

## REPRESENTATIVE SESSION

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

14:10 The Assistant Secretary welcomes the Conference.

14:15 The Conference stands for the entry of:  
Former Presidents and Vice-Presidents  
The Secretary  
The President and the Vice-President

Hymn: *And are we yet alive?*

Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-14

Prayer: The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

Membership of the Conference: Agenda pages 737-742 and changes listed on the Order Paper page 10

Appointment of Scrutineers  
Anna Malnutt (Chief Scrutineer)  
The Revd R Margaret K Mwailu  
Deacon Stephen Roe

Hymn: *Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King*

The Election of the President of the Conference – Resolution 1/1 (Agenda page 3)

The Election of the Vice-President of the Conference – Resolution 1/2 (Agenda page 3)

Induction of the President and the Vice-President

Hymn: *Here on the threshold of a new beginning*

The Loyal Address

Welcome of World Church Partners  
Response

Hymn: *We will walk with God*

Welcome of Ecumenical and Interfaith Guests and associate members  
Response

15:15 Hymn: *Heaven shall not wait*

Reading: Luke 1:46-56

The President's Address

Hymn: *Come, build the Church*

16:00 Tea Break

17:00 Hymn: *God of justice, Saviour to all*

Reading: Mark 1:14-20

The Vice-President's Address

Hymn: *Hear the call of the kingdom*

17:45 Administration

**Agenda Item 2: First Report of the Conference Business Committee** (Agenda pages 7-15, Order Paper pages 13-14) Resolutions 2/1, 2/2 (Agenda page 15), 2/3 (Order Paper page 14)

**Agenda Item 36: Second Report of the Conference Business Committee** (Agenda page 453) Resolution 36/1 (Agenda page 453)

**Third Report of the Conference Business Committee** (Order Paper pages 10-12) Resolutions B/1, B/2, B/3 (Order Paper page 12)

**Agenda Item 54: Report to the Representative Session from the Conference Diaconal Committee** (Agenda pages 671-676, Order Paper page 23) Resolutions 54/1, 54/3 (Agenda page 676)

**Supplementary Report from the Faith and Order Committee** (Order Paper page 13) Resolutions FO/1, FO/2 (Order Paper page 13)

**Agenda Item 25: Connexional Central Services Budget 2024/2025** (Agenda pages 303-317, Order Paper page 19)

18:15 Hymn: *Earth's creator, everyday God (verses 1 and 2)*

Readings: Proverbs 2:1-8  
1 John 1: 1-4

Meditation

Prayers

18.30 Adjourn

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Hours of session from Monday 1 July:** 09:15 – 11:00; 11:30 – 13:00; 14:15 – 16:15; 16:45 – 18:30

The Conference is reminded that all its sessions (except for any closed sessions) are live streamed. Please bear this in mind when you address the Conference.

The Conference is informed that the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Committee has nominated the Revd Charity Nzegwu to act as adviser to the Conference on matters of justice, dignity and solidarity under the terms of SO 336(1A)(v).

The Presbyteral Session elected the Revd Kevin Highfield to the Presbyteral Session Business Committee.

---

## CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE (Agenda pages 737-742)

### Conference Secretariat and other Officers

11 The Revd Catherine Dixon is unable to attend.

### Bolton and Rochdale

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

### Bristol

89 Ingram Rose *vice* Mr Michael C Pryke

### Nottingham and Derby

141 Deacon Ruth Richey *vice* Deacon Helen Snowball

### Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire

199 Angela Brydon *vice* Ms Pauline Jackson

### South East

221 *for* Mr Henry Cheung *read* Mr Henry Chung

---

## THIRD REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

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

1. As set out in paragraph 7 of the first report (page 13), the Conference is required to elect one member of the Business Committee, a minister, to serve on the Committee for three years (the Conferences of 2025, 2026 and 2027). Nomination forms have been circulated by email and are available from the Helpdesk; they should be placed in the ballot boxes by 17:30 on Monday 1 July, with voting taking place on Tuesday 2 July.
2. Paragraph 9 of the First Report sets out the criteria and procedure for requesting that a letter be sent on behalf of the Conference. Members of the Conference are asked, if possible, to email [conferenceletterwriter@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:conferenceletterwriter@methodistchurch.org.uk) with the details of the request. Where that is not possible, please contact the Help Desk.

