

53. Appreciations

The Revd Dr Nicola Price Tebbutt

The Revd Dr Nicola Price Tebbutt has served as the Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee since 2013. During this time she has overseen significant and important pieces of work that have brought together theological, social and ethical issues. Her time in office has seen the Conference receive or adopt a number of major reports, such as The Theology of Safeguarding, Ministry in the Methodist Church and Changing Patterns of Ministry, as well as the substantial amount of work that was carried out on Marriage and Relationships and with the Church of England on Mission and Ministry in Covenant. Nicola's enthusiasm for the whole Church to think more deeply and theologically in all that it does has been highlighted in the diligent way that she has worked over the past years to support ministers and lay people in their theological study and to encourage the engagement of the wider Connexion in the theological task. She has journeyed with the Methodist Diaconal Order in reviews and theological conversations. She has listened, accompanied and supported and her ministry has been much appreciated.

Nicola has been an invaluable support to many in the life of the Church; she has generously offered her time and expertise to others in the Connexional Team and played a full and productive part at the Methodist Council and the Conference. Her care in the use of language, awareness of ecumenical sensitivities and attention to detail have been valued in the many meetings in which she has participated.

The Conference expresses its deep gratitude to Nicola, for the dedication with which she has exercised her ministry as Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee, and wishes her well in her future ministry.

Mrs Jill Baker

Jill Baker has chaired the Methodist Council since 2018 and has brought to every aspect of this role an awareness of the opportunities facing Methodism today, together with the needs and challenges confronting the Connexion. Whether in the chair at the Council (in person or online) or in the numerous demands made of her time between meetings Jill has held together the responsibilities of the Council as an employing body, a decision making body, and a body offering advice and comment to a range of people and groups charged with particular responsibilities. Her knowledge of the Connexion has been invaluable to the work of the Council, particularly in ensuring that it holds governance and pastoral care together.

Jill has given freely of her time and expertise in dealing with a number of complex and demanding matters and brought to all her responsibilities an enquiring mind and clarity of thought that has enriched the common life of the Connexion. Her theological wisdom has enabled her to lead the Council reflectively and prayerfully as it wrestled with complex questions and major decisions. The pandemic forced the Council to move online and created extra work, but Jill adapted nimbly and led the Council through challenging times and difficult conversations with grace and care.

The Conference thanks Jill for her commitment to the Council over the past four years and wishes her well in the future.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

- 53/1. The Conference expressed its deep gratitude to the Revd Dr Nicola Price-Tebbutt for her service as Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee and wished her well in her future life and ministry.**
- 53/2. The Conference expressed its gratitude to Mrs Jill Baker for her service as Chair of the Methodist Council and wished her well for the future.**