

1/1 The Conference in its Presbyteral Session assembled in Telford at 14.15, The Revd Helen D Cameron, 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 Dr Claire R Potter preached.

1/3 The Conference adjourned at 15.36.

1/4 The Conference reassembled at 16.10.

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 674-680) 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 681) 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:

Convener of the Memorials Committee

for to be confirmed reading The Revd Kenneth G Howcroft [dual qualification]

South East District

adding The Revd Rosemarie E G Clarke

Associate Members

(b) Overseas

230 The Revd David Prospero Sharpe is unable to attend.

238 The Revd Dr Thomas Roscher *vice* The Revd Olav Schmidt

PRESBYTERS ATTENDING THE PRESBYTERAL SESSION UNDER THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS

adding:

The Revd Dr Adrian Burdon

The Revd E Roger Dunlop

The Revd Gillian H Hulme

The Revd Mark P Hammond

The Revd Thomas J Osborne

The Revd Nicola Wooller

1/6 **LETTERS**

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

The Revd Michael R Appleyard
(1955)

The Revd Trevor S Bates (1953)

The Revd Howard R Bowes (1955)

The Revd W Graeme Butler (1954)

The Revd John H S Crossley (1951)

The Revd Kenneth Cupit (1954)
The Revd John M Edwards (1955)
The Revd T Aneurin Evans (1955)
The Revd Harry W Gillespie (1949)
The Revd Antony M Hearle (1947)
The Revd Ronald W C Hoar (1955)
The Revd Ivan R Homer (1954)
The Revd Rowland G Joiner (1954)
The Revd Roy Kilner (1953)
The Revd Frederick G J Manuell
(1954)
The Revd Harold Mason (1955)

The Revd John L Mitchell (1952)
The Revd Dr Albert W Mosley (1948)
The Revd C Irving Penberthy (1955)
The Revd J Clive Pugh (1953)
The Revd David J Reep (1955)
The Revd Eric J Renouf (1954)
The Revd Geoffrey R Senior (1955)
The Revd John E Stanfield (1948)
The Revd R G Gregory Stevenson
(1955)
The Revd Alan M Thompson (1954)
The Revd Dr John J Vincent (1953)

1/7

HOURS OF SESSION

The Conference agreed that these should be 14.15-15.30 and 16.00-18.30 on Thursday, 26 June; 09.15-10.45, 11.15-12.15, 12.30-13.00, 14.15-16.15 and 16.45-18.30 on Friday, 27 June.

1/8

APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

The Conference appointed the Scrutineers as follows:

The Revd Peter G Rayson (Chief
Scrutineer)
The Revd Richard J Byass
The Revd Leigh A Maydew

The Revd Cleopas Sibanda
The Revd Julia Skitt
The Revd Zena F Smith
The Revd Rebekah C Stennett

1/9

APPOINTMENT OF ATTESTORS

The Revds Benjamin P Clowes and Charity D Madenyika 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

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

1/12

FRACTURED WORLD, FRACTURED CHURCH

Bishop Christian Alsted, former Bishop of the Northern Europe Central Conference of the United Methodist Church, addressed the Conference on the theme *Fractured World, Fractured Church*, following which the Conference engaged in conversation.

1/13

The Conference shared in worship, and adjourned at 18.33.

2/1 The Conference assembled at 9.15, and shared in worship.

2/2 **PASTORAL ADDRESS**

The President addressed the Conference.

2/3 **OBITUARIES**

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

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.

Nicola Clare Blois: Born in Bournemouth on 9 October 1940. She served in Witney and Faringdon Circuit as a Minister in Local Appointment. Nicky was educated at the Wentworth school in Bournemouth and then studied French at Royal Holloway College, University of London. There, she developed a life-long enthusiasm for French. She taught at Les Sables d'Olonne secondary school from 1962-4 and taught French at the Wentworth School and then Bournemouth School for Girls during the 1960s. Nicky became a member of St George's Methodist Church in Bournemouth in 1960 and there met Keith at the youth group. Nicky and Keith married in 1967 and moved to Loughborough where Keith was a lecturer at the University. During this time Nicky taught at Grace Dieu, a Catholic boys' school. In 1968 they spent a year in Boston, Massachusetts. They returned to Loughborough in 1970 to start a family: Mark (1970), Julian (1972) who died aged eight following a traffic accident, and Paul (1975). The family became members of the local Methodist church where Nicky served as church steward. She led an evening class in the village of Kegworth, twinned with Rouen, and became president of the Twinning Association. She was a part-time teacher at the local secondary school, teaching French to a group of disabled children. Learning that they were left behind on trips to France for the class, she raised funds and organised staffing to take them to France on two occasions. In 1968 the family moved to Witney. Nicky trained as a Blue Badge Oxford Guide and specialised in guiding French school groups. Nicky was accredited as a local preacher in 1995 and entered presbyteral ministry as a probationer in 1998. She was ordained in 2000, following which she was given pastoral charge of Sutton Chapel and Davenport Road Church in the Witney and Faringdon Circuit. Nicky sat down in 2005, but continued preaching in the Circuit for some years. She died on 30 April 2025, in the eighty-fifth year of her age and the twenty-seventh year of her presbyteral ministry.

David Buckley: Born in Sheffield on 16 February 1943, nurtured in Crookes Methodist Church and influenced by the Iona Community, David worked in a gentlemen's outfitters before candidating for the ministry. He regarded his time at Handsworth College as a precious gift and relished the opportunity to study. Committed to the corporate life of the college, he was elected College Chairman. After probation in the North of Scotland Mission Circuit, where he completed the London BD, he moved to the Withernsea Circuit in 1974, where he obtained an MPhil from Hull, and then in 1979 to the Welwyn Circuit. Following the breakdown of his marriage in 1985, he

moved to the Stratford and Evesham Circuit, where he recovered his equilibrium, married Fran and was challenged by part-time chaplaincy at Long Larten Category A Prison. Moving to the Bedford (North) Circuit in 1991 he enjoyed a rich preaching and pastoral ministry at Priory where he particularly valued the Thomas Group where questions were encouraged. Having gained professional counselling qualifications he became Ecumenical Chaplain at Kingston University in 1998, and, on sitting down in 2003, moved to Chipping Norton to work full time in counselling and writing his book “Where the Waters Meet”. After becoming a supernumerary he continued with counselling whilst pursuing his interest in photography and enjoying time with grandchildren and step-grandchildren. Sadly his final years were marred by aphasia, a particularly cruel form of dementia for someone to whom words had always mattered. He died on 11 May 2025 in the eighty-third year of his age and the fifty-fifth year of his presbyteral ministry.

Valerie Margaret Burgess: Born in Birmingham on 22 February 1936. Val married Ted after completing her training for teaching at Southlands Training college, London. Ted was a Methodist minister when they married. From Aberystwyth, where he was stationed, they moved to Lowestoft where Ted went into teaching and Val took up a post at Dell Primary School. They adopted two children: Paul and Christine. There were then seven grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. Val felt a call to preach and became a local preacher. After Ted’s death she considered carefully a call to ordained ministry but then decided to wait a while. Eventually she offered and was accepted as a Minister in Local Appointment in 1995 in the Lowestoft and East Suffolk Circuit. Val did not attend any college to train as a minister; she simply had a local tutor for her probationary period. She was ordained and received into Full Connexion at the Conference 1997, being ordained at St Margaret’s Chapel, Westminster Abbey in July 1997. Within the Circuit she served at Blundeston and Oulton churches, then transferred to Carlton Colville church for her remaining time in active ministry. She was also a competent organist and filled in at South Lowestoft Church on many occasions as well as other churches where there was a demand. Val also helped with youth work in the Circuit, helping at “Inters” weekends and other activities. She remained very active until dementia caused her to cease her ministry. Val died on 24 April 2025 in the ninetieth year of her age and the thirtieth year of her presbyteral ministry.

Peter Raymond Dudeney: Born in Willesden, North-West London, on 15 May 1946. Peter lived a busy and fulfilling life. His first career was in banking which led to him becoming a bank manager in London. But this changed around 1990 when he began training for the Methodist ministry. He worked in churches in Luton and served as a presbyter in the Aylesbury and then the Chiltern Downs Circuits. While in the latter Circuit, at Leighton Buzzard, he organised a trip to Iona, spending a week living among the Iona community and participating in the Abbey services. It was a very emotional and spiritual experience for Peter and his wife Glynis. On his retirement in 2010 Peter moved to Milton Keynes but still worked tirelessly for the Methodist Church, taking services across the Circuit. He also volunteered to be a chaplain at Milton Keynes University Hospital and helped many people there. Peter was a kind, generous and loving man and gave his all to his life of ministry. He helped and supported friends, colleagues and, of course, his family. He enjoyed going to football matches and playing chess. He had a lovely sense of humour which many people enjoyed. He loved spending time with friends and getting to know new people. Many people found his sermons inspirational giving them hope and positivity. Peter died on 13 March 2025 in the seventy-ninth year of his age and the thirty-first year of his presbyteral ministry.

Thomas Patterson Patton: Born in Sunderland 15 July 1935 and attended Bede Grammar School. Tom was passionate about learning, reflected in his own

educational achievements, studying psychology at UCL, theology at Wesley House, Cambridge, as well as gaining a PGCE and an Open University Maths degree. In 1961 Tom married Gillian who, like him, had attended Roker Methodist Church, Sunderland from childhood. Two months later they travelled to Rhodesia with MMS and Tom was ordained in Gwero in 1962. After nine years in Rhodesia and Sierra Leone, many involved in education, Tom returned to England to teach at Leighton Park Quaker School, Reading. In 1990, Tom and Gillian returned to Zimbabwe for a further six years followed by an appointment to the London Mission (Brixton) Circuit before sitting down in 2000. Tom was a rich mix of contrasting qualities, gifts and achievements, with a sharp mind and a passion for learning. Tom was a deep thinker, constantly seeking after truth. He especially valued the words of Jesus in John 8:32 and 38. He was highly intelligent yet had a direct, modest approach which endeared him to all. Tom had a strong commitment to peace at every level: interdenominational, inter-faith, inter-racial. Nevertheless, he was firm in his opinions and physically a massive, daunting opponent on the rugby or football field. Tom was a keen ecumenist. He had a strong affinity with the Society of Friends and valued their quiet, reflective worship. Yet he also treasured and remained rooted within Methodist worship and spirituality. He used his rich bass voice to the full in hymns and choral singing. Tom had a wide experience of life and work in Africa, southern England and as an Ecumenical Accompanier in Palestine and Israel, but still retained his love of his native Wearside, his accent and Sunderland FC. He was always supported by the love of Gillian and his sons Paul and David. Gillian and Tom moved to Church Stretton in 2020 to be nearer his grandson and great-grandsons. Tom died on 18 March 2025 in the ninetieth year of his age and the forty-first year of his presbyteral ministry.

John Walter Richard Robinson: Born in Braintree, Essex, on 6 December 1938, to Harold and Olive Robinson. As his parents were not churchgoers, John's introduction to the Christian faith was through his music. He played his newly-acquired piano accordion at a street party on Coronation Day, winning the first prize. The MAYC leader who was present invited John to play for the Youth Club Concert Party, and Doug and Jane Gowman invited John to the Youth Club, which in turn was followed by attendance at Bible studies at homes in Witham and Maldon. John became a local preacher, and as a keen cyclist it was not unusual for him to cycle from Braintree to Chelmsford in the morning, then to Coggeshall to help with Sunday school in the afternoon, and back to Chelmsford for the evening service. As a conscientious objector, he had to attend court in South London, and to prepare for this he visited a home in Maldon where the husband, himself a conscientious objector, was able to advise him. This is where he met Gillian. The court allowed him to remain in his occupation at Courtaulds as a laboratory assistant. In 1959 John was accepted as a candidate for ordained ministry and he attended Richmond College for four years, becoming the college organist while there. Leaving in 1963, John married Gillian and together they had four children: David (who sadly died in 2010), Steven, Graham, and Lisa. John's ministry was spent entirely in the East Anglia region, serving in the Ipswich, Great Yarmouth and Gorleston, Colchester, Clacton-on-Sea, Colchester, and Chelmsford Circuits, where his ministry and musicianship were greatly appreciated. In ministry and family life he demonstrated great gifts of kindness, patience and generosity, with a calm and loving presence. Retiring in 2003, John continued to preach, and to entertain groups with music and magic lantern slides. He died on 16 April 2025, in the eighty-seventh year of his age and the sixty-third year of his presbyteral ministry.

Alan Saxby: Born in Sheffield on 28 February 1937. Upon leaving school, Alan initially intended to pursue a career with the police, serving as a police cadet with Sheffield City Police before becoming a probationary Police Constable in 1956. His time pursuing this career path ended in 1958 when Alan undertook National Service with

the Royal Air Force, Fighter Command, serving as a clerical worker. Following his call to serve as a presbyter in the Methodist Church, Alan undertook ministerial training at Didsbury College, Bristol where, in 1964, he was awarded a BA in Theology. He subsequently went on to serve in the Coalville Circuit, Leicestershire and the Barnsley Circuit, South Yorkshire. During his time as a circuit minister in Barnsley, Alan took on the additional challenge of a part-time post as a lecturer in further education at Barnsley College of Technology. He subsequently became full-time at the college and was the founder and head of the College Counselling Service. In 2005 Alan began studying for a PhD at the Biblical Studies department at Sheffield University, being awarded his doctorate in 2013. His studies focused on James, the brother of Jesus, with his work 'James, Brother of Jesus, and the Jerusalem Church – A Radical Exploration of Christian Origins' being published in 2015. Alan enjoyed the great outdoors, being especially fond of the Peak District. He enjoyed walking and rock-climbing, eventually 'laying his boots aside' at the age of eighty-two. Alan was a devoted family man. He was a much-loved husband, partner, Dad, Grandad and uncle. Alan died on 18 March 2025 in the eighty-ninth year of his age and the sixty-second year of his presbyteral ministry.

Brenda Stretton: Born on 21 April 1954. She served in the following Circuits: Wythenshawe, Runcorn, and Ashton-under-Lyne. Brenda had a prayerful, pastoral heart in her ministry. She always sought to be equipped with the Holy Spirit to serve her Lord, always ready to reach out with Christ's compassion to all those she met. In her marriage to Jim, Brenda found a shared love of Christ, and this brought her much joy. Together, their joy from knowing Christ was the foundation of their marriage. Brenda's commitment to Christ was lived out daily as she cared for congregations entrusted to her, including a commitment to small congregations and a heart for the spirituality of older people. Brenda reached out to those beyond the walls of the church with Jesus' all-embracing love. She enjoyed being an Asda chaplain in Runcorn and spoke fondly of this season of her ministry. She also served as a Chaplain for MHA. Although Brenda had been ordained for some years, in 2015 she experienced God's love again in what might be termed an Aldersgate experience. This was at a time when both Brenda and Jim faced uncertainty with their health. However, it led to Brenda and Jim working ever more closely in their ministry together, beyond circuit life as Brenda sat down in 2016. At her tribute service, representatives of many churches and denominations gathered with members of her family to tell of how she had influenced and helped them in their Christian faith. The common thread across the stories was someone willing to meet people where they were and share her faith in a real way that was relevant to the context. As one of her members from Wythenshawe said "Brenda was easy-going, thoughtful, caring, and helpful in any situation. Whatever challenge she faced, she dealt with it. She loved her family and was extremely happy with Jim". Brenda died on 10 September 2024, in the seventy-first year of her age and the twenty-first year of her presbyteral ministry.

- 2/4 The Conference adjourned at 10.17.
- 2/5 The Conference reassembled at 11.15.
- 2/6 The Revd Michaela A Youngson and Richard P Armiger introduced **Agenda Item 18. Stationing Review Group** and the Conference engaged in discussion.
- 2/7 The Conference adjourned at 12.13.
- 2/8 The Conference reassembled at 12.30.

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*	Peter George Jarvis**
Frances Anne Ballantyne*	Brian Robert Jenner**
John Robert Barrett	Brian Maris Kay
John Alan Beardsley	David John Keep
John Campbell Best**	George William Sudell Knowles
Peter Douglas Bishop	Keith Simpson Lackenby
Nicola Clare Blois	Rose Margaret Ellis Lee
John Emlyn Clark Bown	Suzette Anne Manning
Patrick Lawrence Brain**	John Alan Mimmack
Jeffrey Bramley	David John Moore**
Norman William Bray**	Brian Newbold*
Ivan Gilbert Brindley	Russell Parker
Robert Raymond Brown**	Thomas Patterson Patton
David Buckley	Norman Harold Peck
Elizabeth Ann Buckroyd	Derek Gordon Poole
Valerie Margaret Burgess	Brian George Powley
Alun Burke	John Ralph Pritchard
Louise Carr	Beatrice Obiorkor Quaye
Elizabeth Alice Childs*	John Walter Richard Robinson
Joseph Alan Clark	Arthur Rowe
Joseph Frederick Collinson	Colin Gordon Rowe
David Stanbury Cruise*	Paul Ruddick
Raymond Edward Curtis**	Frank Sanderson
Peter Frank Daone	Alan Saxby
Andrew Dart**	John Derek Searle
William James Davies	Brian Norman Shackleton*
William Rhys Davies*	Rolison Charles Sims
Kenneth Davy	Gillian Edna Slaymaker
David Dickens	Frank William Smith
John Scott Dolling	Nigel Maurice Spencer**
Anton Hilary Dowell**	Kenneth John Arthur Stedman
Peter Raymond Dudeney	Leslie Stoker**
Elizabeth Anne Dunn-Wilson	Mary Stott*
Ralph Edward Fennell**	Brenda Stretton
Ian George Gardner**	Fredrick John Swales
Peter Charles Graves*	Christopher Charles Tomlinson
Stephen Joseph Grieves-Smith**	Graham Wesley Tooth**
Dennis Griffiths*	Donald Tuttell
David John Harding	Kenneth Alexander Wallace
Terence Reginald Harris*	Margaret Wallwork
Stephen Hill	Jeffrey Henry Ward
Brian Charles Hodges	Eric Raymond Watker
Leslie Holmes	John Keith Watson
John Laurence Hope**	Cresswell John Henry Whitton
Renee Howling	William Wilson**
Sylvia Violet Illingworth	Thomas Mercer Witham*
Jacquest**	

* 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 13.11.
- 2/11 The Conference reassembled at 14.15.
- 2/12 The Conference engaged in further conversation on the theme ***Fractured World, Fractured Church.***
- 2/13 The Revd Dr Mark Rowland and the Revd Joanna R Rand introduced **Agenda Item 16: Healing Ministry and Neurodiversity** and the Conference engaged in discussion.
- 2/14 The Conference went into closed session at 15.27.
- 2/15 **46. MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES' AND PROBATIONERS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**
2. **Candidates for Presbyteral Ministry**
- 2/15/1 The Conference concurred with the recommendation of the Candidates' Appeals Committee.
- 2/15/2 The Conference, with the required majority, recommended acceptance by the Representative Session of the following candidates, to proceed unconditionally into pre-ordination training:
- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John Frederick Annim | Pauline Matondo |
| Laura Baker | Sarah Elizabeth McDonald- |
| Grace Gava | Howard |
| Amy Caroline Godfrey | Sally Margaret O'Hare |
| Samuela Yabakiva Halofaki | Tim On Wing Wong |
| Philip James Mason | |
- 2/15/3 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:
- Oscar Xiangyu Xiao
- 2/15/4 The Conference, with the required majority, adopted Resolution 46/2.
- 2/16 **1. Special Reports**
- 2/16/1 The Conference received a report that the following conditionally accepted candidate had fulfilled the stated condition:
- Sue Ann Mak
- 2/16/2 The Conference received a report that the following conditionally accepted candidate has still to fulfil the stated condition:
- Olive Ruvimbo Ruzvidzo
- 2/16/3 The Conference agreed the following changes in expected date of Reception into Full Connexion:
- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <i>To a later date:</i> | |
| Laura Sarah Martin | 2027 (from 2026) |
| Naomi-Rachel Frances Sparey | 2027 (from 2026) |

2/16/4 The Conference received a report that the training of the following student presbyter has been discontinued:

Cassandra Emma Jennings

2/16/5 The Conference adopted Resolution 46/1.

2/17 **3. Preachers Recommended for Continuance on Trial**

The Conference adopted Resolution 46/4.

2/18 **4. Preachers on Trial presented to the Conference for Reception into Full Connexion**

2/18/1 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:

John Paul Banks
Judith Helen Elizabeth Bell
Tracy Ann Birks
Tina Brooker
Hannah Moon Chun
Ruth Elizabeth Dowson
Hayley Lisa Edmondson
Samantha Jane Gillard
Christopher John Holmes
Sarah Anne Hooks
Joseph Ndhei Kwallah

Sincere Makunde
Kirsty Seonad McGhee
Jason Lee McMahon-Riley
Rachel Elizabeth Pinkney
Richard John Porter
Rachael Helen Prince
Agnes Eyiaba Sam
Heather Elizabeth Simmons
Fiona Marie Smith
Penelope Thorne

2/18/2 The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted Resolution 46/5.

2/19 **41. PRESBYTERAL TRANSFERS AND REINSTATEMENTS**

1. Recommendations of the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation acting as a Transfer Committee (under S.O.730)

2/19/1 The Conference, with the required majority, recommended acceptance by the Representative Session of the following applicants for transfer to be received into Full Connexion:

Michael John Claridge, Church of England (Supernumerary)
Chellaian Lawrence, Church of South India
Paulson Devasahayam Leela, Church of South India
Eliska Jo Mulliner, Church of England
Manoa Ratubalavu, Methodist Church Fiji

2/19/2 The Conference, with the required majority, recommended acceptance by the Representative Session of the following presbyter of another church to proceed to probation prior to Reception into Full Connexion:

Jennifer Karen Walters, Church of England

2/19/3 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):

Annie Jeanne MacNeal Baker-Streevy, UMC New England Conference

Kundai Katiyo, UMC Zimbabwe East
 Simon Madhiba, Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
 Ung Soon Nguang, The Methodist Church in Malaysia
 Mary Elizabeth Gaston Peters, UMC Western North Carolina Conference
 Thomas Chingoka Kanyingi Phiri, United Church of Zambia
 Eric George Raygor, UMC Western Pennsylvania Conference
 Sydney Sichilima, United Church of Zambia
 Neil Michael Vels, Methodist Church of Southern Africa
 Loren Preston Whetsell, UMC Missouri Conference
 Linberg Joon Yong Wong, The Methodist Church in Malaysia

2/19/4 The Conference concurred with recommendations of Reinstatement Committees that Stephen Andrew Jay and Nigel Andrew Williams should be reinstated to Full Connexion.