3. The schedule of business has been available on the Conference website and regularly updated. It now shows the current situation. Any Conference member wishing to have a hard copy can obtain one from the Helpdesk.
4. The Committee recommends the use of an electronic voting system for any counted votes.
5. The ballots for the President and Vice-President of the Conference of 2025 and a member of the Conference Business Committee will be distributed via email and the elections conducted via an online voting system.
6. Nominees for President and Vice-President of the Conference for 2025 are kindly asked to have their photographs taken, for use in the visual projection during breaks. Nominees are asked to see June Howard-Norman in the Conference Arrangements Team office as soon as possible and no later than the closing times for nominations given in the Agenda page 14. In the event that nominees are not present at the Conference, it would be most helpful if those making the nominations could arrange for nominees' photos to be sent electronically to [asc@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:asc@methodistchurch.org.uk)
7. There are two ballot boxes on each side of the hall. These can all be used at any time on Saturday until 19:00 and from Monday morning onwards for all nomination papers, strictly observing the deadlines given on page 14 of the Agenda.
8. Memorials will be taken as shown in the table below:

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

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

9. The list of *en bloc* items of business (page 453) is as printed below:
  3. Methodist Council part one sections A, B, D
  6. Trustees for the Bailiwick of Guernsey Methodist Church Purposes
  7. Trustees for Jersey Methodist Church Purposes
  10. New Room
  11. Forces Board
  12. Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland
  13. Revision to MIST Articles
  15. Methodist Schools appointments
  22. Methodist Council part two sections F, I, N, O, Q, S
  23. Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
  27. Methodist Homes
  30. Stationing Committee
  31. Referred Memorials and Notices of Motion
  33. Managing Trustees of Central Hall Westminster
  34. Methodist Ministers' Housing Society
  39. Ecumenical Report
  40. Central Finance Board
  53. Methodist Diaconal Order General Report
  56. Trustees for Manx Methodist Church Purposes

Memorials to the Conference as listed in paragraph 8 above.

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

10. As part of the Conference's commitment to inclusion and to ensuring accessibility, the committee has discussed how it might monitor the diversity of those participating in the conversations and debates at the Conference. Members of the Conference will be aware that every member of the Conference is asked to complete an EDI monitoring form. The Record Office therefore has statistical data which show the proportions of the Conference members who have declared protected characteristics. Those forms are anonymised. The Conference is therefore recommended to authorise that in future years members of the Conference will be asked to give permission for some of the information included on the form to be held confidentially by those who will monitor the diversity of the Conference.
11. Members of the Conference also indicate for the purposes of their badges their preferred pronouns. It is therefore possible for the gender diversity of contributors to debates to be monitored. It is also possible to note whether a speaker is lay or ordained. The Business Committee recommends that the Conference authorises this monitoring this year (enabling a pilot for more extensive monitoring in future years) and that a brief statistical report on the previous day's debates be presented to the Conference each morning,

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

- B/1. The Conference adopts the Report.**
- B/2. The Conference adopts the recommendation of the Business Committee in paragraph 10.**
- B/3. The Conference adopts the recommendation of the Business Committee in paragraph 11.**

## ORDINATION SERVICES: SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT FROM THE FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE

1. Ordination services are one of the highlights of the meeting of the Conference and are both solemn and joyful occasions as we celebrate God's gift of new presbyters and deacons to the Church. Ordinations in the Methodist Church take place on the Conference's behalf, at its direction and with its authorisation: no one else in the life of the Methodist Church holds such authority. This is an outworking of the corporate oversight of the Conference over all our ministry. As a result, the leadership of ordination services is different from leading any other act of Methodist worship. Our usual practice is that much is committed to those who lead our worship and preach: generally speaking, provided that what is done is not contrary to our doctrines those who preach and lead worship enjoy considerable creative freedom. However, because ordinations are acts of worship conducted on behalf of the Conference, those who take leadership roles within them do so in a particular representative capacity which signals the relation of what is taking place to the Conference. It is, therefore, expected that those who lead these services do not make alterations to their authorised texts.
2. In the preparations for this year's Conference, it was suggested that the address to the congregation 'Sisters and Brothers' (no. 12 in both the ordination of presbyters and the ordination of deacons) be amended to provide for a gender-neutral form. The ordination services are authorised liturgies and there is not time for authorising a new form before the ordination services take place. Further, if amendments are to be formally made, there may be other matters also worthy of consideration. It is appropriate that proper time and attention be given to this as part of the overall process of revising the *Methodist Worship Book*.
3. Nevertheless, the amendment suggested is in line with the Conference's strategy on *Justice, Dignity and Solidarity*. The words in question address the whole congregation gathered for an ordination service and a gender-neutral form would indicate more clearly the intention that it include all people, of all genders. The Faith and Order Committee therefore proposes, as an interim measure, that the Conference give permission for the President, or the President's deputy, presiding at any given service of ordination, at that person's discretion, to use an alternative form of words. The Committee proposes 'People of God'. This maintains a distinction from the form 'Beloved in Christ' at no. 13 which addresses the ordinands specifically.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

FO/1. The Conference receives the Report.

FO/2. The Conference gives its permission, in connection with any given service of ordination, for the President, or a presbyter deputising for the President, at that person's discretion, to use the form 'People of God' in place of 'Sisters and Brothers' at no. 12 in the services as printed in the *Methodist Worship Book*.

---

## ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGENDA

### AGENDA ITEM 2: FIRST REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Pages 7-15)

Final paragraph, page 15

*Third sentence, amend to read*

This provision does not include any memorials which are designated as being in the *en bloc* list.

**Addendum to the Report:**

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

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

**\*\*\*ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION**

2/3. The Conference appoints Dr Daleep Mukarji as the Chair for the Conference Business Committee for the Conferences of 2025, 2026 and 2027.

---

**AGENDA ITEM 3: METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 1  
SECTION A: GENERAL REPORT (Pages 16-18)**

**Page 18, first bullet point**

*Amend to read:*

- approved an update to the foundation module of safeguarding training;

**AGENDA ITEM 15: METHODIST SCHOOLS APPOINTMENTS (Pages 74-78)**

**Page 75, Resolution 15/1, line 3**

*For a period of two years read one year*

**Page 75, Resolution 15/5, line 2**

*For a period of four years read a period of three years*

**\*\*\*ADDITIONAL RESOLUTIONS**

**Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST)**

15/7. The Conference adopts the nominations by the Trustees of Mr Mark Donougher, the Revd Dr Mark Wakelin and Mr John Jefferson as Trustees of Methodist Independent Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2027.

15/8. The Conference adopts the nomination by the Trustees of Mr Ian McCaig as Trustee and Chair of Methodist Independent Schools Trust for a period of three years concluding 31 August 2027.

15/9. The Conference adopts the nomination by the Chairs of District of the Revd Dawn Saunders as Trustee of Methodist Independent Schools Trust.

**Methodist Academies and Schools Trust (MAST)**

15/10. The Conference adopts the nomination by Methodist Academies and Schools Trust Trustees of the Revd Paul Martin as Co-Opted Trustee for a period of one year concluding 31 August 2025.

## Ashville College

15/11. The Conference adopts the nomination by the Governors of the Revd Lesley Taylor as ex-officio Governor of Ashville College.

## Epworth Education Trust (EET)

15/12. The Conference adopts the nomination of Mr David Clayton and Mrs Charlotte Taylor as Trustees of the Epworth Education Trust for a period of four years concluding 31 August 2028.

