 'to exercise his or her the powers' *reading* 'to exercise his or her **the** powers'

p 653, SO 013A(1)(iv), line 5,
for '**Standing Orders 291**' reading '**Standing Order 291**'

p 654, SO 761(4), amending to read:

'The interviewing committee shall include as voting members the President or the Vice-President or an ex-President or ex-Vice-President as chair, the convener as secretary and up to five other persons chosen from a panel appointed by the Methodist Council **for that purpose from the panel constituted under Standing Order 291 by a convener of that panel ...**'

7/7/5 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/7 in the form:

The Conference directs the Law and Polity Committee to make such amendments of the numerical cross-references in Standing Orders generally as are necessary to accord with the changes made by the adoption of Resolutions 50/5 and 50/6 above.

7/7/6 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/8 in the form:

The Conference further directs the Law and Polity Committee to amend, where necessary, the text of Books IV to VII of *Constitutional Practice and Discipline* for the same purpose.

7/7/7 The Conference adopted as Resolution 50/8A:

The Conference further resolves:

(a) that the list of categories of persons disqualified from appointment, as previously specified by the Methodist Council by virtue of Standing Order 010(3)(vi) and appearing in Book VI Part 1 of *Constitutional Practice and Discipline* (at pages 797-8), shall have effect from 1 September 2024 as if specified by the Connexional Council; and

(b) that the authority conferred by the Conference on the Methodist Council in 2003 to require other categories of person or office-holder, in addition to those then directed by the Conference, to obtain either an enhanced or a standard disclosure (referred to at page 799), shall be exercisable from 1 September 2024 by the Connexional Council.

7/7/8 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/9.

7/7/9 The Conference adopted as Resolution 50/9A:

For the avoidance of doubt, the Conference resolves that:

(1) where the Methodist Council made an appointment of a person to membership of any committee or other body, that appointment shall not cease to be effective from 1 September 2024 by reason of the fact that the Methodist Council then ceases to exist;

(2) where any such appointment was made for a fixed term, it shall continue to have effect after 31 August 2024 until the date specified in the relevant resolution of appointment unless validly brought to an end on some other ground;

(3) if no such date was specified, the appointment shall continue to have effect after 31 August 2024 until validly brought to an end on some other ground;

(4) for the purposes of this resolution, an appointment may validly be brought to an end if the body which has the authority to make such appointments at the relevant time so determines or if the appointment is an ex officio appointment and the person ceases to hold the relevant office or by the resignation of the person appointed.

7/7/10 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/12,

pp 579-580, paragraph 5.2, *adding* to the list:
'The Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order'

p 580, paragraph 5.3, fifth bullet point, *adding*:
'The Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order'

p 581, paragraph 5.5,
for: '2. A retreat-type gathering of the Chairs and Connexional Council for reflection on the work of God.'
reading: '2. A retreat-type gathering of the Chairs, the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order and Connexional Council for reflection on the work of God.'

7/7/11 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/13 in the form:

The Conference suspends Standing Order 230 [to be renumbered to SO 293 from 1 September 2024] with effect from the close of the Conference of 2024 until the close of the Conference of 2025.

7/7/12 The Conference adopted Resolutions 50/14 and 50/15.

7/7/13 **Supplementary report**

SO 291 requires that the Conference appoint a panel of persons to deal with a significant number of possible matters in relation to the Conference. It has not yet been possible to compile a list of persons so the Conference is asked to authorise the Secretary to draw suitable persons as required from the panel appointed under SO 290 and the list of past Presidents and Vice-Presidents.

7/7/14 The Conference adopted as Resolution 50/16:

The Conference notes the absence of nominations to the panel required by SO 291 and directs that should the need arise for a connexional review group the Secretary of the Conference should invite suitable persons from the panel appointed under SO 290 and/or past Presidents or Vice-Presidents to form such a group.

7/8 **21. JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ETHICS OF INVESTMENT (JACEI)**

The Conference adopted Resolution 21/1.

7/9 **25. CONNEXIONAL CENTRAL SERVICES BUDGET 2024/2025 (continued)**

7/9/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 25/3,

noting the amendments at 3/17/2

- 7/9/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 25/4.
- 7/10 **3. METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 1, Sections A, B, D**
- 7/10/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 3/1,
p 18, line 1,
for 'approved an updated an update' reading 'approved an update'
- 7/10/2 The Conference adopted Resolutions 3/2, 3/3, 3/6 and 3/7.
- 7/11 **6. THE TRUSTEES FOR THE BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES**
The Conference adopted Resolution 6/1.
- 7/12 **7. THE TRUSTEES FOR JERSEY METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES**
The Conference adopted Resolution 7/1.
- 7/13 **10. JOHN WESLEY'S NEW ROOM**
The Conference adopted Resolution 10/1.
- 7/14 **11. METHODIST FORCES BOARD**
The Conference adopted Resolution 11/1.
- 7/15 **12. RELIEF AND EXTENSION FUND FOR METHODISM IN SCOTLAND**
The Conference adopted Resolution 12/1.
- 7/16 **15. METHODIST SCHOOLS APPOINTMENTS**
- 7/16/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 15/1 in the form:

The Conference adopts the re-nomination by the Methodist Council of Mr Stephen Holliday as a Trustee of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust for a period of one year concluding 31 August 2025.
- 7/16/2 The Conference adopted Resolutions 15/2, 15/3 and 15/4.
- 7/16/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 15/5 in the form:

The Conference adopts the nomination by the Governors of Mrs Jessica Briggs as Governor of Kingswood School for a period of three years concluding June 2027.
- 7/16/4 The Conference adopted Resolution 15/6.
- 7/16/5 The Conference adopted as Resolution 15/7:

The Conference adopts the nominations by the Trustees of Mr Mark Donougher, The Revd Dr Mark Wakelin and Mr John Jefferson as Trustees of Methodist Independent Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2027.

Mark Donougher is an accredited Chartered Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from the University of Manchester. Mark has

engaged in mentoring entrepreneurs and participating in tech start-ups, alongside cultivating his own venture in photography. He is serving as the Chair of Governors for Culford School and in full sympathy with the Methodist ethos and vision.

John Jefferson is an active member of the Methodist Church, having served in various roles within Local Churches and Circuits. At present, he is a Trustee and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). He also serves as Board Chair and Chair of Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee for Methodist Insurance plc. With a background in banking, John has held the position of Non-Executive Director on several Boards of UK payment scheme companies.

Mark Wakelin received his education at Kingswood School and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theology from the University of Nottingham. Mark holds a Master of Education and a Doctorate in Education from the Institute of Education (UCL). He served as a chaplain in both prisons and hospices. Transitioning from circuit duties, he took on the role of National Secretary for the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs within the Division of Education and Youth, serving from 1995 until 2000. He served as the Director of the Guy Chester Centre from 2000 to 2008 and Secretary for Internal Relationships in the Connexional Team from 2008 to 2012, and was elected President of the Methodist Conference for the term 2012-2013.

7/16/6 The Conference adopted as Resolution 15/8:

The Conference adopts the nomination by the Trustees of Mr Ian McCaig as Trustee and Chair of Methodist Independent Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2027.

Ian McCaig brings with him recent experience from his tenure on the Boards of M-KOPA, Seedrs, DCC, Wesleyan, and English Heritage. He holds the position of Senior Independent Director on the Board of Smart DCC, and he also serves as the Chairperson at Lumon. He was involved in the work of NSPCC for ten years as a member of the national fundraising committee and Childline Board. Ian has served as a governor at a Methodist school. He is a committed Christian and is in full sympathy with the Methodist ethos.

7/16/7 The Conference adopted as Resolution 15/9:

The Conference adopts the nomination by the Chairs of District of The Revd Dawn Saunders as Trustee of Methodist Independent Schools Trust.

Dawn Saunders is Chair of the Channel Islands District and Superintendent of the Jersey Circuit. She gained a BA in Theology (Oxford Brookes University) and a Masters of Pastoral Theology. Her ministerial training was completed in 2009 when she was ordained at Coventry Central Hall. Dawn's ministry has since taken her to Leeds to Warwickshire and now to the Channel Islands.

7/16/8 The Conference adopted as Resolution 15/10:

The Conference adopts the nomination by Methodist Academies and Schools Trust Trustees of The Revd Paul Martin as Co-Opted Trustee for a period of one year concluding 31 August 2025.

Paul Martin studied Religious Studies at Lancaster University and served as a Pastoral Assistant within the Stretford and Urmston Circuit. His ministerial training was completed at Wesley College Bristol, and he commenced his circuit ministry in 1984. His service extended across the Bolton, Worsley, Leigh, and Hindley Circuits. In addition to his ministry, Paul has been a chaplain in hospital, hospice, and prison settings, and has contributed as a school governor at two Methodist Primary schools and one Community Primary school. He previously held the position of Chair of the District for the Bolton and Rochdale District.

7/16/9 The Conference adopted as Resolution 15/11:

The Conference adopts the nomination by the Governors of the Revd Lesley Taylor as ex-officio Governor of Ashville College.

Lesley Taylor is a presbyter serving in the Nidd Valley Circuit. She is associated with the Bilton Area, Starbeck, and Wesley Chapel within the circuit. Her role involves pastoral duties and leading worship within these communities. The Revd Leslie Newton has delegated his role as ex-officio governor at Ashville College to The Revd Lesley Taylor.