2/19/5 The Conference concurred with the recommendation of a Reinstatement Committee that Andrew Forrest be reinstated as a Local Preacher.

2/19/6 The Conference adopted Resolution 41/1,
 pp 503-504,
moving those listed under 1.5 to 1.3
 at 1.4 *for no case reading* Jennifer Karen Walters, Church of England
 at 1.6 *adding* Ilidio Christino de Oliveira Junior, Methodist Church in Brazil
 at 1.7(b) *deleting* 'Jennifer Karen Walters, ex-Church of England. Conditional on stationing (ordained probationer). Condition met.'
 at 4. *for no case reading* Andrew Forrest

2/19/7 The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted Resolution 41/2.

2/19/8 The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted Resolution 41/3.

2/19/9 The Conference adopted as Resolution 41/4:
 The Conference resolves that Andrew Forrest is fit to be reinstated as a local preacher and pursuant to SO 761(14) directs the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Circuit to reinstate him.

2/20 **40. PERMISSION TO SERVE**

The Conference adopted Resolution 40/1,

5.Permission to reside abroad, in the draft of the stations
adding
 Jeongsook Kim (South Korea)
 Calvin T Samuel (Malaysia)
 Ann C Hall (New Zealand)

2/21 **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:

Paul S R Chesworth	no status
Jonathan H Doble	no status
Mark J Lawrence	no status
Janice A Morgan	no status
Keith A Osborn	no status
Timothy R Woolley	no status

2/22 **REPORT OF CONNEXIONAL DISCIPLINE AND APPEAL COMMITTEES**

2/22/1 A report was presented to the Conference on behalf of the Convenors of Connexional Discipline, Pastoral and Appeal Committees.

2/22/2 The Conference noted that Nicola K Hilmy-Jones had ceased to be a presbyter in Full Connexion with the Conference.

2/23 The Conference adjourned at 16.40.

2/24 The Conference reassembled in open session at 17.00.

2/25 Richard P Armiger introduced **Agenda Item 19: Connexional Council, part 2, Section K – Discernment for Senior Leadership** and the Conference engaged in discussion.

2/26 **17. THE PRESBYTERAL SESSION: REVIEWING ITS NATURE AND PURPOSE**

The Conference adopted as Resolution P/1:

The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference in consultation with the Business Committee to draw together a working party (including representation from the Law and Polity and Faith and Order Committees) and to report back with recommendations no later than 2027.

2/27 **49. PRESBYTERS BECOMING SUPERNUMERARY OR RETURNING TO THE ACTIVE WORK**

2/27/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/1,

pp 548-549, in **4. Presbyters requesting permission to become supernumerary**

adding

*Jill A Flowers (34)

*Hilda M Warwick (11)

2/27/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/2, noting the corrections under **4.** above.

2/28 **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.

2/29 The Conference shared in worship.

2/30 The Conference resolved by a Standing Vote to adjourn to 14.15 on Saturday 28 June for the Representative Session.

2/31 The Conference adjourned at 18.10.

2/32 **LETTERS**

Letters of thanks were sent in the name of the Conference to The Revds Nathan S Falla and Joanna R Rand who had played for the worship during the session, and to Bishop Christian Alsted for leading the session on *Fractured World, Fractured Church*.

3/1 The Conference in its Representative Session assembled in Telford at 14.15, The Revd Helen D Cameron, 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 Alan Wardlow, 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 674-680), as amended by Daily Record 1/5, with the following notes, substitutions and corrections:

Darlington

113 Mr Tat Cheong Luk is unable to attend the Conference

Nottingham and Derby

135 Mr John Heard is unable to attend the Conference

137 Mrs Tanya Cook *vice* Mrs Fiona Riley-Schnoor

Yorkshire West

163 Lyndsey Evans *vice* Miss Pippa Lupton

South East

211 *for* Mr Henry Cheung *reading* Mr Henry Chung

3/4 **APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS**

The Conference appointed the Scrutineers as follows:

Anna Malnutt (Chief Scrutineer)

The Revd Peter G Rayson

Deacon Joy M Everingham

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

3/5/1 The Revd Richard Mark Andrew, 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 Matthew Alexander Forsyth, 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 Togo, The Evangelical Methodist Church of Portugal, Methodist Church Kenya, Methodist Church Sierra Leone, Methodist Church Sri Lanka, Methodist Church Upper Myanmar, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, Iglesia Evangelica Española, United Methodist Church Central and Southern Europe, United Methodist Church Germany, Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, Iglesia Evangelica Metodista de Nicaragua, Iglesia Metodista de Chile and from among our Mission Partners.

3/7/2 Bishop Juan M Simpson of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas 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 United Reformed Church, The Lutheran Church of Great Britain and The Society of Friends.

3/7/4 Elaine Green of the Society of Friends responded on behalf of the ecumenical guests.

3/8 PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President of the Conference delivered his inaugural address.

3/9 The Conference adjourned at 16.07.

3/10 The Conference reassembled at 17.00.

3/11 VICE-PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The Vice-President of the Conference delivered his inaugural address.

3/12 2. FIRST REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Conference adopted Resolution 2/1.

3/13 39. SECOND REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Conference adopted Resolution 39/1.

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 39).

1. The Business Committee updates the Conference in respect of its membership. The Revds Stephen Radford and Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni are not members of the Conference and are therefore unable to be members of the Committee. Pursuant to SO 136(1C), the Secretary of the Conference has appointed the Revd Naomi Kaiga and the Revd Richard Byass to the Committee for the 2025 Conference.
2. As set out in paragraph 7 of the first report (page 14), the Conference is required to elect one member of the Business Committee, a lay person, to serve on the Committee for three years (the Conferences of 2026, 2027 and 2028). Following the withdrawal of the Revds Stephen Radford and Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni, the Conference is also required to elect two ministers to the Committee. Nomination forms are available from the Helpdesk; they should be

placed in the ballot boxes by 17:30 on Monday 30 June, with voting taking place on Tuesday 1 July.

3. 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 for a request form.
4. 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.
5. The Committee recommends the use of an electronic voting system for any counted votes.
6. The ballots for the President and Vice-President of the Conference of 2026 and members of the Conference Business Committee will be distributed via email and the elections conducted via an online voting system.
7. Nominees for President and Vice-President of the Conference for 2026 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 15. 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.
8. 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 15 of the Agenda.
9. Memorials will be taken as shown in the table below:

Number	Title	Business
M1	The proposed cuts to the UK Aid Budget	<i>En bloc</i>
M2	Overseas Budget	<i>En bloc</i>
M3	Housing	<i>En bloc</i>
M4	Housing	<i>En bloc</i>
M5	Housing	<i>En bloc</i>
M6	Housing	<i>En bloc</i>
M7	Tent of Nations	<i>En bloc</i>
M8	Israel/Palestine	<i>En bloc</i>
M9	Christian Zionism	<i>En bloc</i>
M10	Expediting TMCP Procedures for local churches – discretion at auction	<i>En bloc</i>
M11	Expediting TMCP Procedures for local churches – proforma leaseholder agreement	<i>En bloc</i>
M12	Safeguarding	10. Safeguarding Committee
M13	Safeguarding	10. Safeguarding Committee

M14	Delivery of training modules	10. Safeguarding Committee
M15	Training Accreditation	<i>En bloc</i>
M16	Safeguarding Training	10. Safeguarding Committee
M17	Local Preacher Training	19. Connexional Council, part 2 Section I: Ministries Committee
M18	Training of Local Preachers and Worship Leaders	19. Connexional Council, part 2 Section I: Ministries Committee
M19	Local Preacher and Worship Leader Training	19. Connexional Council, part 2 Section I: Ministries Committee
M20	Ministerial Development Review Process	19. Connexional Council, part 2 Section I: Ministries Committee
M21	Resourcing Administration	23. Connexional Central Services Budget 2025/26
M22	'Don't Buy Into' Report	14. Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment

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.

10. The list of *en bloc* items of business (page 500) is as printed below:

3. Connexional Council part one sections A, C, D, E, H
6. Committee on Methodist Law and Polity part one
7. Trustees for the Bailiwick of Guernsey Methodist Church Purposes
8. Trustees for Jersey Methodist Church Purposes
12. Methodist Schools Appointments
19. Connexional Council part two sections K, L, N
20. Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland
21. Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
22. John Wesley's New Room
25. Methodist Schools Property Company: Revision of Articles
26. Methodist Independent Schools Trust: Revision of Articles
27. Referred Memorials and Notices of Motion
34. Stationing Committee
35. All We Can
36. Methodist Ministers' Housing Society
37. Committee on Methodist Law and Polity part two, sections K, L, M, O
38. Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme
42. Ecumenical Report
44. Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
45. Trustees for Manx Methodist Church Purposes
55. Necessitous Local Preachers' Fund
56. Methodist Diaconal Order General Report
58. Managing Trustees of Central Hall Westminster

- 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:
- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| John Paul Banks | Sincere Makunde |
| Judith Helen Elizabeth Bell | Kirsty Seonad McGhee |
| Tracy Ann Birks | Jason Lee McMahon-Riley |
| Tina Brooker | Rachel Elizabeth Pinkney |
| Hannah Moon Chun | Richard John Porter |
| Ruth Elizabeth Dowson | Rachael Helen Prince |
| Hayley Lisa Edmondson | Agnes Eyiaba Sam |
| Samantha Jane Gillard | Heather Elizabeth Simmons |
| Christopher John Holmes | Fiona Marie Smith |
| Sarah Anne Hooks | Penelope Thorne |
| Joseph Ndhei Kwallah | |
- 4/3/2 The following persons to be received by transfer:
- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Michael John Claridge | Eliska Jo Mulliner |
| Chellaian Lawrence | Manoa Ratubalavu |
| Paulson Devasahayam Leela | |
- 4/3/3 The following persons to be received by reinstatement:
- Stephen Andrew Jay
Nigel Andrew Williams
- 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, 29 June 2025, at:
- St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury
Shrewsbury Abbey
All Saints Church, Wellington

(Resolution 46/6)

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:

Natalie Mary Clark
Adelha Da Silva Kaka
Judith Grace Laycock

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, to be ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands on the afternoon of this day, 29 June 2025, at St Andrew's Church, Shifnal.

(Resolution 57/4)

4/5 The Conference adjourned at 12.09.

- 5/1 The Conference assembled at 9.15 and shared in worship.
- 5/2 **BIBLE STUDY**
The Revd Dr Heather Morris, the Secretary of the Methodist Conference in Ireland, led the Conference in Bible Study.
- 5/3 **APPOINTMENT OF ATTESTORS**
- 5/3/1 Kevin Jones and Deacon Deborah Marsh were appointed to attest the Daily Record and related documents.
- 5/3/2 The Revd Dr Michael J A Long and Alethea Siow were appointed to attest the Journal and related documents.
- 5/4 **FOURTH REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**
- 5/4/1 The Business Committee advises the Conference that, should the business scheduled for Monday proceed more quickly than the timetable anticipates, business scheduled for Tuesday will be brought forward, subject to any notices of motion that have been submitted. Members of the Conference are reminded that the deadlines for notices of motion are as follows:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Relating to Tuesday's business: | Monday 12:30pm |
| Relating to Wednesday's business: | Monday 4:30pm |
| Unrelated to business: | Monday 4:30pm |
- 5/4/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution B/3:

The Conference adopts the Report.
- 5/5 **FIRST REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**
- 5/5/1 This is the first report from the Conference Scrutiny Sub-committee, which has come into being this year following the changes made to the former Conference Financial Committee last year. This is a new process with the aim of scrutinising the impact of reports submitted to Conference which have not already been through the impact analysis process used by the Connexional Council. The committee will also meet during Conference to review the impact of any notices of motion submitted and will feedback on the process after Conference.
- As a preface, the committee noted the size of work that is being asked of volunteers, ministers, the Connexional Team and of other committees – specifically the Faith and Order Committee through the cumulative resolutions offered to the Conference. The committee noted that in a time of ongoing decline in Methodist membership yet more work is being requested and that the agenda is growing rather than tracking alongside the membership and available resources. The committee also made the link between asking more of our ministers and volunteers and at the same time various Districts noting the increased rate of burnout. Although all the reports include valuable and important work, the committee feels it has now become critical for the Conference to consider focusing on a smaller list of priorities that more accurately reflects the size and resources of the church.

Having worked through the Agenda the committee offers impact assessments on the following reports which have not been examined by the Connexional Council.

Report 9 – Methodist Forces Board

Resolution 9/3 requests more work for the Faith and Order Committee and the Board, all within a tight timeframe. The committee noted that the production of resources would involve more work for the Connexional Team which may not be possible within existing resources. Thus, the committee noted that a clear definition of the scope of the work would be prudent. However, the committee noted that due to the global affairs at the time of meeting, this work seems even more relevant and important to pursue.

Report 10 – Safeguarding Committee

Resolution 10/2 asks the Conference to direct line management training for all those who undertake line management responsibilities. The committee noted that this is important work but the proposal in the report was considered to have potential resource implications. Whilst this training has become expected in many Circuits and Districts it has never been mandatory. The committee noted that it is important to get a balance on the length of the training and the deadline for completion correct and thought the full two-part course may be unnecessary for those who have formal line management training from outside the Church. The committee felt it was important to consider this alongside all the other mandatory training being asked of all in the Church at this time. The committee noted that if it became a barrier to finding lay employment line managers, then the responsibility would fall onto already overburdened people involved in the Circuit or District.

Report 11 – 3Generate and the Voices of Children and Young People Report 2025

The committee acknowledged that the report had come from the Youth President who is part of the Conference Scrutiny Sub-Committee. The committee noted that Resolution 11/2 and 11/4 has hidden impacts for local churches. The committee acknowledged that this is important work but noted it had not been included in this year's budget. The committee had concerns about the resources needed for training and delivery of the training (11/2) and the impact on rural areas having further to travel (11/4).

Report 15 – Faith and Order Committee

The committee noted Resolution 15/2 which seeks to create a task group to review Conference's position on assisted dying. The committee commented that although this is a very important issue, it might not be the best use of the Faith and Order Committee as this is such a deeply personal viewpoint for many people. The committee suggested that a focus on the church accepting those with diverging viewpoints might be more productive. The committee noted the requests being made of the Faith and Order Committee. It would be beneficial for the Faith and Order Committee to be able to comment on its capacity and priorities on the totality of all the Resolutions for it currently in the Agenda.

Report 16 – Healing Ministry and Neurodiversity: Response to Notice of Motion 2022/201

The committee noted that the Faith and Order Committee is responding to a previous notice of motion and also requesting more work. The committee noted that Resolution 16/3 requests extra work of the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Committee and that 16/5 requests further work from the Faith and Order Committee. The committee recommends that the JDS Committee and Faith and Order Committee are allowed to comment on their capacity.

Report 18 – Stationing Review Group

The committee noted that Resolution 18/4 which requested each Circuit to have a digital profile could increase disparity, especially for those churches without access to the necessary digital skills. The committee also noted that whilst the idea of live stationing profiles was not being put forward there would still be work required relating to Resolution 18/7 requiring profiles to be updated annually and the impact was not quantified. The committee also noted that as this would be a new process for all involved in stationing it will have a significant local impact as it would take time and effort to learn the new process. Some other aspects of processes may need to be put aside for a time while these new processes are embedded. Whilst resolution 18/8 acknowledges that appointment of MOCCs needs to take in to account affordability, it is also noted that the appointment of MOCCs also incurs significant risk (and therefore potential cost) for the Church in relation to ensuring compliance with immigration requirements

Report 31 – Marriage and Relationships (further work)

The committee noted that the report is asking for further work to be undertaken by the Faith and Order Committee which will take up extra resource. The committee acknowledged the value of the report but asked how would this work be taken forward in a way that was manageable without adding undue strain on those involved?

Report 32 – Revising The Methodist Worship Book

The committee noted that time has been budgeted for by increasing the hours of the Faith and Order Secretary for this work, but the committee recognised that there would be additional burdens placed on the Faith and Order Committee and the volunteers it seeks to be part of this important undertaking. This could be a complicated and potentially expensive project and invariably, implementing electronic processes is not straight-forward. Also, extra resource would be needed to keep the data secure and protect from cyber-attacks. In addition, it is noted that some hymns and prayers may come from contested history which would contribute to complexity, time and cost. It was also noted that a 2026/27 deadline could be too tight and that there would be financial implications which we would be committed to without knowing the final costs. Lastly, the comment was made about the relevance across the Connexion as it is perceived that not all churches and Circuits make use of our already authorised liturgies.

Report 59 – Two Districts, One Chair: Southampton and the Channel Islands

The committee acknowledged the potential savings in costs and carbon emissions from Resolution 59/3. It was noted there was more detailed work for the two Districts to do with the Connexional Team to establish how current allowances will be made use of. The committee commented that it would be beneficial to have an analysis of the changes in district arrangements that have recently taken place in order to gather feedback and lessons learned as well as the impact on the costs to the District and for the individual.

Report 61 – District Resolutions

The committee recognised the serious impact of burnout and the subsequent effect on the well-being and welfare of ministers. However, the impact of Resolution 61/1, part c., would be a significant reduction in capacity and the delivery of mission and ministry in a Local Church and Circuit. There is a concern that more would be asked of volunteers who are already also over-stretched. The committee also acknowledged that there is a number of hidden areas of impact. Firstly, those ministers currently working part time (six sessions equating to 50%) would need to reduce their hours or see an increase in their stipend. Secondly, consideration would need to be given as to the impact on the length of probation if less time was being made available for

this. Lastly, the committee acknowledged that the Ministries Committee is working at capacity and there is concern about their welfare.

The committee acknowledged the need to look at minister welfare and burnout but the resource impact of the current proposals in the report were problematic. The committee would welcome further analysis into the causes of burnout and look into other possible ways of addressing this before the Conference agrees to this one proposal.

5/5/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution SC/1:

The Conference receives the First Report from the Conference Scrutiny Subcommittee.

5/6 **13. SUMMARY ACCOUNTS**

The Conference adopted Resolution 13/1,

p 92, **Income,**
for 'The total income for the year was £58.0m (2023: £58.8m)'
reading 'The total income for the year was £58.8m (2023: £53.0m)'

5/7 **3. CONNEXIONAL COUNCIL, PART 1, Section F**

The Conference adopted Resolutions 3/11, 3/12, 3/13 and 3/14.

5/8 **62. MEMORIALS TO THE CONFERENCE**

5/8/1 **Memorial M3: Housing**

The Conference received Memorial M3 appearing on Agenda pp 643-644 and adopted the following as its reply, in place of the draft reply appearing on Agenda pp. 644-645:

The Conference thanks the London District Synod for its memorial, and for highlighting the current housing situation in its areas and across the UK. The Conference is troubled by the current levels of homelessness, numbers of people in temporary accommodation and shortage of affordable housing, and notes that the housing crisis impacts individuals and communities throughout the Connexion, in both urban and rural contexts. The Conference recognises that the Church can and should play a part in addressing the systemic causes of homelessness and the housing crisis, including through advocacy and practical responses.

The Conference therefore agrees with the general intentions of the memorials. It affirms that the provision of genuinely affordable homes and of emergency accommodation can be an integral part of the mission of the Methodist Church as a sign of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and can further the purposes of the Methodist Church as an outworking of our commitment to be a justice seeking church. In living out the gospel of Jesus Christ, the provision of genuinely affordable homes and of emergency accommodation may be a powerful response to this call.

The Conference recognises the rich heritage of the Methodist Church and celebrates the work that Methodist churches, circuits, districts and others are engaged in to meet local housing need, including emergency accommodation. The Conference strongly encourages the Methodist people to consider what more they can do to tackle the housing and homelessness crisis in their area.

The Conference reminds churches, Circuits and Districts that the Property Support Team is available to support Managing Trustees in considering how they can use property and land missionally, including to address housing need and homelessness.

The Conference also notes that for a variety of reasons, including the legal frameworks within which charities have to operate, this is not always straightforward work to pursue. For that reason, the Conference believes that a review should be undertaken to understand and clarify the legal, procedural, practical and resourcing issues involved in enabling Methodist buildings and land to be used to meet housing need.

The Conference notes that learning may be gathered from ecumenical partners around these questions, particularly from the work that has been undertaken in the Church of England following the report of the Archbishops' Commission on Housing, Church and Community (2021), which was supported by the Methodist Church.

The Conference therefore directs the Connexional Council to undertake a review of the issues highlighted in the memorial and report to the Conference in 2026. It is recognised that this will require input from various stakeholders across the Connexion.

5/8/2 **Memorials M4, M5, M6**

The Conference received Memorials M4, M5 and M6 and adopted as its replies those recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorials and the replies appearing on Agenda pp 645-649.

5/9 **37. COMMITTEE ON METHODIST LAW AND POLITY (2), Sections F, G, H**

5/9/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 37/1,

noting the following additional information:

The Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Scotland and Shetland Synods were consulted on the proposed amendments, as required by Standing Order 126(1)(a). All four Synods voted against the amendments.

5/9/2 The Conference declined Resolution 37/2.

5/9/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 37/3.