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

**Mark Donougher** is an accredited Chartered Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from the University of Manchester. Mark has engaged in mentoring entrepreneurs and participating in tech start-ups, alongside cultivating his own venture in photography. He is serving as the Chair of Governors for Culford School and in full sympathy with the Methodist ethos and vision.

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

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

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

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

**Charlotte Taylor** has been involved in the governance of maintained schools since 1997. During 2021 to 2023 she took on the roles of MAST executive and Interim Deputy CEO of Inspiring Lives



Education Trust (ILET), submitting strategic plans for the new Methodist trust to the DfE. Her MAST role as joint Head involved providing support for 66 Methodist schools with aspects such as standards, ethos, pastoral, headteacher recruitment and the development and delivery of a CPD offer. Charlotte also oversaw the systematic school improvement offer through regional leaders of education, liaising with SIAMS inspectors and having interim Executive Board oversight. She believes in inclusive education and leads to inspire others to realise the vision of Methodist values of love, kindness and integrity.

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

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

---

**AGENDA ITEM 22: METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 2**  
**SECTION I: MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE AND DIRECTORY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**(Pages 213-216)**

**SO 124(1), Page 214**

*Amend first two lines to read:*

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

**SO 124(5), Page 214**

*Amend to read:*

Every minister in the active work and every probationer shall possess a copy ***of the book***, the cost of which shall be ....

**SO 124(7), Page 214**

*Delete:*

~~(6)~~

**SO 124(8), Page 215**

*Amend first line to read: **discharge any relevant duties ...***

**SO 124(12), Page 215**

*For **The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church***

*Read **The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church***

*Please also note that the editorial notes to this Standing Order are shown, in error, in the same font size as the Standing Order. These are not part of what the Conference is asked to adopt.*

---

**AGENDA ITEM 22: METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 2**  
**SECTION N: METHODIST SCHOOLS COMMITTEE (Pages 250-262)**

**Page 251, last bullet point**

*For:* Going partnerships between our independent schools and local state schools in their area.

*Read:* Growing partnerships between our independent schools and local state schools in their area.

---

**AGENDA ITEM 22: METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 2**  
**SECTION O: METHODIST FORCES BOARD STANDING ORDER (Pages 263-264)**

**Page 263, SO 286(1)(i)**

*Amend to read:*

(i) the work of all ministers who are set apart to serve ~~under the direction of the council as~~ **both Regular and Reserve** Cehaplains to the forces;

Members of the Conference may wish to note that the amendments shown to this Standing Order have been drafted on the assumption that the amendments to Parts 2 and 3 of the Standing Orders contained in volume 2 of *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church* proposed by the Oversight and Trusteeship Group report at Agenda item 50 will be approved by the Conference. If that is not the case, the necessary amendments will be brought by the Law and Polity Conference Sub-committee.

**Page 264**

*in order to see more clearly the changes proposed, replace clauses (5) and (4) as shown (in that order) in the second and third complete paragraphs (which delete the previously numbered clause (4) of the Standing Order and provide a new clause (5)) with the following:*

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

---

**AGENDA ITEM 22: METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 2**  
**SECTION Q: GUIDANCE FOR BREAKDOWN OF MARRIAGE (Pages 276-279)**

**Paragraph 1.1, Page 276**

Line 3, *for marriages read marriage*

**Paragraph 1.3, Page 276**

Line 2, *for minster read minister*

**Paragraph 1.6, Page 276**

Line 2, *for ministers and spouses read ministers, spouses and civil partners*

**Paragraph 3.1, Page 277**

Line 1, *for civil partners read civil partner*

**Paragraph 3.5, Page 277**

Line 2, *for* of the marriage *read* of the marriage or civil partnership

**Page 279, Resolution 22/24**

Replace the existing Resolution 22/24 by the following:

**\*\*\*AMENDED RESOLUTION**

**22/24. The Conference:**

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

---

**AGENDA ITEM 22: METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 2  
SECTION S: MEDICAL COMMITTEE (Pages 280-284)**