7/16/10 The Conference adopted as Resolution 15/12:

The Conference adopts the nomination of Mr David Clayton and Mrs Charlotte Taylor as Trustees of the Epworth Education Trust for a period of four years concluding 31 August 2028.

David Clayton has been employed in academy trusts since 2014, his areas of expertise are Finance, Education and Risk Management, with substantial experience of overseeing financial management at both school and trust level, supporting the development of budgets and staffing structures which are both effective in raising standards and sustainability. He has held a close relationship with Leyland Methodist Church for over 30 years. David is driven by a clear set of values and moral principles which align with values of Epworth Education Trust.

Charlotte Taylor has been involved in the governance of maintained schools since 1997. During 2021 to 2023 she took on the roles of MAST executive and Interim Deputy CEO of Inspiring Lives Education Trust (ILET), submitting strategic plans for the new Methodist trust to the DfE. Her MAST role as joint Head involved providing support for 66 Methodist schools with aspects such as standards, ethos, pastoral, headteacher recruitment and the development and delivery of a CPD offer. Charlotte also oversaw the systematic school improvement offer through regional leaders of education, liaising with SIAMS inspectors and having interim Executive Board oversight. She believes in inclusive education and leads to inspire others to realise the vision of Methodist values of love, kindness and integrity.

7/17 **22. METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 2, Sections F, I, N, O, Q, S**

7/17/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/2.

7/17/2 The Conference adopted Resolutions 22/7 and 22/8,

p 214, SO 124(1), *amending* the first two lines on the page to read:

'the title of *The Minutes of the Annual Conference and Directory of the Methodist Church* and the year of the Conference concerned. **The book shall be printed and**'

p 214, SO 124(5), lines 1-2,
for 'a copy of the book,' reading 'a copy **of the book,**'

p 214, SO 124(7), line 1,
for '(6)(7)' reading '(7)'

p 215, SO 124(8), line 1 on the page,
for '**discharge their duties**' reading '**discharge any relevant duties**'

p 215, SO 124(12), lines 3-4,
for '**The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church**' reading
'*The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church*'

and noting that the editorial notes to this Standing Order, shown on pp 214-215 in error in the same font size as the Standing Order, are not being adopted by the Conference

7/17/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/17,

p 251, final bullet point,
for 'Going partnerships' reading 'Growing partnerships'

7/17/4 The Conference adopted Resolutions 22/18 and 22/19,

p 263, SO 286(1)(i),
for 'to serve under the direction of the council as' reading 'to serve ~~under the~~
~~direction of the council as~~'

p 263, SO 286(3)(ii),
for 'to represent them;' reading 'to represent ~~them~~**the Secretary;**'

p 264, *replacing* the second and third complete paragraphs with:
'(4)(5) Such chaplains, ~~deacons and lay workers~~ are not appointed to the Circuits in which they are for the time being located, and their services may be utilised for Circuit purposes only so far as is consistent with the discharge of their proper duties. In order that opportunities of fellowship and service may be offered to them, the secretary of the board shall notify the Superintendent and Chairs involved of any change in the Circuit or District in which they are located.'

7/17/5 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/23,

p 276, paragraph 1.1, line 3,
for 'marriages' reading 'marriage'

p 276, paragraph 1.3, line 2,
for 'minster' reading 'minister'

p 276, paragraph 1.6, line 2,
for 'ministers and spouses' reading 'ministers, spouses and civil partners'

p 277, paragraph 3.1, line 1,
for 'civil partners' reading 'civil partner'

p 277, paragraph 3.5, line 2,
for 'of the marriage' reading 'of the marriage or civil partnership'

7/17/6 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/24 in the form:

The Conference:

- (1) amends paragraph 1.6 of the draft guidance in relation to a breakdown of a minister's marriage or civil partnership to read 'There will be a panel of Connexional Support Officers appointed by the Ministries Committee to support ministers, spouses and civil partners in these circumstances';
- (2) approves the draft guidance as amended; and
- (3) directs that it should be included in the guidance section of volume 2 of *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church* as a new Part 5A of Book VIIA (Guidance relating to Ministers).

7/17/7 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/26,

p 281, paragraph 7, line 6,
for 'revokation' reading 'revocation'

7/17/8 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/27,

p 283, SO 790(2)(f), line 3,
for '**recommends** that' reading '**recommends that**'

7/17/9 The Conference adopted as Resolution 22/27A:

The Conference amends paragraph 2.(b) of the Guidance in Book VII Part 5 of *the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church*, Ministers Affected by Impairment: Good Practice, as follows:

The relevant members of the Connexional Team should make available as early as practicably possible occupational health advice ~~Members of the medical committee should be invited to be involved in proactive and positive ways early on. Those in the local situation should be able to call on this advice to the minister concerned and, as appropriate, to those~~ in any ***local or other*** situation related to candidature, stationing, adaptation of appointments etc. ***Where they or their designated representatives judge it to be necessary an Occupational Health assessment as specified in Standing Order 715(2) shall be undertaken by each applicant and the Health Policy adopted for candidates under Standing Order 715(1) applied, subject to making any necessary modifications including, in particular, substituting 'person concerned' for 'candidate' and 'interviewing committee' for 'Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee' throughout.***

7/18 **23. TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES (TMCP)**

7/18/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 23/1 and 23/2.

7/18/2 The Conference received the following additional report:

Section B: Membership of the Board

Further to Section 4(3) of the Methodist Church Act 1939 the Board nominates:

The Revd Jennifer Pathmarajah

A presbyter in the Cambridge Circuit, who has over the past seven years served on four connexional committees (including the Property Development Committee) and as a director and Managing Trustee at the Guy Chester Centre in North London overseeing the North Bank Estate.

The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler

A presbyter currently serving in the Connexional Team as Secretary of the Conference.

Mr Peter Baffoe

Executive Director of South London Mission, Chair of Governors of a Primary School, a Non-Executive Director of a housing association and a Trustee member of the Maudsley Charity (Mental Health).

Mr Christophe Borysiewicz

Investment Director at Rathbone Greenbank Investments, previously Investment Manager at Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church/Epworth Investment Management, a former circuit steward and a local preacher

Mr Tom Rattigan

The Missional Property Enabler for the Sheffield District, a District Property Steward and Operations and Development Manager of the Foundry Sheffield, a CIO.

7/18/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution 23/3:

The Conference appoints The Revd Jennifer R Pathmarajah, The Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, Mr Peter Baffoe, Mr Christophe Borysiewicz and Mr Tom Rattigan as members of the Board of the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

7/19 **27. METHODIST HOMES (MHA)**

The Conference adopted Resolution 27/1.

7/20 **30. STATIONING COMMITTEE**

The Conference adopted Resolution 30/1.

7/21 **31. REFERRED MEMORIALS AND NOTICES OF MOTION**

The Conference adopted Resolution 31/1.

7/22 **33. MANAGING TRUSTEES OF THE METHODIST CENTRAL HALL WESTMINSTER**

The Conference adopted Resolution 33/1.

7/23 **34. METHODIST MINISTERS' HOUSING SOCIETY (MMHS)**

The Conference adopted Resolution 34/1.

7/24 **39. ECUMENICAL REPORT**

7/24/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 39/1.

**Ecumenism in Scotland
National Ecumenical Body in Scotland**

For several years, work and discussion have been on-going around the future shape of the ecumenical landscape in Scotland and, within this, the place of *Action of Churches Together in Scotland* (ACTS) and the *Scottish Christian Forum* (SCF). Following the gathering of ecumenical stakeholders on 16 January 2023, the *Scottish Ecumenical Officers Forum* (EOF) was charged to undertake further work, and to report back in the autumn of 2023. At the further meeting on 28 November 2023, stakeholders agreed to proceed with work to make the SCF the National Ecumenical Body within Scotland, and tasked the EOF to prepare more detailed plans. At a further gathering of Scottish ecumenical stakeholders on 6 February 2024, the consensus between the churches and traditions involved in the SCF was reached to proceed with the plans as outlined in the Appendix below. The process of working together across boundaries has been one of finding a consensus and common mind, yet also leaving space for the work to develop.

This change was supported by both the Shetland and Scotland Districts at their spring Synods in 2024.

Appendix

Scottish Christian Forum

Vision:

1. The vision for the Scottish Christian Forum is rooted in the belief that the Holy Spirit is calling the churches, inter-church and Christian organisations in Scotland to a pilgrimage of greater unity, cooperation and common witness. The Forum will create an open space where respectful conversation between leaders and representatives from these bodies can take place.
2. The vision is inspired by a renewal of the call to prayer and our common witness to the Gospel. Embracing this vision will lead to the deepening of a shared spirituality; support for ecumenical initiatives at all levels; and the exploration of common challenges. It will foster ecumenical relationships which respect the variety of Christian life and witness in Scotland and encourage participation in the shared life of the Church.
3. The foundation of the Forum is mutual respect, acceptance and attentive listening, allied to the recognition of diversity among the participants, The Forum will seek to discern the work of the Holy Spirit and to respond in an ecumenism of action. Implicit in this is the recognition that participation will not require any church or organisation to abandon particular theological perspectives or traditional religious identities. Participation is to be understood theologically, whereby it is acknowledged that all participants are members of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-31).