5/9/4 The Conference adopted Resolutions 37/4 and 37/5,

pp 481-482, *for* the proposed amendment to SO 110A **(1A)** *reading:*
(1A) No later than the last day of February in each year the Secretary of the Conference shall in writing invite **prospective** members **of the forthcoming meeting of the Conference** to submit nominations ...

5/9/5 The Conference adopted Resolutions 37/6 and 37/7.

5/9/6 The Conference adopted Resolution 37/8,

in the last line of the Resolution, *for 2026 reading 2027*

5/10 The Conference adjourned at 11.01.

- 5/11 The Conference reassembled at 11.30.
- 5/12 **37. COMMITTEE ON METHODIST LAW AND POLITY (2), Section I**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 37/9, 37/10 and 37/11.
- 5/13 **54. OVERSIGHT AND TRUSTEESHIP, Sections A, B, C**
- 5/13/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 54/1 and 54/2.
- 5/13/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 54/3,
noting the following additional information:

The Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Scotland and Shetland Synods were consulted on the proposed amendments, as required by Standing Order 126(1)(a). All four Synods voted in favour of the amendments, and supported the proposal to present the amendments for confirmation with the exception of the first item listed in section B. 1. Interpretation as to the meaning of 'Conference Trustees'.
- 5/13/3 The Conference, with the required majority, adopted Resolution 54/4.
- 5/13/4 The Conference adopted Resolutions 54/5 and 54/6.
- 5/14 **53. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**
The Conference adopted Resolution 53/1.
- 5/15 **54. OVERSIGHT AND TRUSTEESHIP, Sections C (continued), D, E, F**
- 5/15/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 54/7,

*p 586, (c) Nominations Committee – participation in selection processes
replacing the text with:
SO 220(5)(i): add at the end “, including the right to take part in selection processes, but not to vote in those processes nor to chair them unless so requested by the relevant recruitment group or panel.”*
- 5/15/2 The Conference adopted Resolutions 54/8, 54/9, 54/10 and 54/11.
- 5/15/3 The Conference, with the required majority, adopted Resolution 54/12.
- 5/15/4 The Conference adopted Resolutions 54/13 and 54/14.
- 5/16 **3. CONNEXIONAL COUNCIL, PART 1, Section B**
- 5/16/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 3/2.
- 5/16/2 The Conference, with the required majority, adopted Resolution 3/3 in the form:

The Conference designates for appointment the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler as Secretary of the Conference for a further period of five years from 1 September 2026.
- 5/17 **24. METHODIST HOMES (MHA)**
The Conference adopted Resolution 24/1.

- 5/18 The Conference adjourned at 13.05.
- 5/19 The Conference reassembled at 14.15.
- 5/20 **19. CONNEXIONAL COUNCIL, PART 2, Sections I, J**
- 5/20/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 19/1, 19/2 and 19/3.
- 5/20/2 **Memorials M17, M18, M19, M20**
The Conference received Memorials M17, M18, M19 and M20 and adopted as its replies those recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorials and the replies appearing on Agenda pp 663-670.
- 5/20/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 19/4.
- 5/20/4 The Conference adopted Resolution 19/5 in the form:

The Conference notes the direction of travel being proposed and directs the Ministries Committee to carry out further work in partnership with the Faith and Order and Law and Polity Committees, and to bring a joint report to the Conference of 2026 which will include the Law and Polity Committee's advice on any necessary changes to Standing Orders.
- 5/21 **37. COMMITTEE ON METHODIST LAW AND POLITY (2), Sections N, Q**
- 5/21/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 37/20.
- 5/21/2 **ADDITIONAL SECTION Q: ADVICE ON THE PATTERN OF ORDINATION SERVICES**
The committee considered this issue at its meeting in December 2024 and, as reported on page 114 of the Agenda (paragraph 4.2 of Report 15: Faith and Order Committee) concluded that there were no legal or constitutional issues around holding ordination services in the Conference venue. The committee agreed to await the Ministries Committee's further consideration and then to consider again any final proposals if appropriate.
- 5/21/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution 37/23:

The Conference receives the Report.
- 5/22 **ADDITIONAL REPORT: ORDINATION VENUES**
- 5/22/1 The report of the Faith and Order Committee in Agenda page 114 includes reference to the discussion initiated by the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers' Oversight Committee (MCPOC) on the proposal that the ordination services be held in the Conference venue rather than in churches in the region of the Conference.

The Ministries Committee (meeting in May) received a report on the conversations with the Faith and Order Committee and the Law and Polity Committee. The committee discussed the issue and affirmed its view that the current arrangement is not sustainable. It therefore proposes that in 2026 and 2027 the Conference test a different approach by holding only two services (one Diaconal and one Presbyteral) in the Conference venue or another convenient location and adopted the following resolution:

The Ministries Committee recommends that for 2026 and 2027 only two ordination services (one presbyteral and one diaconal) are held at the Conference venue and/or

another suitable venue. After 2026, a review of this will be considered by the Ministries Committee consulting as appropriate and adaptations made to the practical arrangements for ordination services from 2028 as a result.

The Conference is therefore asked to direct the Conference Planning Executive to arrange for two such services to be held in 2026 and 2027 and to direct the Ministries Committee to review the 2026 arrangements and to agree with the Planning Executive proposals for 2028 and beyond.

In order to enable the Conference to debate this issue expeditiously, some of the background information is offered as appendices 1 and 2, respectively from the Ministries Committee and the Conference Planning Executive.

Appendix 1

BACKGROUND TO THIS PROPOSAL (from the Ministries Committee).

Ordination services are one of the most important elements in the lives of ordinands, their families, communities, circuits, districts and the Conference. Great care is taken in their planning and implementation. However because of a range of factors in society and the Church, it has become increasingly clear that attention needs to be given to the way ordination services are carried out. It is important that they continue to be the best they can be, while also giving due attention to the stewardship of our resources, and our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint.

1. The issue

- a. Pressure on churches.
 - i. As Conference returns to the same venue in repeated years, the same local churches are asked to host - putting pressure on limited numbers of volunteers for stewarding and catering.
 - ii. Few Methodist churches can be used because there are few that can seat 500 people or more. Currently churches need to be this size if ordinations are to be for 5 or more ordinands. If the services are for smaller numbers of ordinands, the nature of them changes. It is no longer the large and uplifting experience of a big act of the Conference and it is not then equivalent for all ordinands.
 - iii. Whilst the hospitality of churches of other denominations has been generous, arrangements can be complex and depends on the good will of local clergy and congregations.
 - iv. Methodist communities are asked to support ordination services in their areas in buildings of other churches. This can be challenging in an unfamiliar building or a place with which they do not have a relationship.
- b. Costs and Practical considerations
 - i. Live streaming is established now as an important element, not least as a way of helping meet our commitment to become Net Zero by 2030 – so circuits can watch the services instead of travelling en masse to attend in person. This has led to smaller numbers of people attending the services in person, which has a knock on effect in terms of the sense of occasion but has increased the possibility of hosting services in smaller venues.
 - ii. Some ordinands who have family overseas have had difficulty obtaining visitor visas so live streaming is the only way they can participate.
 - iii. Live streaming can be expensive, often complicated, and we are duplicating these costs by setting up live streaming in several venues.

There would be a cost for this in the Conference venue but it would be one cost rather than several and the resources are already there and we know they work for the rest of the Conference.

- iv. Venue costs vary from a few hundred pounds as a donation, usually when a church is already set up for live-streaming and is a Methodist venue, to more significant sums, eg one venue this year where live-streaming costs in excess of £3,000.

c. Ordinands' experiences and wishes and those supporting them

When venues are markedly different in size and nature, ordinands have a very different experience and this can feel unfair. Should the diaconal ordination need to take place at a second venue, there could be a perceived difference in how each order of ministry is treated. This would need careful thought.

d. Staff time

Connexional representatives oversee and prepare the services in addition to their normal roles. They regard this as a privilege and are willing to give the time to this. However in recent years this role has been growing because there are fewer local volunteers available. Holding several services means duplicating the administration and cost of staff time as well as financial costs.

2. The proposed solution

To hold two ordination services, and that, if possible, these take place at the Conference venue (presbyteral and diaconal) in two different spaces concurrently. This will:

- i. cut down the carbon footprint of many people travelling.
- ii. allow the services to be the very best they can be.
- iii. allow the ordinands to be ordained together.
- iv. allow people supporting them not to have to choose between which to support.
- v. be livestreamed well so fewer people need to attend in person.
- vi. allow easy travel, parking and access.
- vii. mean the services can start and end earlier, making it easier for those with long journeys, and cutting the costs of additional accommodation.
- viii. allow for the ordination services to be planned in the same way as the rest of conference worship – cutting down on the administration needed for holding several services. This reduces staff time and therefore money.
- ix. Avoids putting pressure on the same churches and communities year after year.
- x. Would allow the provision of a special lunch/reception for the ordinands, their special guests and the President and Vice President (and ex-Presidents and ex-Vice Presidents) – between the Reception into Full Connexion and ordination. This would allow much more engagement between the Presidents and Vice Presidents (and ex-Presidents and ex-Vice Presidents) with those about to be ordained.
- xi. Each President and Vice President would ordain at least twice – once in their year of office and once the year afterwards (presbyteral one year, diaconal the next year).
- xii. We need to note that there is still a cost at the Conference venue, and two services will need to be held (presbyteral and diaconal), therefore two

spaces will need to be hired with accompanying stewards and technical support.

- xiii. There is also the challenge of turning the Conference venue around ready for the Monday of the Conference. The time to do this will be shorter than is the case currently. However if the two services are held concurrently, the venue would have to be clear by 4pm. Conference volunteers have work to do once the venue team have rearranged the room with tables, and this proposal reduces the time for that too. However the pressures of this need to be balanced against the pressures on other volunteers who are involved with several ordination services in multiple venues at present.

Appendix 2 (from the Conference Planning Executive)

The Planning Executive has considered the financial implications, picking up the points made in paragraphs xii and xiii of the Ministries Committee paper. The numbers that are provided relate to options at the Telford International Centre where we anticipate that the Conference will meet in 2026 and 2027.

If the **Ironbridge Suite** is used for one of the services from 2pm, the venue requires everyone to be out of the room by 4pm to allow time for the turnaround. The room turnaround time is about three hours and after that (realistically, 7pm at the earliest) the Conference volunteers (who this year will have worked on the Sunday afternoon) would then have to set up all that is needed for business to begin on the Monday morning. Ironbridge's capacity is 1,100.

Using the **Ludlow Suite** as a venue would give a capacity of around 1,480 (though this would be slightly reduced to allow for a platform, space to move around for communion distribution.)

The estimated setup cost for using the Ludlow Suite is at least £10,000. This includes:

- Additional staffing requirements
- Hiring a lorry to transport equipment on Saturday
- Lighting, rigging, and internet access

Additional Staff accommodation and on costs (likely for two nights).

The estimates for streaming costs is £1,250 + VAT, includes two technicians and 3 cameras, live mix streamed to YouTube.

The need to arrange catering (which would have to be by packed lunch as there would be nowhere for lunch to be served) means that the proposal for an ordinands' lunch with the President is less straightforward than it appears. It might also mean that finding places for the Conference and guests to eat could be problematic if the weather were inclement.

There is no provision for refreshments after the services.

Comments from the Conference Scrutiny Sub-committee:

The committee discussed that much of the detail in the two Appendices clearly spelt out the impact issues the Ministries Committee feels it needs to address whilst the Conference Planning Executive note a range of issues which have both financial and

people impact. The committee does note that the numbers of those projected to be ordained over the next two years is marginally lower than this year however the mix changes between the two orders of ministry.

5/22/2 The Conference declined the proposed Resolution MC/1:

The Conference directs the Conference Planning Executive to arrange for only two ordination services (one presbyteral and one diaconal) to be held in 2026 and 2027 at the Conference venue and/or another suitable venue and directs the Ministries Committee to review the 2026 arrangements, consulting as appropriate and agree with the Planning Executive proposals for 2028 and beyond.

5/23 **32. REVISING THE METHODIST WORSHIP BOOK**

5/23/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 32/1,

p 443, paragraph 5.1, line 1,
for 1992 reading 1990

5/23/2 The Conference adopted Resolutions 32/2, 32/3 and 32/4.

5/24 The Conference adjourned at 16.08.

5/25 The Conference reassembled at 16.45.

5/26 **DAILY RECORD**

5/26/1 The Daily Record of the Presbyteral Session on Thursday 26 June and Friday 27 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 Written Portion of the Record of the Conference Diaconal Committee was presented in headings only and adopted.

5/26/4 The Daily Record for Saturday 28 June and Sunday 29 June was presented, taken as read, and adopted.

5/27 **11. 3GENERATE AND THE VOICES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REPORT 2025**

5/27/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 11/1.

5/27/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 11/2 in the form:

The Conference encourages the Church to use any tools available to help educate youth leaders, children and young people on the lived experience of EDI.

5/27/3 The Conference adopted Resolutions 11/3, 11/4, 11/5 and 11/6.

5/28 **33. EXTENDED COMMUNION**

The Conference adopted Resolution 33/1.

5/29 **9. METHODIST FORCES BOARD**

5/29/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 9/1 and 9/2.

5/29/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 9/3 in the form:

The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee, in consultation with the Methodist Forces Board, the Joint Public Issues Team, and others as appropriate, to create theological and pastoral resources to support the Methodist people in the light of

(a) the current global context of increasing conflict and insecurity, and

(b) the reports and public statements of the Church relating to issues of war and peace

and to report to the Conference of 2026.

5/30 The Conference shared in worship, and adjourned at 18.24.

5/31 **LETTERS**

5/31/1 Letters of concern were sent in the name of the Conference to Mr and Mrs John Heard, Fiona Riley-Schnoor, The Revd Colin A Smith and Tat Cheong Luk.

5/31/2 Letters of concern and condolence were sent in the name of the Conference to The Revds Barbara Bircumshaw and Tina Brooker.

5/31/3 A letter of congratulation was sent in the name of the Conference to The Revd Peter and Jill Barber on their forthcoming Golden Wedding anniversary.

5/31/4 Letters of thanks were sent in the name of Conference to the officiants, preachers, World Church representatives and Connexional Team representatives involved in Sunday's Ordination services, and to the local organisers at the venues.

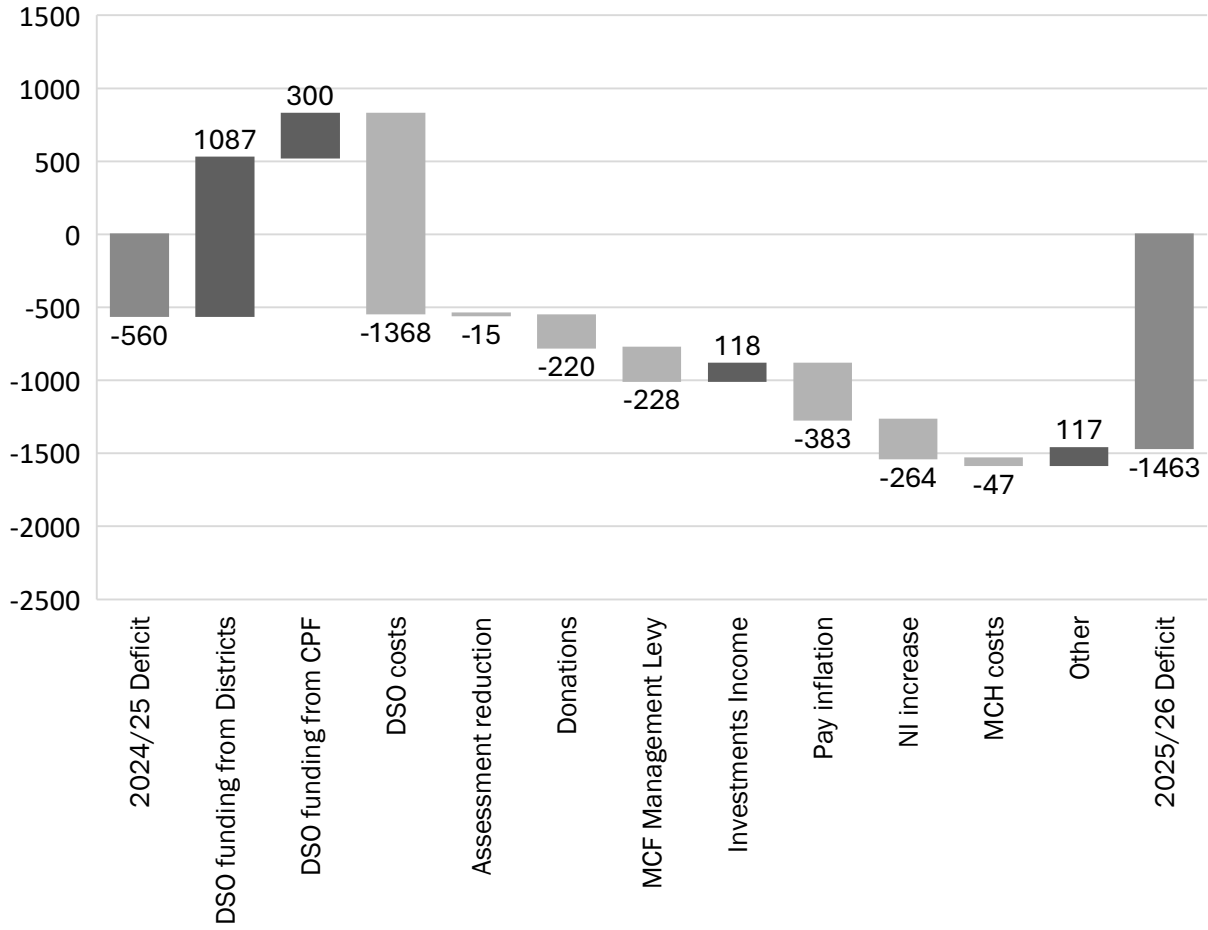
- 6/1 The Conference assembled at 9.15 and shared in worship.
- 6/2 **BIBLE STUDY**
The Revd Dr Heather Morris, the Secretary of the Methodist Conference in Ireland, led the Conference in Bible Study.
- 6/3 **CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE ELECTION**
The Conference elected Keith Walton to serve on the Representative Session Business Committee at the Conferences of 2026–2028.
- 6/4 **REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**
- 6/4/1 The Business Committee recommends to the Conference that votes are taken by a show of hands, as this enables the outcome to be seen clearly. The electronic voting system will be used for any votes that need to be counted.

The deadline for nominations for ministerial members of the Conference Business Committee is extended until 1pm on Tuesday.
- 6/4/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution B/4:

The Conference receives the Report.
- 6/5 **23. CONNEXIONAL CENTRAL SERVICES BUDGET 2025/2026 (continued)**
- 6/5/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 23/1,

p 281, Chart 1,
replacing the chart with the following:

Chart 1: Change in the MCF Deficit from 2024/25 to 2025/26



p 284, **Appendix 2: Fund Balances**, second page
replacing the table with the following:

Fund	Opening balance Sep 2024 £'000	2024/25 Forecast £'000	2025/26 Budget £'000	2026/27 Budget £'000	2027/28 Budget £'000	Closing balance Aug 2028 £'000
Forces Chaplaincy Revenue	489	(188)	(89)	(102)	(92)	18
Methodist Heritage	2	0	0	0	0	2
Mission in Britain Fund	6,885	(834)	(4,951)	(65)	(94)	941
Mission in Business Industries and Commerce	503	9	16	15	13	556
Lay Mission Superannuation	348	(22)	(18)	(24)	(29)	255
Sabbatical Fund	94	2	12	12	12	132
Fund for the Support of Presbyters & Deacons	8,163	1,815	(1,086)	(1,107)	(1,128)	6,657
Medical Benevolent Fund	2,491	8	24	12	12	2,547
Listed Buildings	23	0	1	1	1	26
Fund for Property	1,270	630	587	581	579	3,647
Special Extension Fund	2,598	78	100	94	88	2,958
Fund for Training	2,779	(77)	142	125	133	3,102
Long Term Renewal Fund	466	112	18	16	15	627
Overseas Student Work	371	7	11	9	8	406
Centenary Hall Trust	28,126	0	131	131	131	28,519
World Mission Fund	7,436	(830)	(511)	(578)	(533)	4,984
Benevolent Fund	442	8	14	12	11	487
MIC Trust	21,848	(649)	(186)	(197)	(132)	20,684
Oxford Institute	59	0	(15)	(20)	(24)	0
Designated Training Fund	43	0	(14)	20	(49)	0
Langley House Trust	96	2	3	3	3	107
Total	210,557	(2,380)	(9,892)	(6,122)	(5,488)	186,675

6/5/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 23/2.

6/5/3 **Memorial M21**

The Conference received Memorial M21 and adopted as its reply that recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorial and the reply appearing on Agenda pp 670-671.

- 6/6 **15. FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 15/1 and 15/2.
- 6/7 **16. HEALING MINISTRY AND NEURODIVERSITY: RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION 2022/201**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 16/1, 16/2, 16/3 and 16/4.
- 6/8 The Conference adjourned at 11.05.
- 6/9 The Conference reassembled at 11.30.
- 6/10 **59. TWO DISTRICTS, ONE CHAIR: SOUTHAMPTON AND THE CHANNEL ISLANDS**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 59/1, 59/2 and 59/3.
- 6/11 **18. STATIONING REVIEW GROUP**
The Conference adopted Resolution 18/1,

p 154, paragraph 12.2, line 1,
for 'during the SRG' *reading* 'during the consultation the SRG'

p 166, paragraph 18.4.3, **RECOMMENDATIONS**, line 1
for '*...Circuit Leadership Teams should review...*'
reading '*...Circuit Meetings should review...*'

p 168, flowchart, penultimate box:
for 'The CLT prepares a Reasoned Statement for the Circuit Meeting.'
reading 'The CIC prepares a Reasoned Statement for the Circuit Meeting.'

p 170, paragraph 20.1, **RECOMMENDATIONS**, line 2
for '*... as described in paragraph 21.1 of this report.*'
reading '*... as described in paragraph 20.1 of this report.*'

p 184, paragraph 26.5
replacing paragraph 26.5 (including the **RECOMMENDATION**) with the following:

'RECOMMENDATION
That from the stationing year 2027/28, the matching of ministers to appointments takes place using the process described in paragraphs 24.1 to 24.8.15 and paragraphs 26.1 to 26.4 above.