**SO 790(2)(f)**

Line 3, *for recommends* that *read recommends that*

**Paragraph 7, page 281**

Line 6, *for revokation read* revocation

**\*\*\*ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION**

**22/27A.** The Conference amends paragraph 2(b) of the Guidance in Book VII Part 5 of the *Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church*, Ministers Affected by Impairment: Good Practice, as follows:  
2(b) *The relevant members of the Connexional Team should make available as early as practicably possible occupational health advice* ~~Members of the medical committee should be invited to be involved in proactive and positive ways early on. These in the local situation should be able to call on this advice~~ *to the minister concerned and, as appropriate, to those in any local or other situation related to candidature, stationing, adaptation of appointments etc. Where they or their designated representatives judge it to be necessary an Occupational Health assessment as specified in Standing Order 715(2) shall be undertaken by each applicant and the Health Policy adopted for candidates under Standing Order 715(1) applied, subject to making any necessary modifications including, in particular, substituting 'person concerned' for 'candidate' and 'interviewing committee' for 'Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee' throughout.*

---

## **AGENDA ITEM 23: TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES (Pages 289-299)**

### **Section B: Membership of the Board**

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

#### **The Revd Jennifer Pathmarajah**

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

#### **The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler**

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

#### **Mr Peter Baffoe**

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

#### **Mr Christophe Borysiewicz**

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

#### **Mr Tom Rattigan**

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

### **\*\*\*ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION**

**23/3. The Conference appoints the Revd Jennifer Pathmarajah, the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Mr Peter Baffoe, Mr Christophe Borysiewicz and Mr Tom Rattigan as members of the Board of the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.**

---

## **AGENDA ITEM 25: CONNEXIONAL CENTRAL SERVICES BUDGET (Pages 303-317)**

### **Tables 3 (page 310) and 4 (page 311-312)**

For Methodist Council & Governance

Read Governance and Oversight

---

## **AGENDA ITEM 39: ECUMENICAL REPORT (Pages 458-461)**

### **ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT**

#### **Ecumenism in Scotland**

#### **National Ecumenical Body in Scotland**

For several years, work and discussion have been on-going around the future shape of the ecumenical landscape in Scotland and, within this, the place of *Action of Churches Together in Scotland* (ACTS) and the *Scottish Christian Forum* (SCF). Following the gathering of ecumenical stakeholders on 16 January 2023, the *Scottish Ecumenical Officers Forum* (EOF) was charged to undertake further work, and to report back in the autumn of 2023. At the further meeting on 28 November 2023, stakeholders agreed to proceed with work to make the SCF the National Ecumenical Body within Scotland, and tasked the EOF to prepare more detailed plans. At a

further gathering of Scottish ecumenical stakeholders on 6 February 2024, the consensus between the churches and traditions involved in the SCF was reached to proceed with the plans as outlined in the Appendix below. The process of working together across boundaries has been one of finding a consensus and common mind, yet also leaving space for the work to develop. This change was supported by both the Shetland and Scotland Districts at their spring Synods in 2024.

### **\*\*\*ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION**

**39/2. The Conference endorses the move of the national ecumenical body within Scotland from *Action of Churches Together in Scotland* to the *Scottish Christian Forum*.**

## **Appendix**

### **Scottish Christian Forum**

#### **Vision:**

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

#### **Constituent Elements:**

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

#### **National Ecumenical Body:**

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

### ***Scottish Church Leaders' Forum***

#### **Nature and Purpose:**

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

1. Church of Scotland
2. Catholic Church in Scotland
3. Scottish Episcopal Church
4. United Free Church of Scotland
5. United Reformed Church
6. Methodist Church in Scotland

7. Religious Society of Friends
8. Salvation Army
9. Congregational Federation
10. Baptist Union of Scotland
11. Free Church of Scotland
12. Redeemed Christian Church of God
13. Greek Orthodox Church
14. Ukrainian Catholic Church

The Scottish Church Leaders' Forum is a participatory body and is, in nature, a voluntary association and its purpose, as stated, provides the basis on which the Forum is established. The Forum welcomes the participation of other churches within its life on the basis of agreement with the stated Nature, Purpose & Aims, and on the basis of the consensus of the Forum. The Forum was initiated in March 2020 and the catalyst for its initiation and subsequent development was the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the need for a shared response to the challenges of the pandemic. Subsequent to this, the aims of the Forum have evolved in relation to the present context of the church in Scotland.