Constituent Elements:

The constituent elements of the Scottish Christian Forum, in the first instance, are the Scottish Church Leaders' Forum and the Scottish Ecumenical Officers' Forum. As the Forum evolves it is anticipated that other forums will develop and become an integral part of the body.

National Ecumenical Body:

The Scottish Christian Forum will be designated the National Ecumenical Body, and will relate as such to the other ecumenical instruments within Britain and Ireland through the Scottish Ecumenical Officers' Forum.

Scottish Church Leaders' Forum

Nature and Purpose:

The Scottish Church Leaders' Forum is a forum in which designated senior leaders within particular churches in Scotland gather together for the purpose of sharing fellowship, information and insight. At present, the Forum offers a meeting place to the following churches and communities:

1. Church of Scotland
2. Catholic Church in Scotland
3. Scottish Episcopal Church
4. United Free Church of Scotland
5. United Reformed Church
6. Methodist Church in Scotland
7. Religious Society of Friends
8. Salvation Army
9. Congregational Federation
10. Baptist Union of Scotland
11. Free Church of Scotland
12. Redeemed Christian Church of God
13. Greek Orthodox Church
14. Ukrainian Catholic Church

The Scottish Church Leaders' Forum is a participatory body and is, in nature, a voluntary association and its purpose, as stated, provides the basis on which the Forum is established. The Forum welcomes the participation of other churches within its life on the basis of agreement with the stated Nature, Purpose & Aims, and on the basis of the consensus of the Forum.

The Forum was initiated in March 2020 and the catalyst for its initiation and subsequent development was the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the need for a shared response to the challenges of the pandemic. Subsequent to this, the aims of the Forum have evolved in relation to the present context of the church in Scotland.

Aims:

The Forum seeks to:

1. Encourage the mission of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in Scotland;
2. Encourage the living out of our shared response to the prayer of Jesus that we may 'all be one' (John 17:21);
3. Encourage the Church to share in the call to prayer;
4. Encourage a broad spectrum of churches to participate in its life;
5. Encourage the commissioning of research into areas of mutual interest;
6. Provide a platform for working cooperatively with other churches and ecumenical bodies within Scotland, and within Britain and Ireland.

Cooperation:

The Scottish Church Leaders' Forum will work cooperatively with other church and ecumenical bodies, as appropriate, including:

1. Ecumenical Officers' Forum
2. Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office
3. Scottish Churches Committee
4. Scottish Church Planters' Network
5. Evangelical Alliance (Scotland)
6. Churches Together in Britain & Ireland
7. Churches Together in England

8. Irish Council of Churches and the Irish Inter-Church Meeting
9. Churches Together in Wales (Cytûn)

Convener:

The Convener of the Scottish Church Leaders' Forum shall be appointed from amongst the members of the Forum and shall serve at the pleasure of the Forum.

Secretary:

The Secretariat of the Scottish Church Leaders' Forum shall be provided by the Scottish Ecumenical Officers' Forum.

Annual Review:

The Scottish Church Leaders' Forum shall conduct an annual review towards the end of each calendar year and set goals for the calendar year following.

Scottish Ecumenical Officers' Forum

Nature and Purpose:

The Scottish Ecumenical Officers' Forum is a forum in which designated Ecumenical Officers, and those with ecumenical responsibility within their church, gather together for the purpose of sharing fellowship, information and insight.

Further, the Scottish Ecumenical Officers' Forum serves as the Secretariat of the Scottish Church Leaders' Forum and in that capacity shall record the Minute of meetings of the Scottish Church Leaders' Forum and, where appropriate, to forward initiatives agreed by the latter Forum.

The Forum offers a meeting place to the following churches and communities, and includes, where appropriate, representatives from the respective Committees of those churches and communities:

1. Church of Scotland (Ecumenical Relations Committee)
2. Catholic Church in Scotland (Bishops' Ecumenical Reference Group of the Scottish Catholic Bishops' Conference)
3. Scottish Episcopal Church (Inter-Church Relations Committee)
4. United Free Church of Scotland (Ecumenical Relations Working Group)
5. United Reformed Church (Ecumenical Relations Task Group of the National Synod of Scotland)
6. Salvation Army
7. The Redeemed Christian Church of God
8. Religious Society of Friends
9. Methodist Church in Scotland
10. Churches in Communities

The Scottish Ecumenical Officers' Forum is a participatory body and is, in nature, a voluntary association and its purpose, as stated, provides the basis on which the Forum is established. It was initiated in November 2019.

Aims:

The Forum seeks to:

1. Encourage the living out of our shared response to the prayer of Jesus that we may 'all be one' (John 17:21);
2. Encourage the Church to share in the call to prayer;
3. Encourage a broad spectrum of churches to participate in its life;
4. Provide a platform for working cooperatively with other churches and ecumenical bodies within Scotland, and within Britain and Ireland.

5. Encourage the witness of the Church to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, by encouraging, enabling and supporting the formation, development and ongoing life of ecumenical partnerships at a local and national level.

Local Ecumenical Partnerships:

The Scottish Ecumenical Officers' Forum will seek to encourage and support new and innovative forms of local ecumenical partnership. Further, it will seek to fulfil the responsibilities of Oversight and Review which are written into the constitutions of established Local Ecumenical Partnerships, and will liaise with the parent bodies of the churches which are members of such Partnerships.

Cooperation:

The Scottish Ecumenical Officers' Forum will seek to work cooperatively with other church and ecumenical bodies, as appropriate, including:

1. Scottish Church Leaders' Forum
2. Ecumenical Committees of the Scottish churches
3. Local Ecumenical Partnerships and the governing bodies of the churches party to them
4. Churches Together in Britain & Ireland

Convener:

The Convener of the Scottish Ecumenical Officers' Forum shall be appointed from amongst the members of the Forum and shall serve at the pleasure of the Forum.

Secretary:

The Secretary of the Scottish Ecumenical Officers' Forum shall be appointed from amongst the members of the Forum and shall serve at the pleasure of the Forum.

Annual Review:

The Scottish Ecumenical Officers' Forum shall conduct an annual review towards the end of each calendar year and set goals for the calendar year following.

- 7/24/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution 39/2:
- The Conference endorses the move of the national ecumenical body within Scotland from *Action of Churches Together in Scotland* to the *Scottish Christian Forum*.
- 7/25 **40. CENTRAL FINANCE BOARD OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**
The Conference adopted Resolution 40/1.
- 7/26 **53. METHODIST DIACONAL ORDER GENERAL REPORT**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 53/1 and 53/2.
- 7/27 **56. TRUSTEES FOR MANX METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES (TMMCP)**
The Conference adopted Resolution 56/1.
- 7/28 **57. MEMORIALS TO THE CONFERENCE**
- 7/28/1 **Memorial M4**
The Conference received Memorial M4 and adopted as its reply that recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorial and the reply appearing on Agenda pp 711-713,

p 713, for 'Therefore the Conference declines the memorial.' *reading*:

'The Conference acknowledges the need properly to consider what the appropriate balance will be between heritage, property stewardship expectations, and missional resourcing. There is a contradiction at present with the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee and Methodist Heritage Committee saying we should keep historic buildings but also saying they cannot provide any money for doing that. The Conference welcomes the work that the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee and Methodist Heritage Committee will be doing in 2024-25 to address this and other issues.

Therefore the Conference accepts the memorial to the extent outlined in this reply.'

7/28/2 Memorial M8

The Conference received Memorial M8 and adopted as its reply that recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorial and the reply appearing on Agenda pp 716-717,

p 717, *adding* at the end of the reply:

'The Conference accepts the memorial to the extent set out above.'

7/28/3 Memorials M1, M5, M9-M11, M16, M18-M20

The Conference received Memorials M1, M5, M9-M11, M16 and M18-M20 and adopted as its replies those recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorials and the replies appearing on Agenda pp 706, pp 713-714, pp 718-721 and pp 727-733.

7/29 5. CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS (continued)

7/29/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 5/1 and 5/2.

7/29/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 5/7,

adding 'Southampton' to the list of Districts

7/30 42. AUTHORISATIONS COMMITTEE

7/30/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 42/1 and 42/2,

pp 484-487 List A

<i>adding</i>	2/25	Welshpool and Bro Hafren	John Harbron	L
<i>for</i>	12/14	The Lizard and Mounts Bay	David Pascoe	
<i>reading</i>	12/14	The Lizard and Mounts Bay	David Pascoe	L
<i>adding</i>	14/5	Ely and Newmarket	Laura Martin	P
<i>adding</i>	26/11	Isle of Wight	Marian Izzard	L

pp 488-491 List B

<i>deleting</i>	29/24	Ripon and Lower Dales	Sarah L Caddell	P
<i>deleting</i>	36/25	South Kent	Roy Hollands	L

pp 492-494 List C

<i>deleting</i>	2/1	Ceredigion a Merionnydd Area of the Cymru	Eluned Williams	L
<i>deleting</i>	13/11	Durham and Deerness Valley	Fiona Weir	M

<i>deleting</i>	26/8	Dorset South and West	Chris Warren	L
<i>deleting</i>	26/8	Dorset South and West	Timothy Wells	L

7/30/2 **Report of an Authorisations to Preside Appeal Panel under Standing Order 011(3) held on 29 May 2024.**

Panel Members: The Revd Ken Howcroft (Chair), Mr Martin Harker and Mrs Barbara Easton. The Revd Michaela Youngson, Assistant Secretary of the Conference, was in attendance.