26.5 The SRG recommends that a Stationing Newsletter be circulated connexionally after the first round of matches has been agreed. This should include statistics on the number and type of appointments, the number of presbyters in the process, and the number of appointments remaining unfilled, as well as reflections on the process. This is intended to inform the Connexion of the challenges in stationing and assist with planning for future appointments.

RECOMMENDATION
That from the stationing year 2027/28, a Stationing Newsletter be issued as described in paragraph 26.5 above.'

p 189, A2, line 1
for ‘... in paragraph XX above ...’
reading ‘... in paragraphs 18.4.1 to 18.4.2 above ...’

6/12 **37. COMMITTEE ON METHODIST LAW AND POLITY (2) (continued)**

6/12/1 **ADDITIONAL SECTION P: ADVICE REGARDING THE STATIONING REVIEW PROPOSALS**

In relation to the proposals in Report 18: Stationing Review Group (published on pages 142-198 of Volume 1 of the Agenda), the committee has considered whether the proposals risk undermining the Supreme Court’s decision in *The President of the Methodist Conference v Preston [2013] UKSC 29* that Methodist ministers are not employees. The committee formed the provisional view that that would not be the case and sought an informal external legal opinion, which confirmed that view.

The committee therefore advises that the proposed changes to the processes relating to the stationing of Methodist ministers are not sufficient to alter the status of Methodist ministers to that of employee, and that the Church’s overall stationing framework and fundamental principles of connexional deployment remain unchanged.

6/12/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution 37/22:

The Conference receives the Report.

6/13 **30. HOPE IN GOD’S FUTURE: UPDATE**

The Conference adopted Resolutions 30/1, 30/2 and 30/3.

6/14 **3. CONNEXIONAL COUNCIL, PART 1, Section G**

The Conference adopted Resolution 3/15.

6/15 The Conference adjourned at 13.08.

6/16 The Conference reassembled at 14.15.

6/17 **28. IMPLEMENTATION OF REVIEW OF PART 11**

The Conference adopted Resolutions 28/1 and 28/2.

6/18 **29. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE: AMENDMENTS TO PART 11 OF STANDING ORDERS**

6/18/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 29/1.

6/18/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 29/2,

p. 316, SO 1101(1)(x)
amending to read:
(x) ‘**Tier 1 procedure**’, ‘**Tier 2 procedure**’ and ‘**Tier 3 procedure**’ mean the procedures set out in Standing Order 1121, Standing Orders 1122 to 1127, and Sections 113 and 114 below respectively.

p 317, SO 1101B(1),
for ‘... a complaint must be made within six months ...’
reading ‘... a complaint must be made within twelve months ...’

p 320, SO 1102(9), for ‘(9)’, reading ‘(9)’

p 329, SO 1110, title,
for '**1110 Local Complaints District Resolution Officers.**'
reading '~~1110 Local Complaints District Resolution Officers.~~'

p 345, SO 1122, title,
for '**1122 Reference to the Connexional Complaints Panel The Tier 2
procedure: triage.**'
reading '~~1122 Reference to the Connexional Complaints Panel The Tier 2
procedure: triage.~~'

p 347, SO 1123(1), line 3,
for '... relating to a complaint ...' reading '... relating to a complaint ...'

p 372, SO 1134(10),
for '... Standing Order 150', reading '... Standing Order 1150.'

6/19 **43. BRIEFING FOR CONFERRING ON THE JUSTICE PRIORITY: JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES
AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**

Rachel Lampard, Director of Social Justice and Social Action, led the Conference in conferring on this matter.

6/20 The Conference went into closed session at 16.15.

6/21 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.

6/22 The Conference adjourned at 16.20.

6/23 The Conference reassembled in open session at 16.45.

6/24 **DAILY RECORD**

The Daily Record for Monday 30 June was presented, taken as read, and adopted.

6/25 **31. MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS (FURTHER WORK)**

6/25/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 31/1, 31/2, 31/3 and 31/4.

6/25/2 The Conference agreed to the withdrawal of Resolution 31/5.

6/26 **14. THE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ETHICS OF INVESTMENT**

6/26/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 14/1.

6/26/2 **Memorial M22**

The Conference received Memorial M22 and adopted as its reply that recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorial and the reply appearing on Agenda pp 671-673.

6/27 **10. SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE**

6/27/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 10/1.

6/27/2 The Conference agreed to the withdrawal of Resolution 10/2. Resolution 10/3 was therefore not put.

6/27/3 The Conference received the following additional report from the Safeguarding Committee and the Law and Polity Committee:

1. As explained in the report of the Safeguarding Committee at page 72 of the Agenda and in Section O of the second report of the Law and Polity Committee at page 497, work is continuing on the drafting of the Standing Orders for the restructuring of the Safeguarding Committee, in particular to strengthen its governance and independence. As an interim measure, the Conference is now invited to amend Standing Orders to reflect more clearly the functions now undertaken by the Safeguarding Committee and to enable the appointment of panels to make decisions in individual cases from a wider selection of persons with appropriate experience. It is expected that the interim Standing Orders will be revised when the work now being undertaken has been completed.
2. The amendments proposed below include amendments to the Standing Orders which will require amendment in connection with the creation of a unified safeguarding structure. In order to make it easier to follow the proposed changes, they are being brought to the Conference in this one report. This report therefore contains the amendments referred to in Section O of the Law and Polity Committee's report.
3. If the amendments relating to the unified safeguarding structure are agreed, consequential amendments will be required to Books VI and VII of *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church*, as also shown below.
4. The proposed amendments are set out in the Appendix.
5. As explained in the Methodist Council's report to the Conference of 2024 (Agenda item 22), the existing District Safeguarding Officers jobs have much in common with the new Regional Safeguarding Officers jobs and most District Safeguarding Officers will become Regional Safeguarding Officers (now to be known as Regional Officers for Safeguarding) with effect from 1 August 2025 in accordance with employment legislation on the transfer of undertakings. In practice, although the majority of the transfers will occur by 1 August, a few may take place later. The Conference is invited to make provision by resolution for the effective date of the transfers.

APPENDIX

SECTION A: Amendments to Standing Orders

230 Safeguarding Committee.

(1) *[unchanged]*

(2) *[unchanged]*

(2A) *The strategic and oversight functions of the committee are:*

- (i) ***to be available for consultation by those members of the Connexional Team whose responsibilities include the Church's policy for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults;***
- (ii) ***to promote effective safeguarding practice and safe recruitment across the Connexion;***

- (iii) *in response to developments in safeguarding practice and to concerns raised by the committee in fulfilling its functions, to report and make recommendations to the Conference and, as required, to the Connexional Council to enable the council to fulfil its trustee responsibilities;*
- (iv) *to ensure the sharing of information and close working relationships with statutory authorities and other denominations;*
- (v) *to carry out such other functions as the Conference by Standing Order or otherwise may direct or request.*

[Note: these are the functions currently set out in S.O. 230(4)(x) to (xiv).]

(4)(2B) The *operational* functions of the Safeguarding Committee shall be **committee are:**

- (i) to give directions ...
- ...
- (ix) ... in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 235(5)÷.
- ~~(x) to be available for consultation by those members of the Connexional Team whose responsibilities include the Church's policy for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults;~~
- ~~(xi) to promote effective safeguarding practice and safe recruitment across the connexion;~~
- ~~(xii) in response to developments in safeguarding practice and to concerns raised by the committee in fulfilling its functions, to report and make recommendations to the Conference and, as required, to the Connexional Council to enable the council to fulfil its trustee responsibilities;~~
- ~~(xiii) to ensure the sharing of information and close working relationships with statutory authorities and other denominations;~~
- ~~(xiv) to carry out such other functions as the Conference by Standing Order or otherwise may direct or request.~~

(2C) (a) *The committee may adopt such structures as it sees fit for the discharge of its strategy and oversight functions and may in particular work through an oversight group and one or more sub-groups with particular responsibilities for quality assurance, training, policy and procedures, risk assessment, survivor engagement and theology of safeguarding.*

(b) *The committee shall work through a sub-group in the discharge of its operational functions applying the following principles:*

- (i) *any directions, guidance, determination or recommendation given or made in the discharge of those functions shall be given or made by a panel of not fewer than three persons;*
- (ii) *a panel convened for the purpose of giving directions or guidance under sub-clause (i) of clause (2B) above shall be convened by the safeguarding officer as defined in sub-clause (ii) of clause (3) below;*
- (iii) *a panel convened for the purpose of making any determination or recommendation under sub-clauses (ii) to (ix) of sub-clause (2B) above shall be convened by the chair of the committee and may include the chair;*
- (iv) *the safeguarding officer acting under sub-clause (ii) above and the chair acting under sub-clause (iii) above shall as far as possible convene panels from the members of the committee, subject to sub-clause (v) below;*
- (v) *the members of the panel shall among them have the expertise required for the particular case and there shall be no circumstances which might reasonably be supposed to give rise to a conflict of interest on the part of any member. Where this requirement cannot be met from the members of the committee, the chair and the safeguarding officer shall agree on the co-option of an independent person or independent persons, who need not be a*

member or members of the Methodist church, to enable the panel to be constituted.

- (3) For the purposes of this Standing Order:
- (i) a 'blemished disclosure' is a disclosure document, received from any body with official responsibility for providing information about the criminal records of individuals, which contains convictions, cautions or any other adverse entry;
 - (ii) 'the safeguarding officer' means the person or one of the persons in the Connexional Team responsible for issues relating to the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
 - (iii) a 'relevant party' means any person who is the subject of a decision, determination or recommendation made by the committee in the exercise of its functions under clause (4) below or in relation to whom a risk assessment has been carried out for purposes connected with the exercise of those functions, and references to 'the Superintendent' and 'the District Chair' or 'the District **Regional Safeguarding Officer for Safeguarding**' in relation to a relevant party are references to the Superintendent of the Circuit in which the relevant party is stationed or is a member and to the Chair or the **Regional Officer for Safeguarding** of ~~aligned with~~ the District of which that circuit forms part.

(4) [*This clause has been renumbered (2B) and relocated accordingly.*]

~~(5) The chair of the committee shall nominate such members of the committee (not being fewer than three in number and which may include the said chair) as the chair thinks fit to be the panel to make any determination or recommendation in discharge of the committee's functions set out in sub-clauses (ii) to (ix) of clause (4) above. For the purpose of giving directions of guidance under clause (4)(i) above, the safeguarding officer shall convene a panel of not fewer than three members of the committee having regard to the expertise required in the particular case.~~

~~(6) (a) When discharging the functions specified under clause (4)(i) and (i) to (ix) above, the panel nominated shall contain one person referred to in clause (1)(ii)(a) and two persons referred to in clause (1)(ii)(b).~~

(b) Requests for consultation by members of the Connexional Team under clause ~~(4)(x)-(2A)(i)~~ above shall be made to the chair in the first instance.

(7) (a) For the purpose of carrying out its functions under clause ~~(4)(2B)(i)~~ to (ix), a ~~nominated~~ panel ...

(8) ... A copy of the notice shall be sent to the District Chair, the ~~District-Regional~~ **Safeguarding Officer for Safeguarding** ...

(9) ... each determination made under clause ~~(4)(2B)~~ above ...

230A Unified connexional safeguarding structure. (1) The Safeguarding Committee is responsible for advising the Connexional Council as to the organisation of a unified connexional safeguarding structure, subject to clause (2) below.

(2) The structure shall initially make provision for there to be connexional safeguarding managers and four Regional Safeguarding Areas, for each of which there shall be a Regional Safeguarding Manager, and for there to be employed in each Regional Safeguarding Area a number of Regional Officers for Safeguarding, each of whom shall be aligned with a particular District or Districts, with appropriate administrative support. [as corrected by 7/55/1]

(3) Persons whose office forms part of the unified connexional safeguarding structure shall be employed by the Connexional Council and shall form part of the Connexional Team.

231 Grounds—Right of Appeal. (1) A relevant party, that party’s District Chair or Superintendent or the safeguarding officer **as defined in Standing Order 230(3)(ii)** may appeal against a direction or determination under Standing Order 230(4)(2B)(i) or (iii) ...

233 Appeal Decision.

...
(2) ... If the appellant is the relevant party, a copy of the decision shall also be sent to the District Chair, ~~district~~ **Regional safeguarding officer for Safeguarding** ...

234 Safeguarding Concerns and Procedures.

...
(4) ...
(iii) a ‘safeguarding officer’ means the safeguarding officer as defined in Standing Order 230(3)(ii) or the ~~District~~ **Regional Safeguarding Officer for Safeguarding aligned with** of the District of which the relevant Circuit forms part;

235 Assessment of Risk. (1) In this Standing Order:

...
(iii) “the ~~District~~ **Regional Safeguarding Officer for Safeguarding**” means the **Regional safeguarding officer for Safeguarding aligned with** of the District of which the relevant Circuit forms part.

...
(4) A connexional safeguarding officer **manager** acting on behalf of the Safeguarding Committee may require a connexional risk assessment following a request from a ~~District~~ **Regional Safeguarding Officer for Safeguarding** ...

(5) A connexional risk assessment shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified assessor upon the instruction of a connexional safeguarding officer **manager** ...

(6) When a connexional safeguarding officer **manager** determines that a connexional risk assessment is required, the **manager** shall consult ...

(7) A district risk assessment may be undertaken:
(i) ...
(ii) (in conjunction with a connexional safeguarding officer **manager**) ...
(iii) where the ~~District~~ **Regional Safeguarding Officer for Safeguarding** is informed of a blemished disclosure;
(iv) at the request of a connexional safeguarding officer **manager** made in accordance with ...

...
(11) The subject, the District Chair, the ~~District~~ **Regional Safeguarding Officer for Safeguarding** (if not conducting the assessment) and the Superintendent of the relevant Circuit ...

...
(14) ... The subject shall have 14 days to provide any comments on the report before it is considered by ... the ~~District~~ **Regional Safeguarding Officer for Safeguarding** ...

(15) A copy of the risk assessment ... shall be sent to the ~~District~~ **Regional Safeguarding Officer for Safeguarding** ... The ~~District~~ **Regional Safeguarding Officer for Safeguarding** may provide copies of the risk assessment ...

690 Arrangements for Involvement. (1) When a person ... worships in a Local Church or seeks to become involved in its life, ~~he or she~~ **the person concerned** ...

(2) (a) The **Regional** safeguarding ~~Officer~~ **for Safeguarding aligned with** for the relevant District must ...

...

(bA) ... will determine on what terms ~~he or she~~ **that person** ...

...

(c) ...signed and dated by ~~him or her~~ **that person** ...

...

(6) ... the group may nevertheless monitor ~~him or her~~ **that person** ...

690A Review of a Contract. ...

...

(4) The group shall provide an annual report ... to the ~~District~~ **Regional** Safeguarding Officer **for Safeguarding aligned with** of the District of which the relevant Circuit forms part.

(5) The ~~District~~ **Regional** Safeguarding Officer **for Safeguarding** ...

692 Transfer. (1) ... the presbyter in pastoral charge of that Local Church, in carrying out ~~his or her~~ **the** responsibilities under Standing Order 055, ...

SECTION B: Amendments to Books VI and VII

[The penultimate line of the editorial note to Book VI, Part 1, on p 810, will need correction to refer to Regional Officers for Safeguarding.]

(i) Book VI, Part 4

p 816, amending the start of the fourth paragraph as follows:

The ~~Regional~~ Safeguarding Officer **for Safeguarding aligned with** for the relevant District (the ~~DSOROS~~) will undertake the process ...

and substituting 'ROS' for 'DSO' wherever 'DSO' appears thereafter on pp 816-817

(ii) Book VII, Part 5A

p 834

2.4 The Connexional Support Officer shall report any safeguarding concerns to the ~~District~~ **Regional** Safeguarding Officer **for Safeguarding aligned with the relevant District** and...

(iii) Book VII, Part 16

p 874

3. vi. ... The ~~District~~ **Regional** Safeguarding Officer **for Safeguarding aligned with the relevant District (the Regional Officer for Safeguarding)** must be informed ...

3. vii Practitioners must consider whether there are any safeguarding concerns and inform the ~~District~~ **Regional** Safeguarding Officer **for Safeguarding** of any identified.

p 876

4.4 ... These may include the District ~~District~~ **Regional** Safeguarding Officer **for Safeguarding**,
...

6/27/4 The Conference adopted as Resolution 10/4:

The Conference amends Standing Orders as set out in Section A of the Appendix.

6/27/5 The Conference adopted as Resolution 10/5:

The Conference amends Books VI and VII as set out in Section B of the Appendix.

6/27/6 The Conference adopted as Resolution 10/6:

The Conference directs that, in relation to any person holding the office of District Safeguarding Officer at the date of this resolution whose office will become the office of Regional Officer for Safeguarding as a result of the amendments made by resolution 10/4, the amendments will not take effect until 1 August 2025 or such later date as the requirements of employment law governing the transfer of that person's employment are completed and the new contract of employment with the Connexional Council is agreed to take effect.

6/27/7 **Memorials M13, M14, M16**

The Conference received Memorials M13, M14 and M16 and adopted as its replies those recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorials and the replies appearing on Agenda pp 659-663.

6/28 **61. DISTRICT RESOLUTIONS**

The Conference adopted Resolution 61/1 in the form:

The Conference:

- a. affirms its commitment to the well-being of all ministers in Full Connexion;
- b. directs the Ministries Committee to work with others to bring forward proposals to assess and address the high stress levels amongst ministers stationed by the Conference.

6/29 **RENEWING FULL CONNEXION: COMMITMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS**

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.

6/30 The Conference shared in worship, and adjourned at 18.36.

6/31 **LETTERS**

A letter of condolence was sent in the name of the Conference to Charles Stephens.

- 7/1 The Conference assembled at 9.15 and shared in worship.
- 7/2 **BIBLE STUDY**
The Revd Dr Heather Morris, the Secretary of the Methodist Conference in Ireland, led the Conference in Bible Study.
- 7/3 **DESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE**
The Revd Steven Mark Slaney was designated for appointment as President of the Conference of 2026.
- 7/4 **DESIGNATION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE**
Caroline Mary Stead was designated for appointment as Vice-President of the Conference of 2026.
- 7/5 **CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE ELECTION (continued)**
The Conference elected The Revd Jacqueline Bellfield and The Revd Dr Daniel R Haylett to serve on the Representative Session Business Committee at the Conferences of 2026–2028.
- 7/6 **REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**
- 7/6/1 The Business Committee is mindful of the business yet to be done, and recommends that speeches are reduced to one minute. It further recommends that those wishing to speak on particular items should come to the front of the hall as soon as that item of business is called, and that those next to speak wait at the platform where possible.

Statistical report

Monday 30 June 2025

There was a total of 55 speakers throughout the day of whom 11 spoke more than once. There were 38 ordained speakers and 17 lay.

Statistical Summary

Total Number of Speakers: 55

Presbyters: 36

Deacons: 2

Lay: 17

Gender Breakdown:

Female: 30 (9 lay, 21 ordained)

Male: 22 (7 lay, 15 ordained)

Not Stated: 3 (1 lay, 2 ordained)

Tuesday 1 July 2025

There was a total of 63 speakers throughout the day. There was a total of 22 male speakers, 36 female speakers, 2 non-binary speakers and 3 speakers preferred not to state their gender. There was a total of 9 speakers who spoke more than once.

Please note these figures do not include speakers during the 'Conferring on the Justice Priorities; Justice for Refugees and Asylum Seekers' conversation.

Statistical Summary

Total Number of Speakers: 63

Presbyters: 33 (52.4%).

Deacons: 3 (4.7%)

Lay: 27 (42.9%)

Gender Distribution of Speakers

Female:36 (57%) Male:22 (35%) Non-Binary:2 (3%) Prefer Not Say:3 (5%)

Lay, Deacon and Presbyter Speakers:

Lay: Total:27 (Female: 20 Male: 5 Non Binary: 1 Not Stated:1)

Deacons Total:3 (Female: 3 Male: 0 Non Binary: 0 Not Stated: 0)

Presbyters Total:33 (Female: 13 Male: 17 Non Binary: 1 Not Stated: 2)

7/6/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution B/5:

The Conference receives the Report.

7/7 SECOND REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

7/7/1 As indicated in the First Report, the Sub-committee has taken time to review how this first year of operation in this new way felt.

It reflected on the nuance that the comments of the Sub-committee were not intended to be perceived as making judgement on what was being proposed but were intended to state what the impact of taking something forward might be. It is for the Conference to take a view on how that impact is taken into consideration.

The Sub-committee would encourage individual members of Conference and the Conference Business Committee to reflect on whether the questions being asked as part of the Notice of Motion form are proving helpful.

7/7/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution SC/2:

The Conference receives the Report.

7/8 18. STATIONING REVIEW GROUP (continued)

7/8/1 The Conference agreed to the withdrawal of Resolutions 18/2, 18/3, 18/4 and 18/5.

7/8/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 18/6.

7/8/3 The Conference agreed to the withdrawal of Resolution 18/7.

7/8/4 The Conference adopted Resolution 18/8.

7/8/5 The Conference agreed to the withdrawal of Resolutions 18/9, 18/10 and 18/11.

7/8/6 The Conference adopted as Resolution 18/12:

The Conference thanks the Stationing Review Group for its work and refers the outstanding matters in the report to the Ministries Committee for consultation

with the Stationing Committee and other bodies as appropriate and directs that a further report be brought to the Conference of 2026.