#### **Aims:**

The Forum seeks to:

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

#### **Cooperation:**

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

1. Ecumenical Officers' Forum
2. Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office
3. Scottish Churches Committee
4. Scottish Church Planters' Network
5. Evangelical Alliance (Scotland)
6. Churches Together in Britain & Ireland
7. Churches Together in England
8. Irish Council of Churches and the Irish Inter-Church Meeting
9. Churches Together in Wales (Cytûn)

#### **Convener:**

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

#### **Secretary:**

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

#### **Annual Review:**

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

## ***Scottish Ecumenical Officers' Forum***

### **Nature and Purpose:**

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

Further, the Scottish Ecumenical Officers' Forum serves as the Secretariat of the Scottish Church Leaders' Forum and in that capacity shall record the Minute of meetings of the Scottish Church Leaders' Forum and, where appropriate, to forward initiatives agreed by the latter Forum. The Forum offers a meeting place to the following churches and communities, and includes, where appropriate, representatives from the respective Committees of those churches and communities:

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

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

### **Aims:**

The Forum seeks to:

1. Encourage the living out of our shared response to the prayer of Jesus that we may 'all be one' (John 17:21);
2. Encourage the Church to share in the call to prayer;
3. Encourage a broad spectrum of churches to participate in its life;
4. Provide a platform for working cooperatively with other churches and ecumenical bodies within Scotland, and within Britain and Ireland.
5. Encourage the witness of the Church to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, by encouraging, enabling and supporting the formation, development and ongoing life of ecumenical partnerships at a local and national level.

### **Local Ecumenical Partnerships:**

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

### **Cooperation:**

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

1. Scottish Church Leaders' Forum

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

**Convener:**

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

**Secretary:**

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

**Annual Review:**

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

---

**AGENDA ITEM 54: REPORT TO THE REPRESENTATIVE SESSION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED BY THE CONFERENCE DIACONAL COMMITTEE (Pages 671-676)**

**Page 673, Paragraph 4.11**

*Delete* Dorice Williams

**Page 673, Paragraph 4.12 (a)**

*Add* Dorice Williams

**Page 674**

*Delete* Williams Dorice 2026

**Additional Category:**

*Add*

**Transfers to other Conferences and Denominations**

Bryanell Rop (United Methodist Church)

---

**AGENDA ITEM 57: MEMORIALS TO THE CONFERENCE (Pages 704-736)**

**Pages 712-713, reply to Memorial M4**

*After the last main paragraph*

.... responsibility for listed properties for example.

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

Therefore the Conference ~~declines~~ **accepts** the memorial **to the extent outlined in this reply.**

**Page 715**

*Amend the second paragraph of the reply to M6 to read as follows:*

The Conference accepts the memorial and affirms its prayerful solidarity with the Nassar family. The Conference welcomes the representations made to the Embassy of Israel and the British



Government by the Secretary of the Conference in April 2024. The Conference directs the Secretary to ensure that a letter of support is written to the Nassar family and that appropriate further representations are made, drawing attention in such representations to the appeal of the Sheffield Circuit and this reply, and encourages local churches, circuits and districts which are making their own representations also to draw attention to the appeal and this reply. The Conference also ...

**Page 715, reply to Memorial M6**

First paragraph, penultimate line, *for month's read months*

**Page 716**

*Amend the reply to M7 to read as follows:*

...same reply as M6, substituting references to the Burnley and Pendle Circuit for the references to the Sheffield Circuit.

**Page 717**

*At the end of the reply to M8 add:*

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

**Page 723, third paragraph**

Line three, *for a range of option read a range of options*

Line five, *for with who read with whom*

---