Appeal raised by the South Holland Circuit 17/15 against the decision not to authorise Darren Charlton to preside at the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the South Holland Circuit.

The panel was grateful to the Circuit for their submission and the extra information that it contained.

The panel recommends to the Conference that the appeal be upheld and an authorisation granted, on the following grounds.

- The Authorisations Committee had accepted that there was a proven need in the Circuit for an authorisation to be granted to someone. The additional information in the appeal made it plain how great and urgent that need is.
- The Panel noted that the Circuit had not been able to find an alternative candidate to fulfil the role as suggested by the Authorisations Committee.
- The Panel noted that the Criteria for Authorising Persons in these matters in CPD state that if it is judged that the granting of an authorisation to a particular person might lead to a blurring of the distinction between particular calling and ministries, the Authorisations Committee might decline the application, but that it is not required to decline it. Although there was a hint in the original application that blurring might be taking place, the Panel accepted the assurances in the appeal submission that this was not the case, and trust that there will be education in the circuit to re-enforce this.
- The Panel judged that the need in the circuit was such that the appeal should be upheld.

On another point, the Panel noted that this was the first year that new Criteria were applied and felt there was a lack of clarity, particularly regarding what constitutes a blurring of the distinction between particular callings and ministries. The Panel believe that there is a need for more guidance to be given to circuits about how to make an application, and what information would be helpful for the circuit to provide.

7/30/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution 42A/1:

The Conference authorises Mr Darren Charlton to preside at the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the South Holland Circuit.

7/30/4 The Conference adopted as Resolution 42A/2:

The Conference notes the concerns of the Authorisations Appeal Panel as set out in the report and directs the Ministries Committee to consider what further guidance would be helpful, in consultation with members of the Authorisations

Committee, the Appeal Panel, and with the Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee.

- 7/31 The Conference adjourned at 10.44.
- 7/32 The Conference reassembled at 11.30.
- 7/33 The Conference engaged in Bible study, led by Jenny Sinclair of 'Together for the Common Good'.
- 7/34 **44. PRESBYTERS AND DEACONS BECOMING SUPERNUMERARY OR RETURNING TO THE ACTIVE WORK (continued)**
- 7/34/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 44/3,
noting the correction under **4.** at 2/25/1
- 7/34/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 44/4.
- 7/34/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution 44/5:

The Conference permits the following presbyters to return to the active work:
Hee Gon Moon, Ernest Grimshaw.
- 7/35 **41. MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES AND PROBATIONERS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (continued)**
The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted Resolution 41/3.
- 7/36 **54. REPORT TO THE REPRESENTATIVE SESSION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED BY THE CONFERENCE DIACONAL COMMITTEE (continued)**
The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted Resolution 54/2.
- 7/37 **47. PRESBYTERS AND DEACONS FROM OTHER CHURCHES**
- 7/37/1 The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted Resolution 47/1,

p 521, **(2) Presbyters of other autonomous Methodist Conferences,**
adding Jeffrey A Conklin Miller 25/13 United Methodist Church
- 7/37/2 The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted Resolution 47/2.
- 7/37/3 The Conference adopted Resolutions 47/3, 47/4 and 47/5.
- 7/38 **43. DESIGNATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT CHAIRS**
- 7/38/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 43/1, 43/2, 43/3, 43/4, 43/5 and 43/6.
- 7/38/2 The Conference, with the required majority, adopted Resolution 43/7.
- 7/38/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 43/8 in the form:

The Conference designates for appointment The Revd Novette S Headley as Chair for the West Midlands District for a period of one year from 1 September 2025.
- 7/38/4 The Conference, with the required majority, adopted Resolutions 43/9 and 43/10.

7/39 **45. REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (continued)**

7/39/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 45/2 and 45/3.

7/39/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution 45/3A:

The Conference expresses its gratitude to Mr Alan Kershaw for his service as Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and wishes him well for the future.

7/39/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 45/4,

adding after '2024-25' in the first line of the Resolution:

'and directs that one of the appointed members of the Connexional Council is given the remit of holding before the Connexional Council the needs and differences of jurisdictions other than England and Wales on all matters considered by the Connexional Council, particularly those with legal and jurisdictional dimensions such as GDPR, Employment Law, relationship with TMCP, Charity Legislation, etc.'

7/39/4 The Conference adopted as Resolution 45/5:

The Conference directs the Nominations Committee to confer with the chairs and deputy chairs of the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity, Faith and Order, Law and Polity and Safeguarding Committees as to how the work of the Nominations Committee might support the recruitment to those committees and to report to the 2025 Conference with recommendations for changes to SO 220 and any recommendations for the Nomination Committee's work in 2025-6.

7/40 **46. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

7/40/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 46/1,

p 508,

deleting The Revd Marian J Jones

adding The Revds William E Davis, Manoa Ratubalavu, and Cleopas Sibanda and Forward Maisokwadzo

William Davis: A presbyter; served as Chaplain of the Ghanaian Methodist Fellowships MCB for 10 years; served in the New River Circuit in London, Wolverhampton Circuit and Crystal Palace Circuit. He is the Adviser to the Connexional Fellowships Sub-Committee. He is a member of the Connexional Panel on Deliverance Ministry.

Manoa Ratubalavu: A presbyter; serves as Chaplain/Coordinator of the Fijian Fellowship MCB and he also Chairs the Fijian Fellowship Council which consists of different denominations in the Fijian Community in the UK. Manoa is serving in the East Staffordshire and South Derbyshire Circuit and he is also a member of the Fellowships Sub-Committee, the Stationing Review Group and the EDI Committee for the Nottingham and Derby District. In the past, Manoa served as a Soldier in the Armed Forces.

Cleopas Sibanda: A presbyter; served as Chaplain of the Zimbabwean Fellowship MCB; he is currently one of the superintendent ministers in the Birmingham Circuit. Cleopas continues to support the ZBW Fellowship connexionally and is a member of the Fellowships Sub-Committee. Before

coming to Birmingham, he served in the Cannock Chase Circuit in the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District.

Forward Maisokwadzo: Secretary of the Zimbabwean Fellowship of the Methodist Church in Britain. He works as Inclusion Adviser to the Mayor of Bristol. A former journalist from Zimbabwe, Forward was previously National Media and Communications Officer for City of Sanctuary UK and Ireland, and former Manager for Bristol City of Sanctuary.

7/40/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 46/2,

p 508, last paragraph, *deleting* The Revd Sonia M Hicks
p 509, third paragraph, *deleting* Mrs Helen R Letley

7/40/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 46/3,

p 509, *deleting* Mr John Scott

7/40/4 The Conference adopted Resolutions 46/4 and 46/5.

7/40/5 The Conference adopted Resolution 46/6,

for 'The Revd Mark Rowland' *reading* 'The Revd Dr Mark Rowland'

7/40/6 The Conference adopted Resolution 46/7,

South-West

for The Revd Dr Marcus Torchon
reading The Revd Rachel A Bending

North/Scotland

for The Revd S Mark Slaney
reading The Revd Jonathan A Sewell

Rachel Bending is nominated to the Conference as Chair for the Southampton District.

Jonathan Sewell is nominated to the Conference as Chair for the Newcastle upon Tyne District.

7/40/7 The Conference adopted Resolution 46/8 in the form:

The Conference appoints representatives to ecumenical bodies as follows:

- (a) *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI): Annual General Meeting:*
Bala Gnanapragasam
- (b) *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland: Senior Representatives' Forum:*
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) *Churches Together in England Forum (17-19 March 2025):*
Deacon Prudence E Cahill, The Revd Steven R M Cooper, Aquilina Dube, The Revd William E Fletcher, Carolyn J Godfrey, Trey Hall, Bea Hulme, The Revd David Jebb, The Revd Naomi N Kaiga; three vacancies (for young adults, to be appointed)

- (e) *Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS): Members' Meeting:*
The Revd S Mark Slaney, The Revd A James Patron Bell
- (f) *Scottish Christian Forum – Scottish Church Leaders Forum:*
The Revd S Mark Slaney
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

Pru Cahill	Deacon in the North Lancashire Circuit; recommended by the Methodist Diaconal Order as a champion for ecumenical concerns.
Aquilina Dube	Vice Secretary of the Methodist Church Zimbabwe Fellowship UK.
Will Fletcher	Methodist Ecumenical Officer for Sussex, working hard to establish an ecumenical grouping in Sussex.
Carolyn Godfrey	Vice-President of the Conference.
Trey Hall	Director of Evangelism and Growth; chair of the CTE Group for Mission and Evangelism.
Bea Hulme	Methodist Youth President (from 1 September 2024).
David Jebb	Methodist Ecumenical Officer for Hertfordshire, with broad ecumenical and cross-cultural experience.
Naomi Kaiga	Presbyter in the Aire and Calder Circuit; Co-Chair of the connexional Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Committee.

Note: The Revd Helen D Cameron, President of the Conference, will attend the CTE Forum (17-19 March 2025) in a different capacity, as a President of Churches Together in England.

7/40/8 The Conference adopted Resolution 46/9.

7/40/9 The Conference adopted Resolution 46/10,

adding:

Chair of the Memorials Committee The Revd Kenneth G Howcroft

7/40/10 The Conference adopted Resolution 46/11.