7/9 **23. CONNEXIONAL CENTRAL SERVICES BUDGET 2025/2026 (continued)**

7/9/1 The Conference received the following additional report:

The Mission Committee has been conducting a review of the Methodist Action on Poverty & Justice funding. Whilst the Connexional Central Services Budget (CCSB) for 2025/26 includes a continuation of this funding from the Mission in Britain Fund, the Connexional Council has agreed to a proposal from the Mission Committee to uplift the allocation for the impact of inflation since 2021. This proposal was agreed after the draft budget had been submitted and therefore the Conference is asked to approve an amendment to the draft budget to increase the MAPJ allocation in 2025/26 to £300k.

7/9/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 23/3 in the form:

The Conference approves the budget for 2025/26 including an amendment to increase the MAPJ budget to £300k.

7/9/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 23/4.

7/10 **19. CONNEXIONAL COUNCIL, PART 2, Section M**

7/10/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 19/8,

p 228, paragraph 18, line 1,
for 'A Connexional Appeal Committee ...' reading 'A Connexional Appeal Panel ...'

p 228, *replacing* paragraph 19 with:
'Individual committees shall be drawn from the Connexional Appeal Panel to hear particular cases. Members of the Panel shall be fully trained in the processes of candidature and probation that are relevant to the Committees on which they sit. They shall not have current involvement in those processes of selection, training and formation about which they hear appeals.'

7/10/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 19/9.

7/10/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 19/10 in the form:

The Conference directs the Ministries Committee to consult further and bring detailed proposals to the Conference of 2026 about the proposal in paragraphs 24-34 of the report.

7/11 **37. COMMITTEE ON METHODIST LAW AND POLITY (2), Section J**

The Conference adopted Resolutions 37/12 and 37/13.

7/12 **62. MEMORIALS TO THE CONFERENCE (continued)**

7/12/1 **Memorial M12**

The Conference received Memorial M12 appearing on Agenda p 658, an amended draft reply proposed on behalf of the Memorials Committee, and Notice of Motion 2025/102.

7/12/2 The proposed amended reply:

The Conference thanks the Yorkshire North and East Synod for its commitment to the very best practice in safeguarding.

The named person who acts as contact for safeguarding matters at the Conference is the Assistant Secretary of the Conference (ASC). All members of the Conference are responsible for the safeguarding of others but it is, as the Memorial suggests, important for a particular person to be a point of contact should a concern arise. The chaplains at the Conference are also points of contact to whom concerns can be expressed.

Events in churches, circuits and districts will have a designated safeguarding lead, who need not be someone 'independent' of the event. The ASC is a senior person within the life of the Conference and having the person in that role as a designated point of contact demonstrates the importance which the Conference places on the safeguarding of those who attend the event. In **terms of dealing with the substance of the issues raised** ~~terms of workload, it is likely that upon receiving a concern,~~ the ASC would then pass **the matter** ~~that~~ to the most suitable person **in the unified safeguarding network.** ~~to follow it up, which in most cases will be the District Safeguarding Officer based in the district where the Conference takes place.~~

The Conference ~~declines the memorial but~~ asks the Conference Planning Executive to ensure that clear details of who to contact regarding safeguarding concerns are available to all members of the Conference.

7/12/3 **Notice of Motion 2025/102: Amended Reply to Memorial M12**

In 2021, Conference adopted a report exploring the Theology of Safeguarding. In the introduction it affirms that: 'it is the Methodist Church's intention to value every human being as part of God's creation and to be a place where the transformational love of God is embodied. As part of this, it seeks to be a safer place for those who are less powerful, amongst whom are children, young people and any who are vulnerable'. Section 7 reflects on the role of power within the Church, recognising that all Christians and members within the church should reflect on the power that is perceived by those that they interact with. It is inevitable that within the structure of the Methodist Conference, members of the Secretariat may be perceived to have power due to the roles they carry. Whilst negative impact of this power will not be intended by those who are in these roles, Conference can be a time of vulnerability for some, and unhelpful power dynamics have been experienced in previous Conferences as a result.

In light of this, it is not appropriate for the Safeguarding Officer for the Conference to be the Assistant Secretary of Conference as is our current practice.

In addition, the Safeguarding Policy and Procedure of the Methodist Church states that all churches and circuits are required to 'display the name of the person responsible for safeguarding and other useful contacts should be provided for those using church premises and seeking safeguarding assistance'. This is reiterated within the District Safeguarding Group standards, with standard being that 'Safeguarding contact information is on display in each church premises and on church and circuit websites'. If this is expected of our churches and circuits, it would be good for conference to be an example of good safeguarding practice which should include direct contact information of the safeguarding officer being shared with all members of the Conference.

The Conference therefore asks that the reply to memorial M12 be amended as follows:

The Conference thanks the Yorkshire North and East Synod for its commitment to the very best practice in safeguarding.

Recognising the need to be attentive and responsive to the reality and impact of power dynamics within the Conference however unintended, the Conference accepts the memorial and directs the Conference Planning Executive to ensure that in succeeding years an Independent Conference Safeguarding Officer is appointed, and that clear details of whom to contact regarding safeguarding concerns are available to all members of the Conference.

7/12/4 The Conference referred the proposed amended reply and Notice of Motion 2025/102 to the Safeguarding Committee for more detailed consideration.

7/13 **17. THE PRESBYTERAL SESSION: REVIEWING ITS NATURE AND PURPOSE (continued)**

7/13/1 The Conference received the following additional report:

The Role and Purpose of the Presbyteral Session: Report from the Presbyteral Session to the Representative Session of the Conference

The Presbyteral Session engaged in a discursive conversation about Agenda Item 17. It noted among other points that 20 years (in which much has changed) have elapsed since the 2006 review, that the conferring in this year's Conference had been rich and relevant to the global situation, and that some members feel that the opportunity to be part of the Conference in some way should be made more widely available to presbyters. It also reflected on the importance of the Presbyteral Session of the Synods and of connecting the conferring that takes place there with the conferring in the Presbyteral Session of the Conference.

The Conference agreed that it was timely to review the role and purpose of the session, bearing in mind these points and those made in the report, and resolved:

The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference in consultation with the Business Committee to draw together a working party (including representation from the Law and Polity and Faith and Order Committees) and to report back with recommendations no later than 2027. [Resolution P/1]

7/13/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution PS/1:

The Conference adopts the Report.

7/14 **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM 63: REPORT FROM THE JDS SCRUTINY GROUP**

7/14/1 Contact names and details:

Ruby Beech
Bala Gnanapragasam
John Robinson

[rubybeech@btinternet.com](mailto:rubbybeech@btinternet.com)
bala@balasylvia.com
john@jrconsultants.org

The JDS Scrutiny Group is appointed by, and accountable to the Conference. It was set up in 2021 as a result of Notice of Motion 2020/103 when the Conference agreed to the establishment of a small independent scrutiny group to provide scrutiny and assurance on the implementation of the JDS strategy going forward. This was to

be in place until the Conference is confident that the JDS themes are being delivered in such a way as to ensure ongoing development of the Inclusive Church. Last year the role of the JDS Scrutiny Group was included for the first time in Standing Orders (SO 221). This sets out the role as “to provide strategic scrutiny of the implementation and embedding of the JDS strategy, and assurance that the strategy is implemented in the work for which the Connexional Council is responsible to the Conference”.

In order to carry out this work the Scrutiny Group receives and reviews regular updates of the JDS strategy project plan and relevant papers from the JDS Committee and has access to the papers of the main Connexional Council meetings. We attend a number of meetings of the JDS Committee, including their annual awayday, and meet with the Chairs and officers from time to time. We also have meetings with the Secretary of the Conference and/or the Connexional Secretary two or three times a year.

This year, as we have sought to establish appropriate ways of working in the revised structures, we have also been in contact with the Chair of the Mission Committee, met the Chair of the Connexional Council, and observed the Connexional Council as the JDS Committee report was presented to it.

We have been very pleased with the progress on the JDS strategy project planning and resultant action taken across the Connexion, particularly the engagement of District EDI Officers, the development of Solidarity Circles, the extension of the Discrimination and Abuse Response Service and the increasing use of Equality Impact Assessments. We would like to have access to the EIAs and to understand better how they are being used. We will be inquiring further about these in the next connexional year. We also hope to be invited to be part of the consultation related to the Truth and Reconciliation Project and the second phase research being carried out by the Susanna Wesley Foundation into the impact of the JDS strategy. We are sure that all Conference members will have completed their survey in relation to this.

We are encouraged by the convening of a task group on Supporting Methodist People Living with a Disability and Neurodivergent Conditions and look forward to the group reporting to the Connexional Council in the autumn.

In February, the Council received a report “Working Towards Increasing Diversity in (volunteer) Leadership Roles and Committees” which set out a number of specific objectives within the strategic objective: “To increase the diversity pool of candidates applying for senior volunteer roles on Church governing bodies and committees, with an aim to increase the diversity of people within leadership roles within the Methodist Church.” The Council directed the Nominations Committee to report on progress towards achieving the objectives no later than October 2026. The report is very much welcomed and we recognise the work that the Nominations Committee has done so far in keeping JDS priorities to the forefront in senior volunteer appointments through an independent appointment process. We are therefore disappointed to see the watering down of the role of the Nominations Committee in the OTTG report and hope that the Conference will adopt an alternative approach to ensure that the objectives are fulfilled. The proposal as it stands feels like a backward step in achieving systemic change and the reasoning is not clear to us. Introducing elements of an independent appointments process, including in the interviews, was a contribution to the systemic change which the Church has accepted that it needs. The OTTG proposals appear to go against this principle.

We also note that in the paper on discernment for senior leadership in the Connexional Council report part 2 on page 210, work had been requested on working with Justice-seeking Church and JDS strategy to ensure that processes enable a truly

diverse and inclusive senior leadership and that senior leaders operate within this culture. We hope that more information will be made available on the work done because it is this kind of structural and systemic change which will help us move forward.

In June, the Connexional Council received a report from the JDS Committee which stressed that the next phase of implementing the JDS strategy, to ensure deeper and sustained change on the journey to an inclusive Church, would be less about the practical things like setting up training and ensuring that EDI officers are in place, which can be tracked in the project plan, and more about tackling the areas in the JDS strategy pertaining to systemic, cultural and attitudinal change. This will require such things as policy reform, creating inclusive and valuing spaces, and the setting up of transformed interactions, shared learning and meaningful consultation. We were reminded that the first of the recommendations of the JDS strategy is “The Conference commits itself to systemic, structural and cultural change”. These will be the most difficult things to achieve and will need passion, energy and commitment from all areas of the Connexion.

The Council recognised the need for systemic, cultural and attitudinal change and directed the JDS Committee to ensure that these have increased focus in the next phase of the JDS strategy.

The JDS Committee also set out that 2026 would be the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the JDS strategy and the Council agreed to recommend to the Conference Business Committee that the 2026 Conference discuss the progress made in the first five years of the strategy. We very much hope that Districts will prepare for that by Synods considering what the progress has been in their Districts.

The JDS Committee also asked that a connexional whistleblowing policy be set up and work to be done on sanctions. The whistleblowing policy was not intended to be only for JDS matters and so it is helpful that the Council directed the Secretary of the Conference to work with others to review the mechanisms whereby actions that are contrary to the stated will and expectations of the Conference can be reported and have appropriate consequences. We look forward to seeing the developments in this area and note that it should fit well with the recommendations in the report in the agenda on the implementation of the review of Part 11, particularly Recommendation 7 on page 303 that the Church should adopt a holistic anonymous reporting system to capture concerns from all individuals who wish to raise them. We hope that the work done under the DARS scheme will more formally be included alongside that of Complaints and Safeguarding and that the new complaints management system will also be able to be used for DARS concerns. We look forward to more clarity going forward.

Another area of concern, which we have raised before is the collection and analysis of data in relation to EDI matters. This does not seem to be done in a consistent way and we would ask that further work is done on this, not least regarding the data collected on Conference members as we are unsure what happens to these and therefore what the purpose of collecting them is. We look forward to clarity on that in the coming year.

We received sight of the report of the Stationing Review Group and we had concerns which the member of the JDS Committee who had been on the group shared. In the summary of content, it includes “the need for the JDS strategy to be embedded in our ways of working” but how that is to be done really is not clear. We noted the references to discrimination, particularly in relation to sexuality and disability, in the sections on discrimination and of profiles and of transparency and discrimination and

wellbeing and overall thought it was a good report. However we were still concerned about matters around disability and neurodivergence. We have been led to believe that should the Conference accept the recommendations of the SRG, an implementation group would be established and the questions we raised will be part of the embedding of the principles going forward. We look forward to seeing the detail of this.

It has not been entirely clear how JDS work and reporting was to fit in the new connexional structures this year which has resulted in occasional points of confusion. We note, as we did in the last few years that the duties of the JDS Committee include, as set out in SO 330(2):

- (i) making strategic recommendations and giving support and guidance to the Council in all matters relating to equality, diversity and inclusion.
- (ii) maintaining an overview of policies and procedures to ensure that matters of justice, dignity and solidarity are addressed.
- (iii) assisting the Council in identifying and responding to emerging risks, challenges and opportunities in relation to matters of justice, dignity and solidarity
- (iv) supporting the Council in taking steps to implement any policies adopted by the Conference in relation to matters of justice, dignity and solidarity, and in promoting and embedding equality, diversity and inclusion across the Connexion.

In our report last year we expressed our disappointment that the JDS Committee Chair was not a member of the Connexional Council in the same way that the Chair and Vice Chair had been members of the Methodist Council. We had also raised our concerns about how things would work because of this in our report in 2023. We recognised the different nature of the Connexional Council but were concerned that this change would make it difficult for the JDS Committee to carry out its duties in a way that did not apply to other Committee Chairs. In 2023/24 connexional year the OTTG had an incredibly large amount of work to do and we understood that, but at last year's Conference we expressed our disappointment that no consultation had taken place directly either with ourselves or the JDS Committee in relation to this and were assured that such conversations would take place in this Connexional year. Unfortunately, that was not able to happen.

The Chair and Vice Chair have access to the papers for the main meetings of the Connexional Council but not to the discussions or the papers for other meetings. They do not know what has been discussed or decided about the matters at the formal meetings other than from the minutes. It was unfortunate that in the high workload of the first year of the new structures no one was appointed from the Council to be a member of the JDS Committee as Standing Orders require. That might have helped with communication. We understand that is being rectified. Following the recent meeting where concerns were expressed to the Council by the Chair of the JDS Committee about the difficulties experienced, the Council directed the Secretary of the Conference to work with the JDS Committee and main Council Committees to discern a way forward that ensures that the governance structure supports and enables the JDS Committee in carrying out its responsibilities in SO 330 and to establish the next steps to fully embed the JDS strategy across the Connexion. Whilst we welcome this, we do not know how long it will take. Close working between the Council and the JDS Committee is going to be essential for the next phase of implementing the JDS Strategy.

It has been suggested to us (having raised the concerns about this for three years to no avail) that it may have been more helpful if we had put a resolution to the

Conference rather than just expressing our concern and hoping this would be picked up. We therefore considered putting a resolution in this report for an immediate but short-term solution whilst the above work gets done. However in the light of the work that the last Council meeting directed to be done and the assurance of the Chair of the Council that this would be treated as urgent, we hope and expect that this matter can be sorted satisfactorily without our needing to draw the attention of the Conference to this again next year with a request for further direction.

In summary, we recognise that much good work has been done. We can see real progress and are grateful to the officers and the Committee and to all those in the Connexional Team and around the Connexion who have given of their time, effort and expertise this year to move things forward. However, we know that what comes next will be much more difficult as we look at systemic, structural and cultural change. We reiterate the words of the last Susanna Wesley report that “implementing the JDS strategy is both an important and difficult task” and call on all members of the Conference to commit themselves anew to that task.

7/14/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution 63/1:

The Conference receives the Report.

7/14/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution 63/2:

The Conference encourages District Synods to take time in the next year to consider the progress their District has made in implementing the JDS strategy since its adoption five years ago, particularly in relation to systemic, structural and cultural change and what more is to be done.

7/15 **Notice of Motion 2025/201: Palestine**

7/15/1 Following the presentation by Bishop Christian Alsted to the Presbyteral Session of the Conference on 26 June in which representatives were reminded that “reconciliation includes naming evil and good, wherever it is found” (quoting Miroslav Volf), we draw the Conference’s attention to the recent statement from the World Council of Churches released on 24 June 2025:

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 18-24 June 2025, gathers in deep lamentation and outrage as the crisis in Palestine and Israel escalates to levels that flagrantly violate international humanitarian and human rights law as well as the most basic principles of morality.

We recognize a clear distinction between the Jewish people, our siblings in faith, and the acts of the Government of Israel, and we reaffirm that the WCC stands firm against any kind of racism, including antisemitism, anti-Arab racism, and islamophobia. However, the unbearable suffering inflicted on the people of Gaza, and the escalating violence and oppression in the West Bank and in Jerusalem compel the global fellowship of churches to speak with clarity, urgency, and commitment to the principles of justice under international law and ethics.

The Government of Israel’s military campaign in Gaza has entailed grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention which may constitute genocide and/or other crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Simultaneously, the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem continue to

experience intensified violence, illegal settlement expansion, and systemic human rights violations.

These actions defy international legal norms, including the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Conventions, international human rights treaties, and numerous Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. The World Council of Churches reaffirms its long-standing commitment to inter-religious dialogue and cooperation, and to international law as a framework for peace, justice, and accountability.

In this spirit, the WCC Central Committee calls for:

Naming the Reality of Apartheid: We recognize and denounce the system of apartheid imposed by Israel on the Palestinian people, in violation of international law and moral conscience.

Implementing Sanctions and Accountability: We call on states, churches, and international institutions to impose consequences for violations of international law, including targeted sanctions, divestment, and arms embargoes. Full support must be given to the International Criminal Court and UN mechanisms investigating potential war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Affirming Palestinian Rights and Freedom: We uphold the inalienable human rights of Palestinians to freedom, justice, return, and self-determination. We demand the end of the occupation and the lifting of the unlawful blockade on Gaza. Support for the resilience and witness of Palestinian Christian churches and communities, upholding their right to remain on their land and to freely practice their faith.

We commend the leadership of the South African government in seeking justice and accountability to international law through the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and urge all states to comply with the ICJ's rulings.

Churches worldwide are called to witness, to speak out, and to act.

(<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/statement-on-palestine-and-israel-a-call-to-end-apartheid-occupation-and-impunity-in-palestine-and-israel>)

We ask the Conference to welcome and endorse this statement from the WCC, and to encourage all Methodist churches, Circuits, Districts, and connexional bodies to be similarly bold in their solidarity with the Palestinian people:

1. to name the Reality of Apartheid
2. to implement Sanctions and Accountability
3. to affirm Palestinian Rights and Freedom
4. to support the resilience and witness of Palestinian Christian churches and communities.

7/15/2 The Conference adopted the Motion.

- 7/16 **3. CONNEXIONAL COUNCIL, PART 1, Sections A, C, D, E, H**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 3/1, 3/4, 3/5, 3/6, 3/7, 3/8, 3/9, 3/10 and 3/16.
- 7/17 **6. COMMITTEE ON METHODIST LAW AND POLITY (1)**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 6/1, 6/2, 6/3, 6/4, 6/5, 6/6, 6/7 and 6/8.
- 7/18 **7. THE TRUSTEES FOR THE BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES**
The Conference adopted Resolution 7/1.
- 7/19 **8. THE TRUSTEES FOR JERSEY METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES**
The Conference adopted Resolution 8/1.
- 7/20 **12. METHODIST SCHOOLS APPOINTMENTS**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 12/1, 12/2 and 12/3.
- 7/21 **19. CONNEXIONAL COUNCIL, PART 2, Sections K, L, N**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 19/6, 19/7 and 19/11.
- 7/22 **20. RELIEF AND EXTENSION FUND FOR METHODISM IN SCOTLAND**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 20/1 and 20/2.
- 7/23 **21. TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES**
7/23/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 21/1,
 p 258, **2. Ruth Mary Hayton Deceased**, paragraph 3, last line,
 for 'Middlesbrough & Easton' *reading* 'Middlesbrough and Eston'
- 7/23/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 21/2.
- 7/23/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 21/3 in the form:
 The Conference hereby directs that the bequest of Ruth Mary Hayton shall be held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes on the Model Trusts for the benefit of the Managing Trustees of the Middlesbrough and Eston Methodist Circuit.
- 7/23/4 The Conference adopted Resolutions 21/4, 21/5 and 21/6.
- 7/24 **22. JOHN WESLEY'S NEW ROOM**
7/24/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/1.
- 7/24/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 22/2 in the form:
 The Conference amends SO 280 as follows:
 280 The New Room, Bristol
 ...
 (2) The trustees shall be:

- (i) **a nominee of** the Secretary of the Conference;
- (ii) **a nominee who is a member of the Synod** ~~the Chair of the Bristol District,~~ **appointed by the District Policy Committee;**
- (iii) **a nominee who is a member within the Superintendent of** the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit, **appointed by the Circuit Meeting;**
- ~~(iv) the warden of the New Room;~~
- (v) not more than ~~twenty-seven~~ other persons.

7/25

25. METHODIST SCHOOLS PROPERTY COMPANY (MSPC): REVISION TO ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The Conference adopted Resolutions 25/1 and 25/2,

adding the following **ADDENDUM:**

In addition to the revisions set out in the report, the following additional revisions are also proposed.

- All references to “Conference” should be amended to “the Conference”.
- The “Deed of Union” should be a defined term, as it is referred to in several places in the Articles.
- The Methodist Church Union Act 1929 was repealed by the Methodist Church Act 1976 and is no longer relevant. The Methodist Church [in Great Britain] is now constituted and governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Deed of Union of 1932. Various amendments to the definitions are required as a result.
- Clause 14.2 also contains two typographical errors which require correction.

