

## 45. Report to the Conference of the Nominations Committee

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- 1.1 The 2023 Conference agreed to the creation of a Nominations Committee of up to seven persons which the Secretary of the Conference was directed to convene. The committee reports with regret that it has operated with fewer than the maximum of seven members for most of 2023-24.
- 1.2 The committee now comprises a Chair, three members and the Secretary of the Conference. The Committee brings the nomination of an additional member to the committee below as follows: Ms Cathryn Martin.
- 1.3 The committee has sought to exercise its responsibilities in partnership with the bodies to which appointments need to be made. It does not, therefore, produce the paperwork for each appointment, but scrutinises both the paperwork and the methods of advertising, interview and selection. One of its members will usually chair the shortlisting and interview panels.
- 1.4 The committee was directed by the 2023 Conference to bring nominations for the Connexional Council and to exercise the other intended functions included in the draft Standing Orders it adopted.
- 1.5 The committee has been clear that a major reason for its creation was the will of the Conference that its committees should reflect the diversity of the Church and enable the participation of people of different backgrounds in decision-making processes. To this end, it has asked some who offered and are eminently appointable to serve only for a year to enable a more diverse council to evolve. The Nominations Committee is exploring how younger people and those from other under-represented groups might be invited to witness or to shadow the work of council members to develop their experience of the Church's decision-making processes.
- 1.6 The committee has made nominations for the Chairs of the Connexional Council and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, along with members of the Connexional Council and the Resourcing Committee.
- 1.7 The committee brings the following nomination for the Chairs of the Connexional Council and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (reasoned statements below), noting the other appointments are made in the Committee Appointments Report:  
Chair of the Connexional Council: The Revd Sonia M Hicks  
Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee: Mr Keith Hickey

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- 1.8** The committee brings the nominations for membership of the Connexional Council under 1(a)(vii) of the Standing Order as adopted by the 2023 Conference (see resolution 45/4 below).
- 1.9** The committee brings the nominations for membership of the Resourcing Committee under the Standing Order as adopted by the 2023 Conference which are included in the Committee Appointments Report (Agenda Item 46).
- 1.10** The advice of the committee has also been sought in relation to a number of other appointments, including Chair of Trustees of Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, and the Conference-nominated trustee of Methodist Homes (MHA).

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

**45/1. The Conference receives the Report.**

**45/2. The Conference adopts the appointment in paragraph 1.2.**

**45/3. The Conference adopts the appointments in paragraphs 1.7 of the Report.**

**45/4. The Conference appoints the Connexional Council for 2024-25:**

- (i) the President and Vice-President of the Conference as required by clause 37A
- (ii) the Secretary of the Conference as similarly required
- (iii) the chair of the council: The Revd Sonia M Hicks
- (iv) the chair or a deputy chair of the Mission Committee: The Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling
- (v) the chair or a deputy chair of the Ministries Committee: The Revd Gillian M Newton
- (vi) the chair or a deputy chair of the Resourcing Committee: Alethea Siow
- (vii) the chair or a deputy chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee: Keith Hickey
- (viii) up to fourteen other persons: The Revd Richard Byass, the Revd David Goodall, the Revd Beverly Hollings, the Revd Dr Michael J A Long, Anna Malnutt, Professor David Matthews, the Revd Nicholas A Oborski, the Revd Sarah Parkin, Paul Spray, the Revd Timothy A Swindell, Dawn Wood

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### Reasoned statements

- Keith Hickey a member of Orpington Methodist Church in the London District. He is an accountant who worked for many years at British Gas. He has considerable experience of charity finance and charity governance including experience as the Finance Director of two major charities and Chief Executive of the Charity Finance Group. He was also a member of numerous influential committees in the charity sector. For ten years he was an independent member of the Audit Committee at The Media Trust and is currently a Trustee and the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for MHA.
- Sonia Hicks the President of the Conference for 2021/22 and she has served as the Chair of the Methodist Council since 2022. Sonia is currently the Superintendent of the Wembley Circuit and she has previously served in various roles in British Methodism, in the Irish Connexion and in the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas. She is Chair-designate of the Northampton District. Sonia has experience of presiding over the Conference, chairing meetings and bringing a written and verbal report to a meeting. Sonia recognises the importance of the work of the new Connexional Council and its responsibilities.
- Richard Byass a presbyter currently serving as a Superintendent in the Nottingham North East Circuit, with experience in a variety of circuit, district and connexional roles as well as trustee experience outside of the Methodist Church.
- David Goodall a presbyter currently serving as the District Enabler in the Yorkshire West District with responsibility for Leeds City Centre. He brings a working knowledge of New People for New Places work and has represented the SRC on the Methodist Council.
- Beverly Hollings a presbyter with twenty-five years circuit experience including nine as a Deputy District Chair. She is seen as a person able to connect vision, aims and strategy whilst absorbing and critiquing a wide range of subjects.
- Mike Long Superintendent Minister of the Forest Circuit. He brings significant trusteeship experience from organisations within and beyond the Methodist Church, eg Action for Children, QVSR and Kensington and Chelsea Citizens Advice. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of Methodist Church structures and of the wider charitable sector.

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Anna Malnutt	a committed layperson, Community Development Coordinator at Thrum Hall Methodist Church. She brings experience of a range of Methodist structures, Circuit Meetings, the District Policy Committee and the Conference Business Committee. This in addition to having served on the Executive Committee of the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE). She is a trustee of WORTH (Women on the Road to Healing).
David Matthews	a committed layperson with recent experience on the SRC as well as the Methodist Council. He brings extensive trustee involvement including chairing the Trustees of Oxford Hospitals Charity and Diabetes UK.
Nick Oborski	a presbyter currently Circuit Superintendent in the Hants Surrey Border Circuit and Synod Secretary in the South East District. He has served in a variety of circuit, district and connexional roles including the SRC and the Safeguarding Committee. He also has extensive experience of change management which is necessary on the Council.
Sarah Parkin	a presbyter serving in the Bramhall and Wythenshaw Circuit. Previously Public Policy Manager for a national charity (Groundwork UK) for 5 years, using skills in organisational development, and worked in both the public and charitable sectors. She has studied financial management, risk analysis and management, HR, governance, strategic development and analysis.
Paul Spray	dedicated layperson who has worked with Traidcraft, Christian Aid and CAFOD. He has a wealth of experience in change management. Presently Synod Secretary in the Northampton District, serves as the Chair of the World Mission Fund Grants Committee and is a member of the Memorials Committee.
Tim Swindell	a presbyter about to 'sit down'. He has been the Connexional Treasurer and is presently a council member on the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church. He has a wide knowledge of finance both in the Methodist Church and in wider society.
Dawn Wood	keen layperson presently employed as Director of Development for Minstead Trust. She brings the ability to foster a strong strategic framework of Vision, Mission and Value to the work of the Connexional Council, taking into account the potential risk impact of what it seeks to do.