7/40/11 The Conference adopted Resolution 46/12,

deleting: Mr Iain A S Henderson

7/40/12 The Conference adopted Resolutions 46/13, 46/14, 46/15, 46/16, 46/17, 46/18, 46/19, 46/20 and 46/21.

7/40/13 The Conference adopted Resolution 46/22,

adding: The Revd Paul E Regan (Chair)

Paul Regan is a presbyter who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of the charity and business sectors. He has chaired organisations such as Citizens UK and London Community Land Trust. Paul has held several leadership positions and is a social entrepreneur setting up numerous projects for the homeless and unemployed people. His breadth of knowledge and experience

would be an asset to the work of the Conference Property at Central Hall Westminster.

7/40/14 The Conference adopted Resolution 46/23.

7/40/15 The Conference adopted as Resolution 46/24:

The Conference, in exercising its power under SO 241, nominates The Revd Derek McLean to the Board of MHA.

Derek McLean is an experienced presbyter and qualified actuary with a professional background in investment management at senior levels. Mr McLean routinely and strongly demonstrates an understanding of Methodist values and current priorities. Mr McLean's enthusiasm and passion for the work of MHA and his ability to fulfil the general responsibilities and obligations of a Trustee are evident. Mr McLean's breadth of knowledge, eye for detail and experience in finance, management and ministry, combined with his personable character and his ability to speak with clarity and conviction will be an asset to the Board.

7/41 **48. APPRECIATIONS**

7/41/1 **Additional appreciation – Deacon Ruth Richey**

Ruth Richey has served as Deputy Warden of the Diaconal Order since 2018. In her role, Ruth has supported and nurtured the work of the Order. She has worked sensitively and with patience and clarity with the mission and purpose of the Order at the centre.

Ruth has brought great wisdom and gentleness in approach to all aspects of the role, along with offering unfailing support and commitment to the Church, grounded by her faith, and for which we are very grateful. Her support of the Warden in the exercise of the leadership of the Order and her careful and prayer engagement with deacons in moments of joy and sorrow have been greatly valued, as has the cheerful approach and sense of humour which have enriched many a conversation.

7/41/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution 48/6:

The Conference expresses its gratitude to Deacon Ruth Richey for her work as Deputy Warden of the Diaconal Order and wishes her well for her future life and ministry.

7/41/3 **Additional appreciation – The Revd Loraine Mellor**

The 2023 Conference expressed its thanks to Loraine Mellor who took over the position of Chair of the Conference Business Committee unexpectedly in 2020 and held the role for four years, including the difficult circumstances of the Coronavirus lockdown in her first year and the challenge of the hybrid Conference of 2021. Mrs Mellor unexpectedly resumed the role this year and has once again delighted the committee with her careful and efficient chairing and the Conference with her good-humoured and unflappable management of the business. Once again, the Conference has cause to be thankful to Mrs Mellor for sharing the wisdom of her experience and the energy of her commitment to the Connexion.

7/41/4 The Conference adopted as 48/5:

The Conference expresses its deep thanks to the Revd Loraine Mellor for her service as Chair of the Conference Business Committee and wishes her well in her future life and ministry.

7/41/5 The Conference adopted Resolutions 48/1, 48/4, 48/2 and 48/3.

7/42 **REPORT OF THE LAW AND POLITY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE SUB-COMMITTEE PART 1**

7/42/1 **1. Special resolution consultations**

Three Special Resolutions have come before the Conference this year for which directions for consultation are required under Standing Order 126(1), as follows:

Resolution 24/5: Model Trust amendments for the Connexional Council;

Resolution 24/6: Model Trust amendments relating to memoranda of consent;

Resolution 50/11: Deed of Union amendments relating to deputy chairs.

[for these, see 5/7/6, 5/7/7 and 6/17/2]

The Sub-committee advises that, since the consultations will not take place until after 1 September 2024, by which time the consequential amendments made by Resolution 50/6 will have taken effect, the consultations on the amendments proposed by Special Resolutions 24/5 and 24/6 and Special Resolution 50/11 should be with the Connexional Council.

7/42/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution LP/2A:

The Conference receives the report and adopts the recommendations.

7/42/3 **2. Methodist Children and Youth Assembly**

Following further discussion with the chair of the Mission Committee and the Youth President, the Sub-committee understands that they are content for the text of the amended Standing Order 240 adopted by Resolution 22/4 *[see 6/18/2]* to be amended by the inclusion of the following:

(2) *The Assembly shall be:*

(i) *A place of celebration, inspiration and empowerment for all children and young people associated with the life of the Methodist Church in Britain.*

(ii) *A place where dialogue happens across generations.*

(iii) *A place for the Christian discipleship of children and young people in the Methodist tradition.*

(iv) *A place for the upskilling and inspiring of those with a ministry among children, young people and their households.*

(v) *A place where vocational experiences and opportunities are presented for all attendees.*

In the belief that to include that clause would lead to the better achievement of the intention of the Conference, the Sub-committee brings the following resolution under Standing Order 131(25)(ii).

7/42/4 The Conference adopted as Resolution LP/3:

The Conference amends Standing Order 240 by the inclusion of clause (2) as set out above.

7/43 **REPORT OF THE LAW AND POLITY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE SUB-COMMITTEE PART 2**

7/43/1 **3. Overlapping business**

3.1 The Conference will be aware that it has at times dealt with business which involved amendments to Standing Orders which were also amended by resolutions contained in Agenda item 50, the report of the Oversight and Trusteeship Task Group. It may assist the Conference to bear in mind that, in the absence of any contrary direction or resolution, its resolutions take effect from the date on which they are passed. Accordingly, where the Conference has amended Standing Orders which were subsequently amended by Resolutions 50/5 and 50/6 taking effect from 1 September 2024, there is no inconsistency between the two sets of amendments. The first amendments will have effect until 1 September 2024, after which the second set of amendments will take effect.

3.2 This principle means that following the adoption of resolutions 50/5 (revoking Parts 2, 3 and 10 of Standing Orders and replacing them with Parts 2 and 3 as set out in Agenda item 50, as amended on the Order Paper) and 50/6 (making consequential amendments), taking effect from 1 September 2024 in accordance with Resolution 50/9, the position in relation to that business is as follows:

- 1) The business relating to modified constitutions of districts in Agenda item 3, Methodist Council part 1, Section C, (Resolution 3/5) contained amendments to Standing Orders 401 and Section 48A referring to the Connexional Council on the assumption that Resolution 50/5 would be passed. No further amendments are required.
- 2) Agenda item 22, Methodist Council part 2, Section K, dealing with discretionary payments to circuits amended Standing Orders 013 and 1105 (Resolution 22/12) but retained unamended in each case a cross-reference to Standing Order 365(7), which by virtue of Resolution 50/5 has become Standing Order 376(6). The cross-references will be corrected during the editing of *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline*, as provided for by resolution 50/7 as amended. The new Standing Order 376(6) was adopted in the revised form set out on the Order Paper, including at the end of paragraph (i) the words “or Standing Order 1105(10)”. No further amendments are required.
- 3) The revisions to the Standing Orders governing the Forces Board in Agenda item 22, Methodist Council part 2, Section O, (Resolution 22/19) were drafted on the assumption that Resolution 50/5 would be passed. No further amendments are required.
- 4) The principle that the role of Connexional Treasurer should cease to exist was reported to the Conference in Agenda item 22, Methodist Council part 2, Section R (Resolution 22/25), and the consequential Standing Order

amendments there referred to are set out on pp 648-9 and were made by Resolution 50/6. No further amendments are required.

- 5) The Methodist Council's expectation that the current Standing Order 212(5), providing for the Medical Committee, would be revoked and not replaced was reported to the Conference in Agenda item 22, Methodist Council part 2, Section S (Resolution 22/26). Standing Order 212(5) was duly revoked by Resolution 50/5. No further amendments are required.
- 6) The business relating to the Conference Scrutiny Sub-committee in Agenda item 22, Methodist Council part 2, Section T, contained amendments drafted on the assumption that Resolution 50/5 would be passed. No further amendments are required.
- 7) The business relating to the composition of the Conference in Agenda item 49, Committee on Methodist Law and Polity, Section D, contained amendments to Standing Order 102 on the assumption that Resolution 50/5 would be passed, but also included a minor change to the current Standing Order 250. That change is superseded by the revocation of Standing Order 250 with effect from 1 September 2024 and its replacement by a new Standing Order 240, the text of which was considered and adopted as part of the business in Agenda item 22, Methodist Council part 2, Section G (see Resolution 22/4 [at 6/18/2], cross-referred to in Agenda item 50 at p 603). The amendments to Standing Order 102 did not reflect the provisions as to elections contained in the new Standing Order 240 and so further minor amendments are required. Those amendments are set out in Resolution LP/5 below.
- 8) Additionally, the business in Agenda item 49 Section D made a minor amendment to Standing Order 336(4). That change is superseded by the revocation of Standing Order 336 and its replacement by a new Standing Order 330, which includes in clause (5) the amendment to the former Standing Order 336(4). No further amendments are required.
- 9) The business relating to consequential amendments following revisions to candidating processes in Agenda item 49, Committee on Methodist Law and Polity, Section G, introduced a new Standing Order 714A which contained a cross-reference to Standing Order 232 and amended that Standing Order. Standing Order 232 is revoked and replaced by Standing Order 230 with effect from 1 September 2024 pursuant to resolution 50/5 and Standing Order 230 is in the revised form set out on the Order Paper which incorporates a cross-reference to Standing Order 714A in place of Standing Order 713(7A). The cross-reference to Standing Order 232 in Standing Order 714A will be corrected in the editing process pursuant to the amended Resolution 50/7. Section 32A, to which further consequential amendments were made in paragraph 3 on p 559, incorporates the amendments there shown. No further amendments are required.