Clause	Provision
5.7	...or to the Conference under these Articles...
13.1	... as the Conference shall resolve provided that preference is given by the Conference to applying such assets...
14	Heading: “Powers reserved to the Conference
14.2	The Conference may at any time direct by resolution that the properties of the Schools shall instead of being used for the purpose of operating the Schools shall be used otherwise with the provision promotion of the charitable objects of the Methodist Church provided that preference is given by the Conference to the School properties...
15.2	... the Conference means the governing body of the Methodist Church, meeting annually and whose powers and duties are set out in the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church and constituted under and by virtue of the Methodist Church Union Act 1929 Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Deed of Union. ... the Deed of Union means the Deed of Union of 1932 executed in pursuance of the Methodist Church Union Act 1929. ... Methodist Church means the denomination formed under the Methodist Church Union Act 1929 and now governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Deed of Union. ...

	President of the Conference means the person appointed by <i>the</i> Conference to be the President...
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7/26

26. METHODIST INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS TRUST (MIST): REVISION TO ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The Conference adopted Resolutions 26/1 and 26/2,

adding the following **ADDENDUM**

In addition to the revisions set out in the report, the following additional revisions are also proposed.

- All references to “Conference” should be amended to “the Conference”.
- The “Deed of Union” should be a defined term, as it is referred to in several places in the Articles.
- The Methodist Church Union Act 1929 was repealed by the Methodist Church Act 1976 and is no longer relevant. The Methodist Church [in Great Britain] is now constituted and governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Deed of Union of 1932. Various amendments to the definitions are required as a result.

Clause	Provision
5.10	...or to <i>the</i> Conference under these Articles...
14.1	... as the Conference shall resolve provided that preference is given by <i>the</i> Conference to applying such assets...
15	Heading: “Powers reserved to <i>the</i> Conference
15.2	<i>The</i> Conference may by resolution direct that the School properties administered by the Methodist Schools Property Company shall be used for other charitable purposes being the advancement of education or otherwise for such purposes in connection with the promotion of the charitable objects of the Methodist Church as the Conference shall direct provided that preference is given by <i>the</i> Conference to the School properties being used for the advancement of education in accordance with the Principles of the Methodist Church and in the event of such resolution being passed by the Conference MIST shall take any necessary action (in its capacity as sole member of the Methodist Schools Property Company or otherwise) to ensure the direction of <i>the</i> Conference is followed within a reasonable time period.
16.2	... the Conference means the governing body of the Methodist Church, meeting annually and whose powers and duties are set out in the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church and constituted under and by virtue of the Methodist Church Union Act 1929 Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Deed of Union. ... <i>the Deed of Union means the Deed of Union of 1932 executed in pursuance of the Methodist Church Union Act 1929.</i> ... Methodist Church means the denomination formed under the Methodist Church Union Act 1929 <i>and now governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Deed of Union.</i>

	<p>...</p> <p>President of the Conference means the President of the Conference as described in the Deed of Union of the Methodist Church.</p>
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- 7/27 **27. REFERRED MEMORIALS AND NOTICES OF MOTION**
The Conference adopted Resolution 27/1.
- 7/28 **34. STATIONING COMMITTEE**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 34/1 and 34/2.
- 7/29 **35. ALL WE CAN**
The Conference adopted Resolution 35/1,

p 472, paragraph 6.1, line 4,
for 'Total expenditure increased by £1m (26%) to £3m (2023: £4m)'
reading 'Total expenditure decreased by £1m (26%) to £3m (2023: £4m)'
- 7/30 **36. METHODIST MINISTERS' HOUSING SOCIETY (MMHS)**
The Conference adopted Resolution 36/1.
- 7/31 **37. COMMITTEE ON METHODIST LAW AND POLITY (2), Sections K, L, M, O**
7/31/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 37/14 and 37/15.
7/31/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 37/16,

p 495, paragraph 5 heading,
for 'Full Connexional' reading 'Full Connexion'
- 7/31/3 The Conference adopted Resolutions 37/17, 37/18, 37/19 and 37/21.
- 7/32 **38. METHODIST MINISTERS' PENSION SCHEME**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 38/1 and 38/2.
- 7/33 **42. ECUMENICAL REPORT**
The Conference adopted Resolution 42/1.
- 7/34 **44. CENTRAL FINANCE BOARD OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**
The Conference adopted Resolution 44/1.
- 7/35 **45. TRUSTEES FOR MANX METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES (TMMCP)**
The Conference adopted Resolution 45/1.
- 7/36 **55. NECESSITOUS LOCAL PREACHERS' FUND (NLPF)**
7/36/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 55/1,

replacing the final two paragraphs of the report with the following:

As directed by the Conference, the trustees are now consulting with the Law and Polity Committee regarding the terms of the new Scheme; they are also

taking external legal advice on the Scheme's detailed provisions before asking the Charity Commission to authorise it.

Under the terms of the existing Trust Deed dated 5 June 1882, the Conference has the power to appoint the trustees of NLPF. The trustees wish to bring the following names to the Conference for appointment as additional trustees with immediate effect: David Greet, the Revd Patricia Olivent-Hayes. The trustees also request that the Conference delegates its powers of appointment of trustees under the existing Trust Deed to the Connexional Council to enable more trustees to be appointed before the next meeting of the Conference if required.

The provisions of the existing Trust Deed are unclear as to whether the Conference's approval is required to the terms of the new Scheme. For the avoidance of doubt, therefore, and to enable the Scheme to be finalised and submitted to the Charity Commission without undue delay, the trustees request that the Conference delegates to the Connexional Council all and any powers of approval the Conference may have relating to the proposed Scheme.

David Greet

David Greet is a local preacher, hospital chaplain and former Chair of the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust (LWPT), during the time when the LWPT administered the NLPF. David brings a knowledge, history and personal experience of distributing the NLPF in the past, and has seen its benevolence used to make a real difference to individuals, their families and their wider church family.

The Revd Patricia Olivent-Hayes

Having served in active ministry in the Methodist Church for almost 30 years and now being involved in pastoral work and preaching as a supernumerary in the Loughborough Circuit, Pat Olivent-Hayes brings many years of experience to be able to contribute to the assessment of applications and the making of grants from the NLPF to appropriate applicants.

7/36/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution 55/2:

The Conference appoints the following people as trustees of the Necessitous Local Preachers' Fund with immediate effect: David Greet, the Revd Patricia Olivent-Hayes.

7/36/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution 55/3:

The Conference delegates to the Connexional Council its powers of appointment of trustees of the Necessitous Local Preachers' Fund to enable more trustees to be appointed before the 2026 Conference if required.

7/36/4 The Conference adopted as Resolution 55/4:

The Conference delegates to the Connexional Council its powers of approval (if any) of the proposed Charity Commission Scheme relating to the Necessitous Local Preachers' Fund.

7/37 **56. METHODIST DIACONAL ORDER GENERAL REPORT**

The Conference adopted Resolutions 56/1 and 56/2.

- 7/38 **58. MANAGING TRUSTEES OF THE METHODIST CENTRAL HALL WESTMINSTER**
The Conference adopted Resolution 58/1.
- 7/39 **62. MEMORIALS TO THE CONFERENCE (continued)**
- 7/39/1 **Memorials M1–M2, M7–M11, M15**
The Conference received Memorials M1–M2, M7–M11, M15 and adopted as its replies those recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorials and the replies appearing on Agenda pp 640-643, pp 649-658 and p 662.
- 7/39/2 The Conference adopted Resolutions 62/1 and 62/2.
- 7/40 **5. CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS (continued)**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 5/1, 5/2, 5/7 and 5/8.
- 7/41 **50. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**
- 7/41/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 50/1, 50/2, 50/3 and 50/4.
- 7/41/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/5,
 p 552, *deleting* the Revd Thomas J Osborne
- 7/41/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/6,
 p 552, *amending to read:*
 The Revd Thomas J Osborne (Chair), the Revd Bonni-Belle Pickard, Mr Nick Garrett, the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler (convener), Ms Cathryn Martin, Mr Brian Oakley, two vacancies
- 7/41/4 The Conference adopted Resolutions 50/7 and 50/8.
- 7/41/5 The Conference adopted as Resolution 50/9,
 p 552,
 adding Judith Davey-Cole (Chair)
 deleting the Revd Kate Strange
 for ‘the Revd Nick Orborski’ *reading* ‘the Revd Nicholas Oborski’
- 7/41/6 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/10.
- 7/41/7 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/11,
 p 553,
 (vi) *for* ‘a vacancy’ *reading* Ms Katie Deadman-Vernall
 (vii) *deleting* Deacon Flip den Uil
- 7/41/8 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/12,
 p 554
 for the Revd George Bailey *reading* the Revd Dr George Bailey
 deleting Deacon Melanie Beaven
 for the Revd Dr Catrin Harland-Davies *reading* *the Revd Dr Catrin Harland-Davies

- 7/41/9 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/13,
p 555
(vii) for 'to be confirmed' reading The Revd S Mark Slaney
(xi) for 'to be confirmed' reading the Revd Kerry Tankard
- 7/41/10 The Conference adopted Resolutions 50/14 and 50/15.
- 7/41/11 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/16,
p 555-556,
Chairs: *deleting* the Revd Nicholas A Oborski
Members: *adding* the Revd Nicholas A Oborski, *deleting* Deacon Jane Middleton
- 7/41/12 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/17.
- 7/41/13 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/18,
p 556,
for 'Vacant (Chair)' reading Bala Gnanapragasam (Chair)
for 'Ms Omobolaji Nzwkwe' reading Ms Omobolaji Nzekwe'
- 7/41/14 The Conference adopted Resolutions 50/19, 50/20 and 50/21.
- 7/41/15 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/22,
pp 557-558, *amending* to read:
Representative Session
Journal Secretary: Martin Harker
Record Secretary: The Revd Rosemarie E G Clarke
Convener of the Memorials Committee: Gill Dascombe
Presbyteral Session
Record Secretary: The Revd Rosemarie E G Clarke
Assistant Record Secretary: The Revd Leigh A Maydew
- 7/41/16 The Conference adopted Resolutions 50/23, 50/24, 50/25, 50/26 and 50/27.
- 7/41/17 The Conference adopted as Resolution 50/28:
The Conference appoints the Revd Dr Kennedy Gondongwe as a trustee of the Peake Trust.
- 7/41/18 The Conference adopted as Resolution 50/29:
The Conference appoints Mrs Alison Mitchell and Mrs Rebecca Gough as trustees of the Epworth Education Trust.
- 7/41/19 The Conference adopted as Resolution 50/30:
The Conference reappoints Dr Christopher Stephens as a trustee of the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust from August 2025 until August 2028.
- 7/41/20 The Conference adopted as Resolution 50/31:

The Conference reappoints Steve Myers as a trustee of the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust from August 2025 until August 2031.

7/41/21 The Conference adopted as Resolution 50/32:

Pursuant to SO 291, the Conference appoints the connexional panel for review groups: the Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson, Janet Arthur, the Revd Paul Booth, Mark Braithwaite, the Revd Deborah Caulk, Peter Gregson, the Revd Richard Hall, Carolyn Hothersall, the Revd Elaine Lindridge, the Revd Charity Madenyika, Val Mayers, Deacon Lemia Nkwelah, Keith Norman, Hellen Okello, Deacon Andy Packer, the Revd Romeo Pedro, the Revd Julian Pursehouse, the Revd Dr Jonathan Pye, Deacon Ruth Richey, Sandie Smith, the Revd Howard J Stringer, the Revd Timothy A Swindell, the Revd Caroline Weaver.

7/41/22 The Conference adopted as Resolution 50/33:

The Conference delegates to the Connexional Council the making of any outstanding appointments required to be made by the Conference of 2025 and directs that any such appointments be reported to the Conference of 2026.

Reasoned statements

Sheryl Anderson is a supernumerary minister who most recently served as the Chair of the Liverpool District. In the past, among other things, she has served on the Methodist Council, was part of working group reviewing the Complaints Process, and was involved in the pilot project which contributed to the connexional supervision policy. In retirement she continues to be active as a supervisor and is part of the connexional training team.

Janet Arthur has worked as HR and Organisational Development specialist at senior and executive level for many years. She is currently an Organisational Development and Change Management Consultant, as well as providing advice on complex and senior level HR issues on a consultancy basis. Janet was a member of the Strategy and Resources Committee (where she chaired the Pay and Grading Sub-Committee) and the Connexional Allowances Committee. She is a member of both the London District and Connexional Chairs' Nomination Committees and acts as Lay Employment Secretary for the London District.

Paul Booth is a supernumerary minister having been a Superintendent in his last station. Paul is currently very involved in supervision as a supervisor as well as serving as a trainer. Paul has previously served on the Methodist Council and as a convener for a Connexional Reconciliation Group. Prior to ministry Paul gained experience in training and people management.

Mark Braithwaite has been a member of the Methodist Church for 40 years. Prior to his retirement from Police Service he held the post of Detective Chief Superintendent – Head of Crime with Cleveland Police a post that included the Protecting Vulnerable People Portfolio. Mark has served on the Methodist Council; he continues to Chair the Regional Safeguarding Group (Newcastle & Darlington Districts); he is the Circuit Safeguarding Officer for the Middlesbrough & Eston Methodist Circuit and is active in his local church as a Church Council member, property steward and Safeguarding local point of contact.

Deborah Caulk is a presbyter stationed in the Epworth, Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Circuit. She previously served on the Methodist Council as East Anglia District representative, and served on the Model Trust 20 review committee, East

Anglia District Policy Committee, and Regional Probationers Committee. She is a connexionally appointed governor for the Queen's Foundation.

Rosemarie Clarke is a presbyter in the West Sussex (Coast and Downs) Circuit and is the Assistant Record Secretary for the Presbyteral Session.

Gill Dascombe was Vice-President of the Conference 2014-2015, and has experience of serving on connexional committees.

Katie Deadman-Vernall is Director of Ministry Learning in the Connexional Team

Bala Gnanapragasam, Vice-President 2018-19, is an experienced chair and has worked in a range of areas in the life of the Church, most recently as chair of the Nominations Committee. Bala greatly values and is passionate about the work of the MDO.

Kennedy Gondongwe is stationed in the Oldham Circuit. He has a PhD in Christian History from the University of KwaZulu Natal and has previously served as Mission Director of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, Academic Dean of United Theological in Zimbabwe and as Principal of United Theological College. Kennedy Gondongwe is a holder of a Law Degree and therefore was a registered Legal practitioner in Zimbabwe. His research interests includes the interaction of faith and law and he brings his wide experience of theological education.

Rebecca Gough has been in education for 21 years and has been Headteacher at Wood Fold Primary School in Standish, Wigan for 10 years. In her governor roles Rebecca is involved in reviewing and reflecting on information shared and providing challenge to the Headteachers to enable them to reflect on actions taken and the rationale for these. Rebecca is also an Ofsted Team Inspector which provides a strong insight into the role of Ofsted and their framework.

Peter Gregson has been a Church Steward and a Circuit Steward. He has been a member of the Probationers' Committee for both the former Cumbria District and the North West England District. Peter was a member of the Regional Review Group which worked to bring together five Districts into the new North West England District. Now happily retired, he recently stepped down as the Chair of Trustees of a charity dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable children and families in Uganda, and is a Member of a local Multi Academy Trust.

Richard Hall served as Superintendent in the Brigg Circuit, Ambleside and Windermere Circuit, Penrith Circuit and, in his final appointment, as District Chair in the Isle of Man. Across these appointments Richard has held various district offices including Probationers' Secretary, Ecumenical Officer and Synod Secretary. Richard was granted permission to sit down in 2021.

Martin Harker is the Record Secretary for the Representative Session and brings experience as convener of the Memorials Committee.

Carolyn Hothersall has over 30 years teaching experience, now working as a circuit Lay Worker. She is an active member of the Methodist Church having served in multiple roles within Church, Circuit and District. She is a Local Preacher, School Governor, District Trustee and Synod Secretary.

Elaine Lindridge is a presbyter in the Newcastle upon Tyne District. She oversees the work of the Mother House which is the District New Places for New People project.

Charity Madenyika is a presbyter in the Newham Circuit. She is a certified reconciliation and mediation practitioner, accredited by Scottish Mediation, and an accredited interpersonal conflict practitioner. A registered BACP therapist, she brings over 16 years' experience supporting individuals with mental health and relationship issues. Charity is a reflective supervisor within the church. She has worked extensively with people facing challenges such as substance misuse, grief, and bereavement.

Leigh Maydew is a presbyter in the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit and is a member of the Conference Business Committee.

Val Mayers served for four years on the Methodist Council as District representative and is currently a member of the Stationing Committee.

Alison Mitchell is a member of Rowlands Methodist Church. She has experience of teaching the full primary range including management of two school based nurseries, EYFS is her specialism and passion. She has extensive governance experience through various roles in governance during her teaching and advisory career.

Steve Myers has extensive experience as a former school Governor and Chair of Governors at a founding Methodist school within the Wesley Trust and subsequently the Epworth Education Trust. Steve is also a Trustee of the Epworth Education Trust and has served one term of office as a MAST Trustee. Steve presently works in Local Government and also has prior experience in financial services management.

Lemia Nkwelah is currently stationed in Birmingham. Lemia has previously served in the Ealing Trinity Circuit of the London District and in North Norfolk Circuit of the East Anglia District. Lemia has also served on the London District Candidating Committee, in the Religious Order Advisory Committee (ROAC), as the Area Group Facilitator East Anglia MDO Area Group, and as the Conference Worship Coordinator. Lemia is a member of the Ministries Committee, the Stationing Advisory Committee and the MDO Support and Advisory Group.

Keith Norman is a retired deputy head teacher. He is a Worship Leader and part of the leadership team of his local church in Essex. Having been deputy chair of Methodist Independent School Trust and, until recently the Connexional Ministries Committee, he is the Lay Stationing Representative for the Beds, Essex & Herts District and member of the Stationing Committee.

Hellen Okello is currently a member of the Northampton District Executive and the Northampton Circuit Leadership Team. She has previously served as the Northampton District representative to the Methodist Council and has held stewardship roles at her local church and circuit. Hellen is currently serving as a Trustee for a UK charity working to promote access to education for children in Kenya. Her experiences serving in these roles will enable her to contribute to the tasks of the panel.

Thomas J Osborne is Superintendent of the Tendring Circuit and he has been serving as a member of the Nominations Committee since December 2024. Prior to candidating for ministry, Mr Osborne worked in recruitment and HR in the charity and Further Education sectors.

Andy Packer is stationed in the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit where I have served for five years and I am due to start a two year extension. Previously I have served in Telford, Bristol, Peterborough and Thames Valley. He have been in ministry for thirty one years and have experienced a wide variety of settings and

demands. Andy has been involved with Candidates and Probationers both at District and Connexional level, the Methodist Diaconal Order's, Religious Order Advisory Committee, Ministerial Candidates Appeal Committee and some interview panels for significant roles within the Connexion. He currently serves on the Connexional Ministries Committee.

Romeo Pedro is passionate about bringing marginal voices into connexional conversations. He is a Black Minister of multiple mixed ethnic background. Romeo has served the church as a local minister, superintendent minister, deputy district chair, on various connexional committees, and on Methodist Council.

Julian Pursehouse is serving as a presbyter in the Aire and Calder Circuit in the Yorkshire West District. He was Chair of the East Anglia District from 2014 - 2024. He is a qualified reflective supervisor and spiritual director and has thirty years experience of pastoral ministry. He has extensive experience of connexional committees, including the Law and Polity Committee, the Stationing Matching Group and the Stationing Committee, and has also contributed to the work of various working groups including, the Candidating Review Group and the Stationing Review Group. He currently chairs the Editorial Board of the Holiness Journal at Wesley House Cambridge and holds a doctorate in Wesleyan Theology.

Jonathan Pye is a supernumerary minister in the Lindisfarne Circuit. Up until 2024 he was Chair of the Bristol District of the Methodist Church and is currently co-chair of the Methodist-Anglican Panel for Unity in Mission (MAPUM) and a member of the Life in Covenant (LiC) Group. He was formerly Principal of Wesley College, Bristol and has served on several Connexional and Ecumenical Committees and Working Parties, including the Faith and Order Committee, the Faith and Order Executive and the Enabling Group of Churches Together in England. He is a Governor of the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education.

Ruth Richey has 24 years of itinerant service as a deacon within the Methodist Church currently serving as the Mission Area Lead in the South West Peninsula District. Ruth has served on many and varied committees and has previously held the role of Deputy Warden of the MDO. Ruth recognises the importance of this work in upholding the values of justice, accountability, and grace within our shared life and is committed to engaging with humility and integrity, and to contributing constructively to the panel's vital responsibilities.

Mark Slaney is Chair of the Scotland and Shetland Districts.

Sandie Smith has been involved in many parts of the Methodist Church from communion steward, Church Council Secretary, Church Treasurer, Circuit Treasurer, CLT member, District Council trustee, District Council Secretary, District Representative on Methodist Council, member of Oversight and Trusteeship Task Group. Outside of her church activities she is an accountant with her own practice.

Christopher Stephens Head of Southlands College, the Methodist college of the University of Roehampton. For a number of years, Christopher led the Research and Statistics team at Methodist Church House, moving from there to Southlands College in 2011. At Southlands, alongside holding a senior role within the university, Christopher established the Susanna Wesley Foundation, acting as its Director until 2018.

Howard Stringer has served in circuit ministry for 26 years as a presbyter. He has exercised a leadership role for 15 of those years as a superintendent, and currently also as deputy chair. He has offered encouragement, discernment and constructive

criticism on district candidates and probationers committees. He has a strong sense of vocation to the work of a preacher and pastor. He cherishes his place in the Church which has nurtured him and developed his understanding of collaborative and relational ordained ministry.

