

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

5/2 **APPOINTMENT OF ATTESTORS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) the suspension ceases; or

(ii) the expiration of the quarter during which the initial hearing of any charge occurs; or

(iii) the expiration of the quarter during which a complaints team decides not to bring a charge

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Conference adopted Resolution 16/1,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5/7 **24. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. The Sub-committee suggests that the relevant business be brought again this year in the form in which it was brought in 2023, so that the two year period starts running again. The definition of “special resolution” in section 2 of the Methodist Church Act 1976 makes clear that confirmation must take place in the year following the year in which the resolution making the amendment was first passed, so it is not possible simply to bring the resolutions of 2023 to the Conference of 2025 for confirmation.

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

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

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

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

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

The Conference amends Standing Orders as follows:

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

With effect from 1 September 2024:

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

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

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

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

The Conference, noting that the execution of a memorandum of consent under paragraph 26 of the Model Trusts no longer serves a useful purpose in England and Wales and that in practice the preparation and execution of such

memoranda is burdensome and time-consuming, directs that no further such memoranda in respect of property in England and Wales shall be executed.

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

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

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

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

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

...

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

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

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

1. Interpretation

...

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

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

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

...

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

(dA) Conference property: the Conference Trustees;

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

The Conference, by special resolution, amends Model Trust 26 by deleting the definition of ‘memorandum of consent’ in sub-paragraph (1) and deleting sub-paragraphs (3) and (4).

- 5/8 The Conference adjourned at 11.05.
- 5/9 The Conference reassembled at 11.36.
- 5/10 The Conference engaged in Bible study, led by Jenny Sinclair of 'Together for the Common Good'.
- 5/11 **49. COMMITTEE ON METHODIST LAW AND POLITY, Section C**
- 5/11/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/4,
p 534, paragraph 11, final word, *for* 'Council' *reading* 'Conference'
- 5/11/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/5.
- 5/11/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/6,
p 541, *correcting* the text of Standing Order 132(3) to appear in bold italics throughout
- 5/12 **50. OVERSIGHT AND TRUSTEESHIP**
- 5/12/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 50/1,
p 564 paragraph 1.9, line 4, *adding* 'has been established' after 'report to them'
- 5/12/2 The Conference adopted Resolutions 50/2 and 50/3.
- 5/13 **45. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**
The Conference adopted Resolution 45/1.
- 5/14 **18. METHODIST MEMBERSHIP IN THE 21ST CENTURY: FURTHER ISSUES**
The Conference adopted Resolution 18/1,
p 112, paragraph 6.7, line 2,
for 'seen in by newer' *reading* 'seen in newer'
p 113, paragraph 6.12, line 6,
for 'there may questions' *reading* 'there may be questions'
- 5/15 **9. ALL WE CAN**
- 5/15/1 The Conference received a presentation about the work of All We Can led by the Interim CEO, Angela Zamaere Smith.
- 5/15/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 9/1.
- 5/16 The Conference adjourned at 13.02.
- 5/17 The Conference reassembled at 14.18.
- 5/18 **52. BRIEFING FOR CONFERRING ON THE JUSTICE PRIORITY: POVERTY IN THE UK**
The Conference engaged in discussion of this item, led by Rachel Lampard, Director of Social Justice and Social Action in the Connexional Team.

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

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

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

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

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

5/20 **TENT OF NATIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

p 24, *amending* SO 48A1(1) to read:

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

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

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

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

- 5/22 **49. COMMITTEE ON METHODIST LAW AND POLITY, Sections A, B, D, F, G**
- 5/22/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 49/1 and 49/2.
- 5/22/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/3,
 p 528, SO, 654(4)(ii), line 3,
 for **'to most closely'** reading **'most closely to'**
- 5/22/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/7,
 p 541, Section D, paragraph 1, line 2,
 for 'category' reading 'Conference'
 p 542, line 2 on page,
 for 'there' reading 'therefore'
- 5/22/4 The Conference, with the required majority, adopted Resolution 49/8,
 p 543, taking Clause numbers 17 and 43 out of italics
 and in Clause 17(a)(ii), for **'Synod'** reading 'Synod'
- 5/22/5 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/9,
 p 544, SO 102(1), putting the numbers (i) to (viii) in bold italics
 p 545, SO 129, for '(4)' reading '(1)'
 p 545, SO 336(4), for 'Standing Order 102(1)(vii)(g)' reading 'Standing Order
 102(1)(vii)(g)'
- 5/22/6 The Conference adopted Resolution 49/10,
 p 547, Deed of Union Clause 14(2), for '(ix)' reading '(x)'
- 5/22/7 The Conference adopted Resolutions 49/13 and 49/14,
 p 549, paragraph 4, final line for 'as a apart' reading 'as a part'
 p 550-551, amending SO 581(1) to read:
 (1) Subject to the further provisions of this Section, a Circuit may at any
 Circuit Meeting pass a resolution that this Section shall apply to that Circuit, **or
 to a Circuit to be formed by amalgamation under Section 501 of which it will
 become a part**, with effect from [then continuing as on Agenda p 551]
 p 552, amending SO 581(7) to read:
 (7)(a)**The district Policy Committee shall report to the Synod and to the
 Conference Office the passing of any resolution under clause (1) above which
 relates to an existing Circuit and the date on which, subject to the provisions
 of clause (6) above, the modified constitution is to take effect.**
 (b) ~~If a draft modified constitution provides as set out in clause (3) above, the
 Circuits which have passed the relevant adoption shall form one new Circuit
 from the date on which the adoption resolution takes effect~~ **relates to a Circuit**

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

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

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

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

1. [as on Agenda p 557]

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

3. [as on Agenda p 558]

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

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

5/23 **55. CIRCUIT AMALGAMATIONS**

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

5/24 The Conference adjourned at 16.12.

- 5/25 The Conference reassembled at 16.45.
- 5/26 **DAILY RECORD**
- 5/26/1 The Daily Record of the Presbyteral Session on Thursday 27 June and Friday 28 June was presented, taken as read, and adopted.
- 5/26/2 The Written Portion of the Daily Record of the Presbyteral Session was presented in headings only and adopted.
- 5/26/3 The Daily Record for Saturday 29 June and Sunday 30 June was presented, taken as read, and adopted.
- 5/27 **20. GOD FOR ALL: THE CONNEXIONAL STRATEGY FOR EVANGELISM AND GROWTH – STRATEGIC UPDATE AND RENEWAL (2025-2032)**
- 5/27/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 20/1 and 20/2.
- 5/27/2 **Memorials M3, M21, M22**
The Conference received Memorials M3, M21 and M22 and adopted as its replies those recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorials and the replies appearing on Agenda pp 709-711 and pp 733-736.
- 5/28 **17. SINGLENESS**
The Conference adopted Resolutions 17/1 and 17/2.
- 5/29 The Conference shared in worship, and adjourned at 18.16.
- 5/30 **LETTERS**
- 5/30/1 Letters of thanks were sent in the name of the Conference to those involved in organising and running the ordination services: Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, preachers, World Church Representatives, local venue organisers and Connexional Team representatives.
- 5/30/2 A letter of thanks was sent in the name of the Conference to The Revd Dr Albert Mosley for over thirty years' work compiling and maintaining the Methodist Missionary Register.
- 5/30/3 Letters of thanks were sent in the name of the Conference to Barbara M Easton, Donna Clark and Catherine Freze who produced the schools video shown at the Opening of the Conference on Saturday, and to Angela Zamaere Smith for the presentation by All We Can.
- 5/30/4 Letters were sent in the name of the Conference to Joanne Anderton, the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice, and to The Revd Catherine Dixon, Convener of the Memorials Committee, expressing the Conference's regret that they are unable to be present due to ill health.