7/43/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution LP/4:

The Conference receives the report.

7/43/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution LP/5:

The Conference further amends Standing Order 102 with effect from 1 September 2024 as follows:

(1) ...

(viii) the Youth President together with one lay person elected at the preceding Methodist Children and Youth Assembly in accordance with Standing Order ~~250~~**240**(11).

(2) ... the responsible body shall, subject to Standing Order ~~250~~**240**(11),
...

and further amends Standing Order 240 with effect from 1 September 2024 as follows:

(11) ... required under Standing Order ~~102(5)~~**(1)(viii)**. ...

7/43/4 **4. Commissioned chaplains**

Standing Order 102(1)(v), as amended by Resolution 49/9, refers to representation of commissioned chaplains by a presbyter. Following the removal of the distinction between presbyters as chaplains and deacons as serving in support of chaplains by the adoption of the new Standing Order 286 by Resolution 22/19, the Sub-committee brings the following resolution under Standing Order 131(25)(ii) for the better achievement of the intention of the Conference.

7/43/5 The Conference adopted as Resolution LP/6:

The Conference further amends Standing Order 102(1)(v) to read 'one ~~presbyter~~**minister** who is a commissioned chaplain;'

7/44 The Conference adjourned at 13.00.

7/45 The Conference reassembled at 14.15.

7/46 **SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The Conference shared in a celebration of Holy Communion, during which the Vice-President preached, the business listed in the remaining paragraphs of this Record was conducted, and the following, who have died in the last year, were remembered:

(b) the presbyters remembered in the Presbyteral Session and listed at 2/9.

(c) the deacons who have died since the last Conference:

David Bernard Clark
Helen Davie
Ivy Rose Forkin
Maria Howard
Janet Linda Miles

(d) the following lay people especially remembered as servants of the Church:

Brian Coldwell
Sandra Lewer
Chris Nock
Eluned Williams

(e) those who have served as Mission Partners:

The Revd Margaret Mary
Bethell
The Revd David S Cruise
Howard Dalzell
The Revd Keith A Horton
The Revd Alfred Lawson
The Revd David J S Lee
The Revd Irene Morrow
The Revd Ian W Mutton

Olive May Penlington
Margaret Phippen (née
Sangster)
Dr Audrey Mary Platt
The Revd Dr Geoffrey Shaw
The Revd Clifford Topping
The Revd Paul T Waterfield
The Revd Robert White
The Revd Donald M Wilkes

(f) 257 accredited Local Preachers whose names are recorded in a Book of Thanksgiving held by the Connexional Team;

(g) many others whose service is known to others and to God.

7/47 **ANNUAL AFFIRMATIONS**

The lay, presbyteral and diaconal members of the Conference renewed the covenant relationship between the members, officers, institutions, committees and Conference of the Methodist Church on the one hand, and its ministers, both presbyters and deacons, on the other, by remaking the Commitments and reaffirming the Expectations adopted by the Conference of 2022.

7/48 **THE STATIONS**

7/48/1 The Stations were presented to the Conference in the form of the Draft previously circulated with the following amendments:

THE NORTH WEST ENGLAND DISTRICT

1/2 Blackpool and South Fylde

deleting: Anthony M Davies (*Prison Chaplain*)

1/4 Bolton Mission

deleting: Darren A Garfield (S)

adding: James N Tebbutt (S)

deleting: Darren J Holland (*Pioneer Missioner*)

1/8 Chorley and Leyland

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Peter J Pillinger

deleting: Janet Clasper

1/9 Clitheroe

adding: Anthony M Davies (WA)

1/13 Glossop and Tameside

deleting: David I H Hardman

1/20 Liverpool (South)

adding: Gareth Morgan (AP)

1/22 Manchester

for: Anthony J Clowes (Church Planting Officer)

reading: Anthony J Clowes (Church Planting Officer) who shall act in respect of ministerial duties under the direction of the Chair of the District

for: Jennifer A J Jones (D) (Central Hall)

reading: Jennifer A J Jones (D) (Central Hall Deacon) who shall act in respect of ministerial duties under the direction of the Chair of the District

for: Ian S Rutherford (City Centre Minister)

reading: Ian S Rutherford (City Centre Minister) who shall act in respect of ministerial duties under the direction of the Chair of the District

1/24 North Fylde

Supernumeraries:

deleting: William R Davies

1/28 Preston Ribble

for: Philip J Gough (Deputy Chair)

reading: Philip J Gough (District Secretary)

for: Kenneth G Walton

reading: Kenneth G Walton (Teaching)

Supernumeraries:

adding: Janet Clasper

1/36 Southport

adding: Ernest Grimshaw RN

deleting: Peter J Lyth (AP)

deleting: Sonya T Marshall (AP)

for: Marie-Anne Kent (S)

reading: Marie-Anne Kent (WA)

Supernumeraries:

adding: Sally Binymin

deleting: Ernest Grimshaw RN

1/37 Trafford

deleting: Graham M Edwards (S)

for: Glayne Worgan (S)

reading: Glayne Worgan

1/38 United Stockport

for: Judith G Laycock (D)

reading: † Judith G Laycock (D)

1/39 West Pennine Moors

for 'Superintendent to be confirmed'

reading: Philip J Gough (S)

1/42 Wirral

for: Ruth E Dowson

reading: † Ruth E Dowson

WALES SYNOD CYMRU

2/9 Cardiff

deleting: David M Walker (WA)

2/10 Ceredigion

deleting: Felicity Jepson-Randall (S)

adding: Malcolm Peacock (S)

2/12 Conwy and Prestatyn

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Brian M Kay

2/20 South West Wales

adding: Felicity Jepson-Randall (WA)

THE BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT

5/1 Birmingham

deleting: Andrew M Clark (WA)

5/4 Birmingham (Sutton Park)

for: Jennifer Parnell

reading: Jennifer Parnell (D)

5/12 South Warwickshire

adding: Samuel McBratney (WA)

for: Tina Brooker

reading: † Tina Brooker

for: David M Butterworth (*NEC Chaplain*)

reading: David M Butterworth (WA)

for: Mark Rowland (*Connexional Team*)

reading: Mark Rowland (*Connexional Team and Chaplain at University of Warwick*)

5/16 South Worcestershire

deleting the second instance of Elizabeth M Harris

deleting: Samuel McBratney

for: Beverley Ramsden

reading: Beverley Ramsden (*Hospice Chaplain*)

5/18 Bromsgrove and Redditch

for: Helen Lawson

reading: Helen Lawson (*Greenhouse Retreat Centre*)

THE BRISTOL DISTRICT

7/7 Gloucestershire

deleting: Nigel Bishop

7/13 North East Somerset and Bath

for: Jill A Flowers

reading: Jill A Flowers (WA)

Supernumeraries:

adding: Julian Albrow

THE CHESTER AND STOKE-ON-TRENT DISTRICT

11/8 Cheshire South

deleting: L Eric Kirkman (AP)

Supernumeraries:

adding: L Eric Kirkman (AP)

11/22 North Staffordshire

Supernumeraries:

adding: Derick Chambers

THE EAST ANGLIA DISTRICT

14/1 Norwich

Supernumeraries:

adding: Ann Shephard (D)

adding: Linda R Kinchenton (D)

14/2 Ipswich

adding: Paulson Devasahayam Leela (AP)

14/7 Lowestoft and East Suffolk

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Linda R Kinchenton (D)

14/13 North Norfolk

adding: Zephney Kennedy (AP)

14/20 West Norfolk

adding: Michaela Kyla Sorensen (AP)

THE ISLE OF MAN DISTRICT

15/1 Isle of Man

adding: Johanna C Smart

adding: Sean C Turner (RR)

adding: Bryan A Yardy

THE LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

17/1 Epworth, Scunthorpe and Gainsborough

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Elizabeth A Childs

17/2 Lincoln

for: Helen Gardner (D)

reading: † Helen Gardner (D)

17/4 Mid-Lincolnshire

deleting: Richard Mottershead (S)

17/11 Barton, Brigg and Wolds

deleting 'Superintendent to be confirmed'

for: Robert L Roberts

reading: Robert L Roberts (S)

17/15 South Holland

Supernumeraries

adding: Geoffrey Tamblin (D)

adding: Margaret Barnes

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT

20/2 Newcastle upon Tyne (West)

for: Timothy D Woolley (S)

reading: Timothy R Woolley (S)

20/6 South East Northumberland

adding: Louise Sanders (AP)

20/8 Tynedale

adding: Roberta Ritson (AP)

moving: **20/22 North West Durham** and the names listed under it from **THE NOTTINGHAM AND DERBY DISTRICT** to **THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT**

THE NOTTINGHAM AND DERBY DISTRICT

22/2 Nottingham (South)

deleting: Andrew W Fyall

for: Naomi F. Sparey

reading: † Naomi F Sparey

22/6 Derby

adding: Jason Grant Kennedy (AP)