Tim Swindell was a Council member of the Central Finance Board, Non-executive director of Epworth Investment Management and Methodist International Centre (The Wesley hotel). Connexional Treasurer 2015-23. A Chartered Accountant with a professional career in insurance, education and hospitality both before and after ordination. Extensive Board and Trustee experience.

Kerry Tankard is Chair of the Yorkshire West District.

Caroline Weaver is a presbyter with 25+ years' experience of circuit ministry alongside Prison Chaplaincy. Caroline's experience includes many years as District Candidates Secretary, mentoring and supervising Ministers, serving on MCPOC where she leads on mental health issues, including the impact of trauma and bereavement and serving on the Ministries' Committee. Caroline has been involved in the leading of retreats for Ministers in their Early Years and also Ministers having served 28-30 years in ministry. She also serves as Assistant Synod Secretary and has recently been nominated as a Local Resolution Officer for the district.

7/42 **52. APPRECIATIONS**

7/42/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 52/1.

7/42/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 52/2,
 p 569, line 7, *for* 'precious decisions' *reading* 'previous decisions'

7/42/3 The Conference adopted Resolutions 52/3 and 52/4.

7/43 The Conference adjourned at 11.01.

7/44 The Conference reassembled at 11.30

7/45 **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:

(a) the presbyters remembered in the Presbyteral Session and listed at 2/9 with the addition of The Revd Donald A Pickard who has died during the Conference.

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

Gwen Agar
Adrienne Nixon
Sheila Parnell
Mavis Plater

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

John Bircumshaw
Carol Booth

Terence Ilott
John Lenton
Stanley Platt
Clive Taylor

(d) those who have served as Mission Partners:

The Revd Dr Peter D Bishop	The Revd Thomas Patten
The Revd John E C Bown	The Revd Donald A Pickard
The Revd Alun Burke	The Revd Derek G Poole
The Revd Elizabeth A Dunn-Wilson	The Revd John R Pritchard
Jean Hinchliffe	The Revd K John A Stedman
The Revd Leslie Holmes	The Revd Christopher C Tomlinson
The Revd George Knowles	The Revd John K Watson

(e) 205 accredited Local Preachers whose names are recorded in a Book of Thanksgiving held by the Connexional Team;

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

7/46 **47. AUTHORISATIONS COMMITTEE**

7/46/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 47/1 and 47/2,

pp 538-541, List A

<i>for</i>	22/13	Borders Mission	Jacqueline Jones	L
<i>reading</i>	22/13	Borders Mission	Jacqueline Dawson	L
<i>for</i>	37/9	West Cornwall	Tony Warren	L
<i>reading</i>	37/9	West Cornwall	Voirrey Palmer	L

pp 541-543, List B

<i>deleting</i>	2/6	Bridgend United Area	Neville Granville	L
<i>adding</i>	7/7	Gloucestershire	James Cullingford	P
<i>for</i>	28/2	Brownhills and Willenhall	John Worth	L
<i>reading</i>	28/2	Hidden River	John Worth	L
<i>for</i>	28/2	Brownhills and Willenhall	Michael Cronogue	L
<i>reading</i>	28/2	Hidden River	Michael Cronogue	L
<i>for</i>	28/4	Walsall	Sue Smith	L
<i>reading</i>	28/2	Hidden River	Sue Smith	L
<i>for</i>	28/4	Walsall	Sharon Jackson	L
<i>reading</i>	28/2	Hidden River	Sharon Jackson	L
<i>for</i>	28/4	Walsall	Bruce Kirk	L
<i>reading</i>	28/2	Hidden River	Bruce Kirk	L

pp 544-545, List C

<i>deleting</i>	22/2	Nottingham (South)	Paul A Johns	L
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7/47 **49. PRESBYTERS AND DEACONS BECOMING SUPERNUMERARY OR RETURNING TO THE ACTIVE WORK (continued)**

7/47/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/3,

noting the correction under **4.** at 2/27/1

7/47/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/4.

- 7/47/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/5.
- 7/48 **46. MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES AND PROBATIONERS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (continued)**
The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted Resolution 46/3.
- 7/49 **57. REPORT TO THE REPRESENTATIVE SESSION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED BY THE CONFERENCE DIACONAL COMMITTEE (continued)**
The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted Resolution 57/2.
- 7/50 **51. PRESBYTERS AND DEACONS FROM OTHER CHURCHES**
- 7/50/1 The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted Resolution 51/1,
p 566, (2) **Presbyters of other autonomous Methodist Conferences,**
deleting Sean Turner 15/1 United Methodist Church
- 7/50/2 The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted Resolution 51/2,
p 566,
for Rajbharat Patta 19/2 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
reading Rajbharat Patta 1/38 Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church, India
- 7/50/3 The Conference adopted Resolutions 51/3, 51/4 and 51/5.
- 7/51 **48. DESIGNATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT CHAIRS**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 48/1, 48/2, 48/3 and 48/4.
- 7/52 **60. PROCESS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE WARDEN OF THE METHODIST DIACONAL ORDER**
The Conference adopted Resolution 60/1.
- 7/53 **FINAL REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE LAW AND POLITY SUB-COMMITTEE**
- 7/53/1 **A. Agenda Item 37, Section H, pp. 483-486: Data Protection Standing Orders**
Following comments raised by members of the Conference in relation to Resolution 37/7, in exercise of its power under Standing Order 131(25)(ii) for the better achievement of the intention of the Conference the Sub-committee proposes further amendments to Standing Order 054(12), as follows:

(12) *The presbyter in pastoral charge, or such other person as shall be appointed by the Church Council or the Circuit meeting, shall report in the annual return the*
~~The numbers **set out** on the membership **record** roll and the community roll shall be reported by the Superintendent to the secretary of the Synod and by him or her to the Chair of the District.~~
- 7/53/2 **B. Agenda Item 29, pp. 308-406: Complaints and Discipline: amendments to Part 11 of Standing Orders**
Following the Conference's adoption of Resolution 29/2 to amend Part 11, the following consequential amendments are required:

Section 01

010 Qualification for appointment

...

(8) ... the matter has been referred to the connexional Complaints Panel **notified to the Connexional Complaints Support Manager** under Standing Order 1121(14) and the responsible person has exercised the power of suspension **or restriction** given by Standing Order 1105.

013 Suspension and Restriction.

...

(2) In this Standing Order:

...

(iv) **'restriction' means a requirement that the office-holder must not exercise some function or functions as a presbyter, deacon, local preacher, member, probationer or student or must not exercise that function or those functions in specified ways or must not exercise an office in specified ways. A restriction may be imposed after discussion and with the agreement of the office-holder or without agreement.**

(3) (a) ... the responsible officer may suspend that office-holder from the exercise of any or every office in the Church, or from **impose restrictions in connection with the exercise by the office-holder of** particular functions, powers or responsibilities of any such office, and the responsible officer may, subject to clause (9) below, discharge, vary or extend any such suspension **or restriction**, as may seem to be required by any change of material circumstances.

(b) If Standing Order 1105 applies, any suspension **or restriction** on grounds within its scope ... Apart from that there is no limitation on the circumstances in which there may be a suspension **or restriction** under this clause ...

(c) An office-holder is subject to an insolvency process if:

- (i) a bankruptcy order has been made against ~~him or her~~ **the office-holder**;
- (ii) ~~he or she~~ **the office-holder** has entered into an individual voluntary arrangement ...
- (iii) a debt relief order has been made relating to ~~him or her~~ **the office-holder**.

...

(3A) Where the responsible officer exercises the powers ... the functions, powers and responsibilities to which the suspension **or restriction** relates, ~~he or she~~ **the responsible officer** must also ... until the suspension **or restriction** is lifted ...

(4) Any two persons, being ministers or members, may request the responsible officer in writing to exercise ~~his or her~~ **the** powers under clause (3) above ...

(4A) ... and may impose any suspension **or restriction** ...

(5) The office-holder may appeal to the Pastoral Committee against any suspension **or restriction imposed** by the responsible officer under clause (3) above and against any suspension **or restriction** imposed by a Pastoral Committee ...

(6) ... the reasons why suspension **or restriction** is requested ... It may discharge, vary or extend any suspension **or restriction** already imposed and may itself impose any suspension **or restriction** within the scope of clause (3) above. If it imposes or extends a suspension **or restriction** clause (3A) above shall apply ...

(7) (a) ... the maximum term of any suspension **or restriction** imposed ...after the beginning of the suspension **or restriction**.

...

(8) ... the right to apply for the discharge, variation or extension of any subsisting suspension **or restriction** on the ground of change of material circumstances.

...

(10) ... no common members of a Committee who imposed a suspension **or restriction** ... any Committee considering an appeal against that suspension **or restriction**.

(11) When a minister or probationer is suspended **or subject to a restriction** under this Standing Order the Circuit or other body responsible shall continue to provide ~~his or her~~ **that person's** stipend and shall also reimburse the minister or probationer for all expenses within Standing Order 801(2) which continue during suspension **or restriction**, until the suspension **or restriction** ceases, and ~~he or she~~ **that person** shall for the same period be entitled ... in place of the ~~suspended~~ minister or probationer **who is suspended or subject to a restriction**.

...

(13) (ii) ... the responsible officer shall refer the matter to the Pastoral Committee and may, pending the determination of the issue, suspend the Warden from the exercise of ~~any or every~~ office in the Church or ~~from~~ **impose restrictions in connection with the exercise by the Warden of** particular functions, powers or responsibilities of any such office.;

Section 03

030 Scope of Section.

...

(2A) The provisions of Standing Orders 031 to 034 shall also apply when a case has been referred by **a complaints team chair or a connexional** complaints team appointed under Standing Order 1122 ..., but subject to the following modifications:

(i) the words “~~the lead member of the~~ complaints team **chair**” shall be substituted ...

(ii) the words “~~the lead member of the~~ complaints team **chair**” shall be substituted ...

...

Section 04

040 Failure to Fulfil Obligations. (1) Where it is alleged or appears to the Chair that a minister in the active work has persistently or repeatedly failed adequately to fulfil ~~his or her~~ **the minister’s** obligations, ... the Chair may, upon receipt of a reasoned request ... or on ~~his or her~~ **the Chair’s** own initiative ...

...

(3) ... if the President or the Vice-President on ~~his or her~~ **the President’s** behalf upholds the appeal, ~~he or she~~ **the President or the Vice-President, as the case may be**, shall direct the Chair of another District ...

(4) The Chair shall also request the appointment of such a Consultative Committee if a case is referred by **a complaints team chair or a connexional** complaints team appointed under Standing Order 1122 ...

(4A) Where the person concerned is a deacon, ~~his or her~~ **the person’s** Chair shall inform the Warden ...

(5) The person concerned shall receive from ~~his or her~~ **the** Chair a written statement of the failures alleged and, if the committee is convened following a referral by a **complaints team chair or a** connexional complaints team, a copy of the documents on the basis of which the **chair or** complaints team made its decision and of that decision. The committee shall meet with the person concerned and discuss with ~~him or her~~ **that person** the matters which have been referred to them

...

(6) ... The person making the request under clause (1) above or the ~~lead member of the connexional~~ complaints team **chair** (as the case may require) shall be informed ... and, in the latter case, the ~~lead member~~ **chair** shall convey that information to the members of the team (**if applicable**) and the person making the complaint under Part 11.

(6A) ... shall supply the person concerned with a copy of any written response and inform ~~him or her~~ **that person** of the substance of any oral response... The committee shall seek expert advice on the physical and mental health of the person concerned if ~~his or her~~ **that person’s** state of health is relevant ...

(6B) ... in cases in which the committee is convened following a referring by a **complaints team chair or** connexional complaints team ... a complaint which has led to a referral by such a **chair or** team ...

...

(12) If at any time it appears to the Consultative Committee that the matters raised are such as to warrant consideration whether a charge or charges should be brought under the provisions of Part 11 they shall immediately refer the case to the ~~relevant Connexional~~ **Complaints Support Manager** ~~Team member~~ as defined in Standing Order 1101(1) to be investigated under Standing Order 1122 to 1124A ... unless the **complaints team chair or** connexional complaints team after investigation decides ...

041 Non-compliance with Requirements. ... the chair of the committee shall refer the case to the ~~relevant Connexional~~ **Complaints Support Manager** ~~Team member~~ as defined in Standing Order 1101(1) to be investigated under Standing Order 1122 to 1124A ...

042 Inability to Fulfil Requirements. (1) ... shall encourage and assist ~~him or her~~ **that person** to make use of that right. If requested by the person concerned, the President or the Vice-President on ~~his or her~~ **the President's** behalf shall suggest the names ...

(2) ... adjudge that the minister shall be without appointment at ~~his or her~~ **the minister's** own charges ...

...

(7) ... If the person concerned seeks to return to the active work ~~he or she~~ **the person** shall apply to the President ...

Other Standing Orders

111 President's Powers.

...

(2) The President shall have the right if requested to do so to visit any Circuit, to inquire into its affairs, and to take any steps **which are** open to ~~him or her~~ **the President and** which **the President** judges beneficial. ~~He or she~~ **The President** may delegate ~~his or her~~ **the available** powers in this respect to the Vice-President or to any other appropriate person or persons including the Chair of the District concerned to act on ~~his or her~~ **the President's** behalf. The steps open to the President or ~~his or her~~ **the President's** representative include referring any matter to the ~~relevant Connexional~~ **Complaints Support Manager** as defined in Standing Order 1101(1) for it to be dealt with by a **complaints team chair or** connexional complaints team appointed under Standing Order 1122 except in a case in which the relevant request to the President came from such a **chair or** team and related to that matter. If, under Part 11, a formal complaint is laid or a charge brought, no inquiry into the subject matter of the charge shall be pursued under this clause until the matter has been disposed of under that Part, unless a **chair or** team appointed as aforesaid has requested the President to pursue such an inquiry.

(2A) If the President or ~~his or her~~ **the President's** representative exercises the powers specified in clause (2) above:

(i) in response to a request made under Standing Order 1123(6) or 1124(11) by a **complaints team chair or** connexional complaints team;

(ii) ...

then at the conclusion of the inquiry the President or ~~his or her~~ **the President's** representative, as the case may be, shall prepare a written report stating the result of the inquiry and the steps (if any) which ~~he or she has~~ taken, with reasons for taking the steps in question or declining to take any steps. ~~He or she~~ **The President or the President's representative** shall send a copy of the report to the Secretary of the Conference, to be held under the provisions of Standing Order 1104(1) as if it were a decision of the relevant **chair or** team, to the ~~lead member of the relevant team~~ **complaints team chair** or the chair of the relevant court (as the case may require), to the person making the complaint and to the person complained against. ~~He or she~~ **The President or the President's representative** may also send a copy of the report to any other persons who ought properly, in ~~his or her~~ **the President or representative's** view, to be aware of its contents.

388 Curtailment. (1) ... or when a **complaints team chair or** connexional complaints team appointed under Standing Order 1122 ...

544 Curtailment. (1) ... this Standing Order applies when:

...

(iii) a **complaints team chair or** connexional complaints team appointed under Standing Order 1122 ...

...

(8) ... no person shall act as the appointing Chair ... who:

...

(ii) in a case arising under clause (1)(iii) above is or has at any material time been **the relevant complaints team chair or** a member of the relevant connexional complaints team;

...

985 Enforcement.

...

(3) ... if thought fit to invoke disciplinary action in respect of any such acts, including:

...

(ii) ... an application for the suspension **or restriction** under Standing Order 1105 of any such person.

(3A) A complaint within the meaning of Standing Order 1101 ... may be referred directly to the relevant Connexional **Complaints Support Manager** Team member as defined in Standing Order 1101(2) for it to be dealt with by a **complaints team chair** or connexional complaints team appointed under Standing Order 1122.

7/53/3 **C. Connexional Panel and other appointments under Standing Orders 290 and 1112**

The Sub-committee advises the Conference of a discrepancy in Standing Orders in that convenors of Discipline Committees are able to be appointed by the President between meetings of the Conference, but there is no similar provision for appointment of connexional Advocates or chairs of Discipline Committees. This causes problems in practice as the Sub-committee understands that there are not currently enough Advocates or Discipline Committee Chairs in those roles and more need to be appointed as soon as they have been identified. The Sub-committee therefore recommends the following amendments to Standing Orders 290(3) and 1112(3):

290 Connexional Panel for Discipline, Pastoral and Appeal Committees.

...

(3) The Panel shall include an appropriate number of persons selected for their qualifications or experience to chair Discipline and Appeal Committees and identified as such in the resolution of appointment. ***If, by reason of the number of cases to be dealt with, the number of such persons proves to be insufficient, a further appointment or further appointments shall be made by the President after consultation with the Vice-President.***

1112 Connexional Complaints Panel, Complaints Team Chairs and Connexional Advocates.

...

(3) The Conference must also appoint an appropriate number of persons, to be known as Connexional Advocates ... ***If, by reason of the number of cases to be dealt with, the number of such persons proves to be insufficient, a further appointment or further appointments shall be made by the President after consultation with the Vice-President.***

7/53/4 **D. Agenda Item 54. Oversight and Trusteeship, Section D: Connexional Leaders Forum**

Resolution 54/9 amended Standing Order 293 relating to the Connexional Leaders Forum. The Sub-committee now advises that consequential amendments are required to Standing Orders as follows:

110 President and Vice-President. (1) The President and Vice-President shall preside at the Conference and act as the representative embodiment of its authority as prescribed by the Deed of Union and in accordance with Standing Orders.

...

(4) They shall work in conjunction with the Secretary of the Conference and support ~~his or her~~ **the Secretary's** ministry of strategic management and the development of the Church's vision. ~~Through their membership of the Connexional Leaders' Forum they shall offer support and encouragement to its members in the exercise of their responsibilities and contribute to its discussions concerning the well being and calling of the Church.~~

...

(6) The ex-President, ex-Vice-President, President-designate and Vice-President-designate shall meet together with the President and Vice-President for mutual support and encouragement, and ~~through their membership of the Connexional Leaders' Forum and in other ways~~ shall contribute to the Church's reflection upon its calling, drawing upon the experience gained during their time in office.

240 Methodist Children and Youth Assembly

...

(8) There shall be a Youth President elected in accordance with clause (10) of this Standing Order who shall be a member of the Conference ~~and the Connexional Leaders' Forum~~ as a representative of the Assembly and shall thereby be enabled to give effect to the two core purposes of advocacy and involvement in decision-making on behalf of all children and young people in the life of the Methodist Church. The Youth President shall also have such wider strategic role as may be determined from time to time by the Mission Committee.

7/53/5 **E. Agenda Item 54: Oversight and Trusteeship, Section E: District Leadership**

The Conference adopted certain amendments to Standing Order 426(4) by Resolution 54/13. Under Standing Order 131(25)(ii) to better achieve the intention of the Conference, the Sub-committee recommends further amendments to Standing Order 426(4) as follows:

(4) ... or the Vice-President on ~~his or her~~ **the President's** behalf, **after consultation with the Synod or district Policy Committee and the Secretary of the Conference,** may appoint a person...

7/53/6 **F. Agenda Item 19. Connexional Council part 2, Section M: Appeals Processes**

The Sub-committee advises that the following consequential amendments be made:

019B Form of Meetings.

...

(7) Clause (8) applies to a meeting of the following bodies:

- (i) an ~~initial~~ or appeal committee under Section 03;

...

036 Pastoral Care. It is the responsibility of the Secretary of the Conference ... to ensure, where a ~~Review Committee or an~~ Appeal Committee decides upon discontinuance ...

7/53/7 **G. Agenda Item 19 Connexional Council Part 2, Section I (Ministries Committee)**

As a result of Resolution 19/3 amending Standing Order 723(3)(a), the Sub-committee advises that the following consequential amendments are required to Standing Order 725(4):

(4) (a) In the case of presbyteral probationers, the district probationers secretary shall ensure that each probationer writes a self-assessment and that all the appropriate reports are written about ~~him or her~~ **the probationer**, namely reports by:

(i) the Superintendent, staff and circuit stewards of the Circuit in which the probationer is stationed;

(ii) any other reference groups appointed to monitor ~~his or her~~ **the probationer's** work in **a defined specific context** ~~chaplaincies, other institutions or other appointments not within the control of the Church, or in a pioneering or other appointment that is within the control of the Church but does not involve being appointed to a circuit;~~ and

(iii) those responsible for overseeing ~~his or her~~ **the probationer's** academic studies, engagement in group discussion, practical training, leading of worship and preaching and personal development.

The reports shall be completed according to connexional criteria, guidelines and timetables and shall include evidence of the probationer's exercise of ministry, the oversight and guidance exercised, the opportunities offered for study and fellowship with the circuit staff and peers, and of ~~his or her~~ **the probationer's** suitability for the presbyterate. The reports shall be discussed with the probationer and submitted to the district Probationers Committee together with the probationer's self-assessment and any comments or representations about ~~his or her~~ **the probationer's** work, training or general welfare that the probationer wishes to make.

7/53/8 **H. Standing Order amendments consequent upon previous decisions of the Conference**

The following Standing Order amendments are required consequent on previous decisions of the Conference:

131 Rules of Debate

...

(19)(b) Any resolution which, on the advice of the ~~financial~~ **Conference Scrutiny Sub**-committee given in accordance with Standing Order 136A, would result in amendment of the provisions of the connexional budget for the Methodist Church Fund proposed under Standing Order 204(1) shall, if moved after the budget has been adopted, require a majority of two thirds, and, if carried, shall have the effect of amending the Conference's resolution on the budget without the operation of sub-clause (a) above.

417 Conference Representatives.

...

(3A) ... the allocation specified under Standing Order 105~~(1B)~~(2) to (3A) ...

7/53/9 I. Methodist International Centre Trust Deed – Appointment Of Managing Trustees

By a series of Deed Polls, the Methodist Council became the successor body to the original managing trustees of the Trust Deed dated 1 March 1967 relating to the Methodist International Centre. For the avoidance of doubt, the Sub-committee advises that the Conference formally appoint the Connexional Council as the managing trustees of the Trust, in place of the Methodist Council.