22/16 East Staffordshire and South Derbyshire

for: † Rachel Moss

reading: Rachel Moss

for: Helen J Harrell
reading: Helen J Harrell (WA)

THE NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT

23/2 Wantage and Abingdon
Supernumeraries
adding: Carol M Hamilton-Foyn

23/7 Leicester (Trinity)
Supernumeraries:
adding: David Bosworth

23/15 Stamford
Supernumeraries:
deleting: David Bosworth

THE SHEFFIELD DISTRICT

25/1 Sheffield
for: Jill M Pullan
reading: Jill M Pullan (WA)

for: Timothy R Woolley (*Church Army College*)
reading: Timothy D Woolley (*Church Army College*)

for: Sean C C Adair (WA)
reading: Sean C C Adair (WA) (*Studying*)

25/13 The Peak
for: Gillian M Sharp (WA)
reading: Gillian M Sharp (*MHA Chaplain*)

25/15 Barnsley
deleting: Constance M Taylor (AD)

25/17 Rotherham and Dearne Valley
for: Jonathon D Bellfield
reading: Jonathon D Bellfield (*Hospital Chaplain*)

25/19 Trinity
deleting: David A Bean (AD)

THE SOUTHAMPTON DISTRICT

for: **26/4 Berkshire and Hampshire Boarders**
reading: **26/4 Berkshire and Hampshire Borders**

for: John P Banks
reading: † John P Banks

26/7 East Solent and Downs

for: Elize Goddess (S)

reading: Elizabeth C C van Aart Goddess (S)

deleting the further instance of Elize Goddess

THE YORKSHIRE WEST DISTRICT

27/1 Leeds (South and West)

for: David M Goodall (*Missional Communities Enabler*)

reading: David M Goodall (*District Mission Enabler*) who shall act in respect of ministerial duties under the direction of the Chair of the District

27/31 Airedale

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Marcus A Pattern

deleting: Terence W Porter

adding: Peter D Sheasby

27/34 Calderdale

Supernumeraries

deleting: Mary Stott

THE WOLVERHAMPTON AND SHREWSBURY DISTRICT

28/2 Hidden River

for: L Denise Yeadon (WA)

reading: L Denise Yeadon

28/3 Shropshire and Marches

Supernumeraries

deleting: Carol M Hamilton-Foy

deleting: Sara M Windsor-Hides (D)

28/8 Cannock Chase

deleting: Jacob H Donkoh

adding: Elizabeth Dunning

28/9 Stafford

deleting: Jimione Kaci

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Derick Chambers

28/12 The Black Country

for: † Juliet A Kisob

reading: Juliet A Kisob

28/20 Kidderminster and Stourport

Supernumeraries:

adding: Suzanne Newton

28/21 Telford

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Suzanne Newton

deleting: Ann Shephard (D)

THE YORKSHIRE NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT

29/2 The Bridge

for: Ann L Lett

reading: Ann L Lett (S)

for: Francesca Rhys

reading: Francesca Rhys (S)

for: Neville Simpson

reading: Neville Simpson (S)

deleting: Malcolm E A Smalley

Supernumeraries:

adding: Jane Paine (D)

for: Ruth E Gilson-Webb (*who shall act in respect of ministerial duties under the direction of the Chair of District*)

reading: **Church Development Enabler**

Ruth E Gilson-Webb (*who shall act in respect of ministerial duties under the direction of the Chair of District*)

deleting: **29/8 Beverley** and the names listed under it

29/23 Thirsk and Northallerton

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Jane Paine (D)

29/37 Hull (Centre and West)

for: Alison Hyde (D)

reading: † Alison Hyde (D)

THE SCOTLAND DISTRICT

31/2 Strathclyde

adding: Helen Garton (AP)

Supernumeraries:

adding: Robert A Stoner (D)

31/3 Forth Valley

deleting: Nicola K Hilmy-Jones (WA)

Supernumeraries:

adding: Nicola K Hilmy-Jones

deleting: Hilda M Warwick

31/10 North of Scotland Mission

deleting: S Mark Slaney (S)

adding: Andrew J Bryer (S)

31/11 Angus, Dundee and Perthshire

adding: Hilda M Warwick (WA)

THE BEDFORDSHIRE, ESSEX AND HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT

34/1 North Bedfordshire

for: Paulette R. Tedd

reading: † Paulette R Tedd

34/10 Southend and Leigh

for: Stephen Mayo

reading: † Stephen Mayo

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Nicholas R Holt

34/14 West Hertfordshire and Borders

Supernumeraries:

adding: Sheryl M Anderson

34/15 North Hertfordshire

deleting: Valerie J Reid

adding: Stanslous Chatikobo (AP)

deleting: Melanie Crowley (AP)

THE LONDON DISTRICT

35/1 City Road

adding: **Methodist Church House**

The following shall act under the direction of the Secretary of the Conference:

Verity J Phillips

Nigel Rodgers

Gareth J Higgs (*Moorlands College*)

Debra Chidakwa-Akue (WA)

35/5 Battersea and Wandle Valley

Supernumeraries:

adding: David Hollingsworth

35/9 Tower Hamlets

Supernumeraries:

deleting: David Hollingsworth

35/12 London Mission (North West)

adding: Karen McBride (D) (Warden of the Diaconal Order)

35/22 New River

adding: Michelle Legumi (D) (Deputy Warden of the Diaconal Order)

35/32 Romford
for: Rachel Read
reading: † Rachel Read

35/39 Sutton
for: † Marie Poole (D)
reading: Marie Poole (D)

THE SOUTH EAST DISTRICT

36/1 Hants-Surrey Border
for: † Anne M Day
reading: Anne M Day

for: Joy M Everingham
reading: Joy M Everingham (D)

36/4 Thames Valley
for: † Margaret Chipandambira (D)
reading: Margaret Chipandambira (D)

36/8 West Sussex (Coast and Downs)
deleting: Debra M Chidakwa-Akue (WA)

36/13 Central Sussex United Area
for: † Vicky A Welsh (D)
reading: Vicky A Welsh (D)

36/18 Weald of Kent
adding: Gillian H Le Boutillier-Scott (WA)

36/21 North Kent
deleting: Gillian H Le Boutillier-Scott (WA)

36/25 South Kent
Supernumeraries:
adding: Stephen J Poole

36/27 Canterbury and East Kent
Supernumeraries:
deleting: Stephen J Poole

THE SOUTH WEST PENINSULA DISTRICT

37/2 Plymouth Methodist Mission
adding the heading '*Supernumeraries:*' and under it:
adding: Valerie Facey (D)
adding: David P Martin

37/3 Exeter, Coast and Country
Supernumeraries
deleting: Terence R Harris

deleting: Geoffrey W Tamblin (D)

37/4 Plymouth and Devonport

for: Darren Middleton (*District NPNP Enabler*) who shall act in respect of ministerial duties under the direction of the Chair of the District

reading: Darren Middleton (*District NPNP Coordinator*) who shall act in respect of ministerial duties under the direction of the Chair of the District

adding: Nicola Slateford (WA)

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Nicola Slateford (WA)

37/5 Falmouth and Gwennap

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Brian J Hadfield

37/17 Launceston Area

adding: Ruth M Richey (D) (*District Mission Area Lead*) who shall act in respect of ministerial duties under the direction of the Chair of the District

37/19 Ilfracombe and Barnstaple

for:

Stephen Caddick (S)

Tracey A Darlinh (S)

reading:

Tracey A Darling (S)

Stephen Caddick

deleting: Donald A S Macalister (AP)

37/23 Torbay

deleting: Douglas S Rix (AP)

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Paul S Weir

deleting: John W H Wiltshire

adding: Douglas S Rix (AP)

37/24 Mid Cornwall

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Margaret Barnes

37/28 Teignbridge

Supernumeraries:

adding: Paul S Weir

adding: John W H Wiltshire

PERMISSION TO SERVE ABROAD

adding: Jonathan E Mead (United States)

adding: Ramona Dinard (D) (Antigua)

for: Marlene A Skuce (Ireland)
reading: Marlene A Skuce (D) (Ireland)

PERMISSION TO RESIDE ABROAD

deleting: Jonathan E Mead (United States)
deleting: Bryanell E Rop (D) (United States)

for: Gordon H Wallace (Ireland)
reading: Gordon H Wallace (D) (Ireland)

PERMISSION TO SERVE ANOTHER CHURCH

deleting: Robert D Lewis (United Methodist Church)
adding: Nigel Bishop (Independent Pentecostal Church)

THE CONNEXIONAL TEAM

for: David I H Hardman (1/13)
reading: David I H Hardman (ASA)

THE CIRCUITS TO WHICH THE FOLLOWING ARE TO BE APPOINTED OR IN WHICH THEY ARE TO BE STATIONED ARE YET TO BE IDENTIFIED

deleting: Gareth J Higgs
Verity J Phillips
Nigel Rodgers
Supernumeraries:
Julian Albrow
Sheryl M Anderson
Sally Binymin

ASSOCIATE PRESBYTERS

adding: Christine Brown (1/33)
David Whitehall (1/26)
Catherine Wilson (34/1)
Jan Bisschoff (34/12)
Petra Yates (34/1)

ASSOCIATE DEACONS

for: Constance M Taylor (27/9)
reading: Constance M Taylor (25/15)

7/48/2 The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted the Stations.

7/49 **DAILY RECORD**

7/49/1 The Daily Record for Tuesday 2 July was presented, taken as read, and adopted.

7/49/2 The Written Portion of the Daily Record for the Representative Session was presented in headings only and adopted.

7/49/3 The Daily Record for Wednesday 3 July was presented in headings only and adopted.

7/50 **EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS**

7/50/1 The ex-President of the Conference, The Revd Gillian M Newton, and the ex-Vice-President, Deacon Kerry R Scarlett, expressed the thanks of the Conference to the President and Vice-President of the Conference.

7/50/2 The Conference expressed its thanks to the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of the Conference, Sharon Hassanali and the Conference Arrangements Team and volunteers, the Connexional Team and financial team, those leading worship, the worship coordinator and musicians, the sign language interpreters, the Conference Business Committee and its chair, the media team and technical team, the staff of the conference centre, the Record Office staff, the Chief Scrutineer, the Record and Journal Secretaries and chair of the Memorials Committee, the Law and Polity Conference Sub-committee (especially The Revds Kenneth G Howcroft and James N Tebbutt, Susan R Howdle and Elizabeth Ovey) and Legal Counsel Laura Kent.

7/51 **SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE**

The members of the Conference received the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

7/52 **ATTESTATION**

The Daily Record of the Presbyteral and Representative Sessions and associated documents were signed by the President, the Vice-President and the Secretary of the Conference, and were duly attested.

7/53 **THE JOURNAL**

The Conference, by a Standing Vote, directed that the Resolutions, Orders, Elections, Consents, Delegations and Appointments, and each of them, and every Act and all Acts whatsoever made and done by the Conference begun on Thursday 27 June 2024, be duly entered in the Journal of the Conference, subscribed by the President, the Vice-President and the Secretary, and shall be taken as, and shall be, the Acts of the Conference to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

7/54 **ADJOURNMENT**

7/54/1 The Conference, by a Standing Vote, resolved to adjourn to the Conference of 2025, which would meet in Telford on Thursday 26 June in its Presbyteral Session, and on Saturday 28 June in its Representative Session.

7/54/2 The Conference adjourned at 15.54.

7/55 **LETTERS**

7/55/1 Letters of thanks were written in the name of the Conference to the Conference Arrangements Team, the scrutineers, the technical team, the worship coordinator and worship leaders and musicians, and the chaplains.

7/55/2 Letters of greeting were written in the name of the Conference to ministers becoming supernumerary.

7/55/3 A letter of support was written in the name of the Conference to Mr Daoud Nassar and his family at the Tent of Nations (fulfilling the direction to send such a letter in the replies adopted to Memorials M6 and M7 - 5/20/2).

7/55/4 A letter of condolence was written in the name of the Conference to Alison E Stacey-Chapman, a member of the Conference, following a family bereavement.

7/55/5 Letters were written in the name of the Conference to the following presbyters on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their ordinations:

The Revd Joseph N Adams
The Revd Julian C Albrow

The Revd Nicholas B Baker
The Revd Joyce Barrass

The Revd Colin Barrick
The Revd Andrew J Bell
The Revd Philip Belli
The Revd David V Briggs
The Revd Patricia A Brooks
The Revd Robin R Brooks
The Revd John G Brown
The Revd Andrew J Bryer
The Revd Roy D Burley
The Revd Louise Carr
The Revd Mark T Coles
The Revd Stephen M Dallin
The Revd Patricia A Davies
The Revd Dr Philip N Drake
The Revd Christine I Giles
The Revd Jennifer M Gill
The Revd Wayne Grewcock
The Revd Ernest Grimshaw RN
The Revd Margaret Hadfield
The Revd Ann C Hall
The Revd Gaynor L Hall
The Revd John P Henry
The Revd Rachel A Hextall
The Revd Dr David Hinchliffe
The Revd Sarah A Jemison
The Revd Marie-Anne Kent
The Revd Andrew King
The Revd Helen R Kirk
The Revd John W Lambert
The Revd Mark J Lawrence

The Revd Dr Peter Lee
The Revd Simon H Leigh
The Revd Dr Jill Marsh
The Revd Susan A McIvor
The Revd Peter K McNeill
The Revd Andrew C Moffoot
The Revd Gillian M Newton
The Revd Leslie M Newton
The Revd Anthony J Parkinson
The Revd M Ruth Parry
The Revd Janette Partridge
The Revd Canon Gareth J Powell
The Revd Rosemary Pritchard
The Revd Andrew Prout
The Revd Ian D Pruden
The Revd Bruce Russell
The Revd Shaun L Sanders
The Revd David Shirliff
The Revd Martyn P Smith
The Revd Dr Kofi D Tekyi-Ansah
The Revd David R Tomlin
The Revd Julie A Underwood
The Revd Nicola Vidamour
The Revd Kenneth G Walton
The Revd Helen Watson
The Revd Andrew J Webb
The Revd Rose A S Westwood
The Revd Ann White
The Revd Paul J Worsnop

7/55/6 Letters were written in the name of the Conference to the following presbyters on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of their ordinations:

The Revd Malcolm J W Atherton
The Revd Graham S Bampton
The Revd Richard E G Barrett
The Revd Dr Michael A Chester
The Revd Edgar D Daniel
The Revd David L Freeland
The Revd Raymond J Goode
The Revd David B Hall
The Revd Keith D Harbour
The Revd Derek R Heritage
The Revd Alan M Hindmarch

The Revd Keith S Lackenby
The Revd Ian G Lucraft
The Revd Jennfier B Lunn
The Revd Peter M Molcher
The Revd Christopher J D Morley
The Revd Alan G Raine
The Revd Dr Neil G Richardson
The Revd Dr Malcolm A Rothwell
The Revd Anthony R Tagg
The Revd Rodney E Warden
The Revd R Gareth West

7/55/7 Letters were written in the name of the Conference to the following presbyters on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of their ordinations:

The Revd Trevor D Allen
The Revd George W Barton
The Revd Donald Bradley
The Revd Gordon Chambers
The Revd Dr Philip I Chapman
The Revd Malcolm Clark
The Revd E Barry Gent

The Revd James A Heap
The Revd John L Hope
The Revd Dr Albert J Jewell
The Revd Raymond A H Lansley
The Revd Dr C Peter Lemmon
The Revd Brian Lewis
The Revd Eric W Murray

The Revd John B Potter
The Revd Philip Rigby
The Revd John D Robinson
The Revd W Garth Rogers
The Revd Gordon Ryder
The Revd Donald V Sapsford

The Revd Jeffrey L Sharp
The Revd John H Sigsworth
The Revd Christopher Stark MBE
The Revd Stanley Webb
The Revd John Whittle
The Revd Arthur C Windridge

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3A	Methodist Council General Report (1).....	7/10/1
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11	Methodist Forces Board	7/14
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27	Methodist Homes (MHA)	7/19

13	Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST) – Revision to Articles of Association	6/19
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15	Methodist Schools Appointments	7/16
22N	Methodist Schools Committee	7/17/3
41	Ministerial Candidates’ and Probationers’ Oversight Committee	.2/14-17, 4/3/4, 7/35
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49C	Notice of Motion 2023/101: Section C of Oversight and Trusteeship Report	5/11
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54	Report to the Representative Session of the Business conducted by the Conference Diaconal Committee	3/15, 4/4/2, 7/36
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24	Special Resolutions	5/7
30	Stationing Committee	7/20
7	Trustees for Jersey Methodist Church Purposes	7/12
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23	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	7/18
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APPENDIX A NOTICES OF MOTION 2024

In 2024, only the one Motion below was adopted, plus another that was not specifically recorded because its substance appears in the Resolution it amended. None were agreed to be not put, or referred to other bodies. Motions lost or withdrawn do not appear in the Record.

2024/201 Fairtrade 6/24

APPENDIX B MEMORIALS 2024

M1	The Theology of Artificial Intelligence (AI).....	7/28/3
M2	Disciplinary Process	6/4/2
M3	Telling our Story.....	5/27/2
M4	Heritage Sites	7/28/1
M5	Resourcing.....	7/28/3
M6	Nassar Family.....	5/20/2
M7	Nassar Family and Israel/Palestine.....	5/20/2
M8	Responding to the Conflict in Gaza.....	7/28/2
M9	Israel and Gaza.....	7/28/3
M10	Methodist Conference and Specialist Defence and Security Convention UK...	7/28/3
M11	Report of the Independent Commission.....	7/28/3
M12	Mission Partner Programme.....	6/18/3
M13	Mission Partners	6/18/3
M14	Connexional Financial Support	5/3/8
M15	Connexionalism and Expense Costs.....	5/3/8
M16	Ministers' Housing Allowance.....	7/28/3
M17	Prolonged Ministerial Suspension	5/3/8
M18	Ministerial Stress	7/28/3
M19	Mandatory Training Requirements	7/28/3
M20	Mandatory Training Requirements	7/28/3
M21	Modified Constitutions.....	5/27/2
M22	Modified Constitutions.....	5/27/2

REPLIES TO NOTICES OF MOTION AND MEMORIALS OF PREVIOUS CONFERENCES

For a report about work done and work in progress on Notices of Motion and Memorials brought to previous Conferences, see item 31 of the Agenda (adopted Daily Record 7/21).