7/53/10 J. CPD editing resolution

To aid the editing process for the 2025 edition of *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church*, the Sub-committee asks the Conference for a direction authorising the Law and Polity Committee to correct any cross-referencing or typographical errors which emerge during the CPD editing process and to report these back to the Conference of 2026 as appropriate.

7/53/11 The Conference adopted as Resolution LP/1:

The Conference receives the Report of the Law and Polity Conference Sub-committee.

7/53/12 The Conference adopted as Resolution LP/2:

The Conference amends Standing Orders as set out above.

7/53/13 The Conference adopted as Resolution LP/3:

The Conference appoints the Connexional Council as the managing trustees of the Methodist International Centre Trust dated 1 March 1967, in place of the Methodist Council.

7/53/14 The Conference adopted as Resolution LP/4:

The Conference directs the Law and Polity Committee to correct any cross-referencing or typographical errors which emerge during the CPD editing process and to report these back to the Conference of 2026 as appropriate.

7/54 THE STATIONS

7/54/1 The Stations were presented to the Conference in the form of the Draft previously circulated with the following amendments:

THE NORTH WEST ENGLAND DISTRICT

1/1 Alderley Edge and Knutsford

for: Alan R Bradley (S)

reading: Alan R Bradley (S) (also Deputy Chair)

1/4 Bolton Mission

for: Alan Bradley (S)

reading: Alan R Bradley (S)

1/5 Bramhall and Wythenshawe

for: Caroline F Ryder

reading: Caroline F Ryder (*Luther King Centre*)

1/7 Bury

for: Natalie J Hackett

reading: Natalie J Hackett (*Hospital Chaplain*)

1/10 Cumbria

for: David C Newlove (S)

reading: David C Newlove (S) (*also Deputy Chair*)

adding: Philip J Jackson

for: Wendy A Thornton

reading: Wendy A Thornton (*also permission to serve the Church of England*)

for: Deborah L Wilde (D)

reading: Deborah L Wilde (D) (*Site Team Leader at Furness General Hospital*)

Supernumeraries:

adding: Rosalind Watson

1/11 Emmaus

for: Caroline R Ainger (S)

reading: Caroline R Ainger (S) (*also Deputy Chair*)

1/12 Farnworth and Worsley

for: Neville C Markham

reading: Neville C Markham (*Hospital Chaplain*)

1/15 High Peak

for: Lorraine Brown (D)

reading: Lorraine Brown (D) (*Peak Park Rural Development Enabler*)

for: David B Hall

reading: David B Hall (*Community of the King of Love*)

Supernumeraries:

adding: Stephen A.Jay

1/18 Lancashire West

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Sylvia V I Jacquest

1/20 Liverpool (South)

for: Andrew J Cheatle

reading: Andrew J Cheatle (*Principal Lecturer at Hope University*)

for: Clement Matarirano (*Principal Lecturer at Hope University*)

reading: Clement Matarirano

1/22 Manchester

for: Anthony J Clowes

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

for: Jennifer A J Jones (D)

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

for: Ian S Rutherford

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

for: Sharon Read

reading: Sharon Read (also Deputy Chair)

1/24 North Fylde

Supernumeraries:

for: William Hunter

reading: William J Hunter

1/26 North Liverpool and South Sefton

for: Karen Jobson

reading: Karen Jobson (Chaplain to NW ambulance service)

1/28 Preston Ribble

for: Philip J Gough

reading: Philip J Gough (District Secretary)

1/29 Rochdale and Littleborough

adding: + Marcianne Uwimana (D)

1/32 Sankey Valley

Supernumeraries:

for: Kathryn Selby

reading: Kathryn A Selby

1/36 Southport

for: Janette Fraser

reading: Janette Fraser (Hospital Chaplain)

for: P Martin Abrams

reading: P Martin Abrams (Hospital Chaplain)

deleting: Alexander P J Galbraith (AP)

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Ann C Hall

Rosalind Watson

1/38 United Stockport

for: Katharine J Smith

reading: Katharine J Smith (also Deputy Chair)

WALES SYNOD CYMRU

2/9 Cardiff

deleting: Laura J Evans (D)

Supernumeraries:
adding: William R Morrey

2/18 Neath Port Talbot
deleting: Andrew Charlesworth (S)

2/19 Newport and Lower Wye
adding: Rachel L Frank (WA)

THE WEST MIDLANDS DISTRICT
deleting: George V Heinz (Secretary of the Synod)
adding: There is a Lay Secretary of the District Synod

3/1 Anchor
adding: Kathryn R Darby (*Hospital Chaplain, University Hospitals Birmingham*)

3/2 Birmingham
deleting: Angela P Allport (D)
deleting: Eunice Attwood (D) (*Connexional Team*)
adding: James A Cruddas (*Civil Service*)

Supernumeraries:
deleting: John N Attwood
adding: R Geoffrey Harris
Stanley Webb

The Queens Foundation
adding: Angela P Allport (D) (*Tutor*)

3/4 Birmingham (West) and Oldbury
deleting: Brian D Taylor

Supernumeraries:
adding: Brian D Taylor

3/5 The Black Country
deleting: Carole J Holden

Supernumeraries:
adding: Carole J Holden

3/7 Cannock Chase
Supernumeraries:
deleting: Helen Hoe

3/8 Coventry and Nuneaton
deleting: Kathryn R Darby (*Hospital Chaplain, University Hospitals Birmingham*)

3/10 Hereford (South and East)
Supernumeraries:
adding: Nigel Williams

3/13 Shropshire and Marches

deleting: Neill Cooper
for: Shalome S Mac
reading: Shalome S MacNeill Cooper

Supernumeraries:
deleting: Donald A Pickard

3/14 South Warwickshire

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

3/15 South Worcestershire

for: Beverley Ramsden
reading: Beverley Ramsden (*Hospital Chaplain*)
deleting: Diane M Cooksey (AP)

3/16 Stafford

Supernumeraries:
adding: Christopher P Parkes

THE BRISTOL DISTRICT

7/2 Bristol and South Gloucestershire

adding: Leigh A Maydew
for: David A Hull (*Permission to Serve Free Methodist Church*)
reading: David A Hull (WA)

Supernumeraries:
deleting: David Bolton

7/7 Gloucestershire

for: Michelle J Ireland (S)
reading: Michelle J Ireland
for: John McNeilz
reading: John McNeill

7/13 North East Somerset and Bath

deleting: Jill A Flowers (WA)

Supernumeraries:
adding: Jill A Flowers

7/16 Somerset Mendip

Supernumeraries:
deleting: David Hollingsworth

THE CHESTER AND STOKE-ON-TRENT DISTRICT

11/1 North Cheshire

Supernumeraries:
deleting: Ralph E Fennell

11/4 Mid-Cheshire

Supernumeraries:
adding: Helen Hoe

11/8 Cheshire South

Supernumeraries:
deleting: William R Morrey

11/15 Potteries Mission

for: Joseph N Adams (S)
reading: Joseph N Lightfoot Adams (S)

THE DARLINGTON DISTRICT

13/1 Darlington and Teesdale

Supernumeraries:
deleting: Timothy C Boocock

13/3 Stockton

Supernumeraries:
adding: Timothy C Boocock

13/5 Stokesley

for: Robert J Weir
reading: Robert J Weir (S)

13/10 Bishop Auckland and Shildon

adding: Suva Catford (WA)

THE EAST ANGLIA DISTRICT

14/1 Norwich

for: Matthew A Olarewaju
reading: Matthew A Olanrewaju

14/22 The Fens

Supernumeraries:
deleting: Leslie Stoker

THE LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT

17/1 Epworth, Scunthorpe and Gainsborough

Supernumeraries:
deleting: Ruth Simpson
Tony Simpson

17/5 Grimsby and Cleethorpes

adding: Mark A Hutson (AP)

17/11 Barton, Brigg and Wolds

Supernumeraries:
adding: Ruth Simpson
Tony Simpson

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT

20/1 Newcastle upon Tyne (Central and East)

deleting: Alexander D Mabbs (AP)

20/5 North Shields and Whitley Bay

Supernumeraries:

adding: David Bolton

20/6 South East Northumberland

Supernumeraries:

adding: James Magee

20/8 Tynedale

adding: Rachel E Parkinson (WA)

20/12 Lindisfarne

Supernumeraries:

deleting: James Magee

THE NOTTINGHAM AND DERBY DISTRICT

22/4 Nottingham (Trent Valley)

Supernumeraries:

adding: Peter Dawson

22/6 Derby

adding: Kevin P Jones (AP)

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Peter Dawson

adding: Robert L Hawkins

22/11 Ashbourne

adding: Arnold M O Dixon (WA)

22/12 National Forest East

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Robert L Hawkins

THE NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT

23/21 Peterborough

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Graham W Tooth

23/26 Milton Keynes

Supernumeraries:

deleting: David J Moore

THE SHEFFIELD DISTRICT

25/1 Sheffield

for: Debora K Marschner

reading: Debora K Marschner (S)

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

reading: Sean C C Adair (WA) (*Permission to Study*)

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Adrienne M Nixon (D)

25/2 Derbyshire North East

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Mavis Plater (D)

25/13 The Peak

deleting: Graham M Edwards

for: Joanna R Rand

reading: Joanna R Rand (WA) (*Permission to Study*)

Cliff College

adding: Graham M Edwards (*Cliff Year Lead and Teaching Fellow*)

25/14 Doncaster

for: Jonathon D Bellfield

reading: Jonathon D Bellfield (*Hospital Chaplain*)

THE SOUTHAMPTON DISTRICT

26/7 East Solent and Downs

deleting: Stephen J Richardson (D)

26/9 Poole Bay

adding: Gareth J Higgs (*Tutor at Moorlands College*)

26/12 Salisbury

for: Stephen M Hawkes

reading: Stephen M Hawkes (*Hospital Chaplain*)

Supernumeraries:

adding: David Hollingsworth

THE YORKSHIRE WEST DISTRICT

27/1 Leeds (South and West)

deleting: Albert Gayle

Supernumeraries:

adding: Albert Gayle

27/9 Denby Dale and Clayton West

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Brian R Jenner

THE YORKSHIRE NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT

29/2 The Bridge

adding: Leslie M Newton (S)

Francesca Rhys (S)

for: Ruth E Gilson-Webb

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

Supernumeraries:

adding: A Diane Finch

Shaun Swithenbank

David E Wilkes

deleting: **29/8 Beverley** and those named under it

29/26 Nidd Valley

for: Benjamin P Clowes (S)

reading: Benjamin P Clowes (S) (*Deputy Chair*)

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Shaun Swithenbank

29/31 North Yorkshire Coast

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Nigel M Spencer

29/37 Hull (Centre and West)

for: Anthony Brookes

reading: Anthony Brookes (*Hospital Chaplain*)

THE SCOTLAND DISTRICT

31/1 Scotland

adding: Eunice Attwood (D) (*Connexional Team*)

deleting: Hilda M Warwick (WA)

Supernumeraries:

adding: John N Attwood

Hilda M Warwick

deleting: Nicola K Hilmy-Jones

THE SHETLAND DISTRICT

32/1 Lerwick and Walls

deleting: John C Best (*Minister in Fair Isle*)

THE BEDFORDSHIRE, ESSEX AND HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT

34/9 Chelmsford

for: Jennifer K Walters

reading: + Jennifer K Walters

34/13 St Albans and Welwyn

for: Caroline E A Douglas (AP)

reading: Caroline E A Douglas (AP) (*Queenswood School*)

THE LONDON DISTRICT

35/1 City Road

Methodist Church House

deleting: *The following shall act under the direction of the Secretary of the Conference* Gareth J Higgs

adding: *The following shall act under the direction of the Warden of the Diaconal Order* Laura J Evans (D) (WA)

35/3 Westminster

for 'Supernumerary' reading 'Supernumeraries'

and adding: Myrtle A Poxon (D)

Stephen J Poxon

35/10 Hackney and Stoke Newington

adding: Jonathan Dean (S)

35/12 London Mission (North West)

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

35/20 Newham

adding: Debra M Chidakwa-Akue (WA)

35/22 New River

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

35/23 Wembley

deleting: Vinaya K Moses

adding:

Supernumerary:

Vinaya K Moses

35/30 Lesnes Abbey

adding: Miriam de Gallo (AP)

35/33 Forest

Supernumeraries:

deleting: Myrtle A Poxon (D)

Stephen J Poxon

35/41 Croydon
Supernumeraries:
deleting: Andrew J Dart

THE SOUTH EAST DISTRICT

36/10 Gatwick and Mole Valley
adding: Stephen Richardson (D)

Supernumeraries:
deleting: Gavin P Hancocks

36/15 Gibraltar
adding: David J Barrett (S)

36/17 Hastings, Bexhill and Rye
Supernumeraries:
deleting: John L Hope

36/18 Weald of Kent
for: Katie L Osweiler (AP)
reading: Katie L Osweiler (AP) (*Chaplain, Kent College, Pembury*)

36/27 Canterbury and East Kent
for: Alison E Walker (*Chaplain*)
reading: Alison E Walker (*Chaplain, Kent College, Canterbury*)

Supernumeraries:
adding: Gavin P Hancocks

THE SOUTH WEST PENINSULA DISTRICT

37/3 Exeter, Coast and Country
Supernumeraries:
deleting: Peter G Jarvis

37/4 Plymouth and Devonport
Supernumeraries:
deleting: Gordon H Davis

37/6 Tavistock
Supernumeraries:
adding: John M Haley

for: **37/1 Bude and Holsworthy**
reading: **37/11 Bude and Holsworthy**
and deleting: Anna Flindell (S)

37/15 Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor
deleting: Peter Thomas (AP)

Supernumeraries:
adding: Peter Thomas (AP)

37/17 Launceston Area

Supernumeraries:

deleting: John M Haley

37/18 South Petherton and Crewkerne

for 'Supernumerary' reading 'Supernumeraries'

and adding: Gordon H Davis

37/23 Torbay

deleting: Douglas S Rix (AP)

37/30 Coracle

deleting: Daniel Haylett (S)

for: Darren Middleton (*District NPNP Coordinator*)

reading: Darren Middleton (S) (*District NPNP Coordinator*)

PERMISSION TO SERVE ABROAD

for: Ramona Dinard (Antigua)

reading: Ramona Dinard (D) (Antigua)

for: Marlene A Skuce (Ireland)

reading: Marlene A Skuce (D) (Ireland)

PERMISSION TO RESIDE ABROAD

adding: Calvin T Samuel (Malaysia)

Jeongsook Kim (Korea)

Ann C Hall (New Zealand)

Bernardino M Mandlate (Mozambique)

for: Harriet P Bacon (Barbados)

reading: Harriet P Bacon (D) (Barbados)

for: Gordon H Wallace (Ireland)

reading: Gordon H Wallace (D) (Ireland)

PERMISSION TO SERVE ANOTHER CHURCH

deleting: David A Hull (Free Methodist Church)

CIRCUITS YET TO BE IDENTIFIED

deleting: Suva Catford

Arnold Dixon

Debra Chidakwa-Akue

+ Marcianne Uwimana

Supernumerary:

deleting: Jeongsook Kim

ASSOCIATE PRESBYTERS

deleting: Janice H Aiton (31/2)

adding: Martyn S Sanders (3/10)

7/54/2 The Conference, by a Standing Vote, adopted the Stations.

7/55 **DAILY RECORD**

7/55/1 The Daily Record for Tuesday 1 July was presented, taken as read, and adopted,

at 6/27/3, Standing Order 230A(2), penultimate line,
for '*particular District or District*' reading '*particular District or Districts*'

7/55/2 The Written Portion of the Daily Record for the Representative Session was presented in headings only and adopted.

7/55/3 The Daily Record for Wednesday 2 July was presented in headings only and adopted.

7/56 **EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS**

7/56/1 The ex-President of the Conference, The Revd Helen D Cameron, and the ex-Vice-President, Carolyn J Godfrey, expressed the thanks of the Conference to the President and Vice-President of the Conference.

7/56/2 The Conference expressed its thanks to Doug Godfrey-Swanney and the Connexional Team, Sharon Hassanali and the Conference Arrangements Team and volunteers, those leading worship, The Revd Dr Heather Morris and all those participating in the Bible Studies, the worship coordinator The Revd Nathan S Falla, Matt Beckingham and the musicians, the Conference Scrutiny Sub-committee, the Law and Polity Conference Sub-committee, those doing the EDI monitoring, the Conference Business Committee and Dr Daleep Mukarji, the media team and technical team, the staff of the conference centre, Jane Bates and the Record Office staff, the Conference Letter Writer and Secretariat team, and the Law and Polity representative.

7/57 **SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE**

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

7/58 **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.

7/59 **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 26 June 2025, 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.

7/60 **ADJOURNMENT**

7/60/1 The Conference, by a Standing Vote, resolved to adjourn to the Conference of 2026, which would meet in Telford on Thursday 25 June in its Presbyteral Session, and on Saturday 27 June in its Representative Session.

7/60/2 The Conference adjourned at 13.18.

7/61 **LETTERS**

7/61/1 A letter was written in the name of the Conference to the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, as required by Memorial M8, asking that the Government should recognise the state of Palestine. (A letter to the Government about UK overseas aid required by Memorials M1 and M2 will be sent on behalf of the Methodist Church by Simeon Mitchell, Team Leader of the Joint Public Issues Team.)

- 7/61/2 A letter of greeting and concern was written in the name of the Conference to Mr Ivan Weekes, a former Vice-President of the Conference.
- 7/61/3 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.
- 7/61/4 Letters of greeting were written in the name of the Conference to ministers becoming supernumerary.
- 7/61/5 Letters were written in the name of the Conference to the following ministers on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their ordinations:

The Revd Margaret Barnes	The Revd Barbara E McIntivey
The Revd Dr Robert G Bates	The Revd Catherine L Minor
The Revd Marie L Beard	The Revd Richard P Mottershead
The Revd Nicholas C Bentley	The Revd Charles J Nevin
The Revd Gillian M Berry	The Revd Susan M Nicol
The Revd Pamela J Bolas	The Revd Sandra E Osgerby
The Revd Timothy C Boocock	The Revd Pamela A Pembro
The Revd Rachel J Borgars	The Revd Mark F Pengelly
The Revd Norma Browning	The Revd Adrian C Perry
The Revd Susan Chambers	The Revd William R Porter
The Revd Stephen J Charman	The Revd Christopher N Pritchard
The Revd Janet Clasper	The Revd Daniel P Reed
The Revd Susan B Conroy	The Revd Andrew N Robinson
The Revd Kathryn R Darby	The Revd Paul Saunders
The Revd Gordon H Davis	The Revd Sobanathasar
The Revd Dr Rachel D Deigh	Sinnathamby
The Revd Sylvester O Deigh	The Revd Valerie J Spencer
The Revd Derek O Dowdeswell	The Revd Isabel A Stuart
The Revd Ian T Farnsworth	The Revd Alan M Taylor
The Revd Dr Robert Foster	The Revd Dr Brian Tomkins
The Revd Christopher R D Foxon	The Revd Gillian M Tutt
The Revd Christine Gillespie	The Revd Lily P Twist
The Revd Ruth A Goodland	The Revd Ann M Varker
The Revd Enid M Gordon	The Revd Neil Vickers
The Revd Carol M Hamilton-Foyne	The Revd Alfred Waite
The Revd Helen J Harrell	The Revd Helen White
The Revd K M Jane Harris	The Revd Ruth E Whittard
The Revd C John Hartley	The Revd Nigel S Wright
The Revd David C P Haseldine	The Revd Joyce M Yendole
The Revd Yvonne M Haye	Deacon Margaret A Blake
The Revd Kim Hurst	Deacon Thomas Luke
The Revd Joanna Jacobs	Deacon Jane Rice
The Revd Dr Susan Jansen	Deacon Geoffrey W Tamblin
The Revd Ann Le Mare	Deacon Elizabeth J Timmins
The Revd Maureen Lloyd	Deacon Gordon H Wallace
The Revd Samuel E McBratney	Deacon Deborah L Wilde

- 7/61/6 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 Barrie J Cash	The Revd Gerald J Forster
The Revd Michael P Dye	The Revd Raymond F Garfoot
The Revd David R Emison	The Revd Dr Gordon J Gatward

The Revd Guy R Goodall
The Revd David J Gynes
The Revd Peter G Haywood
The Revd Roger McAvoy
The Revd Ruth F M Orton
The Revd David J Rice
The Revd Andrew W Sails
The Revd Peter W Shilling

The Revd Fraser D Smith
The Revd R Margery Stanlake
The Revd G Jeff Thomas
The Revd Canon Sir Ralph Waller
The Revd Michael J Wildgust
The Revd Peter Willis
The Revd John D H Wren

7/61/7 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 Dr Malcolm L Braddy
The Revd Brian Bullick
The Revd John Carr
The Revd Paul E Clifton
The Revd Kenneth H Collins
The Revd John S Curnow
The Revd Donald Frith
The Revd Colin D Harbach
The Revd Edward A Holmes
The Revd John R Jennings
The Revd Ian D McKenzie

The Revd William C Middlemiss
The Revd William Passman
The Revd Keith A Reed
The Revd Donald J Sampson
The Revd Anthony Shrimpton
The Revd H Adrian J Smith
The Revd Maurice Weatherup
The Revd Malcolm W White
The Revd Ranald C M Wylie
The Revd John W Young

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This Appendix lists Motions adopted, or agreed to be not put, other than those which are not specifically recorded because their substance appears in the Resolutions they amended. It also lists those that the Conference referred to other bodies. It does not list Motions lost or withdrawn, which do not appear in the Record. The figures in brackets are the numbers given to the Notices of Motion.

(a) adopted

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(b) not put

none

(c) referred to other bodies

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For a report about work done and work in progress on Notices of Motion and Memorials brought to previous Conferences, see item 27 of the Agenda (adopted Daily Record 7/27).