

Connexional Team Work 2009-10**Basic Information**

Contact Name and Details	John Ellis, Secretary for Connexional Team Operations, ellisj@methodistchurch.org.uk 020 7467 5297
Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	To Note
Draft Resolution	None
Alternative Options to Consider, if Any	None

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	As part of the Connexional Team's accountability to the Council, to provide a summary of work done in 2009-10 against the targets agreed.
Main Points	Appendix 1 summarises work done relative to the agreed priorities presented to the Council a year ago. Appendix 2 sets out the states of play on decisions from the 2009 and previous Conferences.
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	Report on Team priorities to September 2009 Council (MC/09/78) Minutes of Conference 2007-09
Consultations	

Connexional Team Work 2009-10

1. At the start of the Connexional year 2009-10, in the light of the decisions of the 2009 Conference, the Team presented to the Council a paper on its proposed priorities for the year's work. This was accepted by the Council. Appendix 1 sets out again the summary of those priorities in the left hand column of the table and in the right hand column gives a brief report on what has been done in response.

2. It was highlighted for the Council a year ago that there was also a significant number of Conference decisions, some dating back several years, where action had not necessarily been complete. Therefore Appendix 2 provides an up to date summary of action against Conference decisions from 2009 and previous years. This covers Resolutions of the Conference brought with reports, Notices of Motion ('NM') and Memorials ('M'). A brief summary of the relevant decision is provided with further details being available in the records of the relevant Conference. These decisions relate to the 2009 Conference except where a date for an earlier year is provided after the reference number of the Resolution. In this table, the staff clusters are referred to by the following abbreviations.

SL Strategic Leaders	Projects Projects Research and Development	CCEA Christian Communications Evangelism and Advocacy	D&M Discipleship and Ministries	SSC Support Services Cluster	GSC Governance Support Cluster
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APPENDIX 1

Action on Work Priorities 2009-10

Discipleship <i>Major pieces in support of the central theme of Discipleship will include:</i>	
i. Venture FX project (formerly known as Pioneering Ministries)	Six pioneer/project matches have been made (Cambridge, Cornwall, Dartford, Sheffield, Stoke on Trent and Inverness).
ii. Inspire Network project	Full staff complement in place and project continues to gain momentum
iii. Belonging Together project.	The work plan for delivering BT partnership is being defined as officers are now in place.
iv. Develop fresh faith-sharing resource	Document in progress – part written; will be completed during 2011
v. Develop new catechetical resource	Ongoing development
vi. Develop initiatives for Bible Fresh year of 2011	Agreed and in progress incl Big Read, Biblefresh Festivals etc
vii. Promote Back to Church Sunday	On going year on year
viii. Develop further circuit Evangelism enabler network	In place and ongoing development
ix. Review District Evangelism Enabler scheme	Awaited new staff member appointed September 2010.
x. Review Mission Partner and personnel programmes	Review undertaken and considered by Feb 2010 Council and informed by APC and related actions.
xi. Run annual Cell Conference for Methodists	Done and will be run again this Connexional Year
xii. Develop Local Preacher and Worship Leader initial and continuing training	Ongoing through 2011/12 with initial report having been presented to Conference 2010
xiii. The new hymn collection selection	Progressing publication
xiv. Launch of new arrangements for Epworth Press	Ongoing – Interim Reference Group established for a further year; production paused.
xv. Complete work on nature of membership	Ongoing.
xvi. Explain and start the fundraising strategy	Agreed by Council and commenced
xvii. Run consultation process and carbon footprint work arising from Hope in God's	In progress

Future	
xviii. Support District engagement with regional media	Ongoing through training and support etc
xix. Support Business Ethics network	Watching brief held in Joint Public Issues Team
xx. Provide resources for the 2010 General Election	Completed
xxi. Research about implementing Living Wage	Completed and agreement by Council and Conference.
Equipping those who equip others <i>In fulfilling its brief to focus on what it can uniquely or best do, the Team will often put its energies more into equipping those in authorised ministries to be as effective as possible in their relationships with the members, friends and contacts of local churches than into direct contacts with the grass roots. Major initiatives in this area in 2009-10 will include:</i>	
i. Develop the New Superintendency training programme	Continuing work aligned with Fruitful Field.
ii. Devise framework for ministerial reflection and learning development	Work now aligned with Fruitful Field after initial phase of research.
iii. Plan induction resources for intercultural ministry	New programme underway through Queen's Foundation with evaluation planned following
iv. Explore forms of support for chaplains	Initial research project complete. Pilot development Project begins in January 2011.
v. Organise June 2010 Consultation for all Partner Churches	Completed
III Infrastructure of Connexion <i>While much of the work of the Team, especially in the largest cluster – Support Services – supports the structures the Connexion chooses to operate, several areas will receive special attention in 2009-10:</i>	
i. Review funding for ministerial training	Underway through Fruitful Field
ii. Implement the restructuring of the Finance Office	New structure in place with the vast majority of posts filled and a new Director of Financial Operations appointed
iii. Complete roll-out of Property Consents process	All districts went live on 1 January 2010 as mandated by the Conference
iv. Review the Resourcing Mission Office in Manchester	Review completed, but the Conference has instructed the Council to review its own decision during the coming year
v. Develop evaluation tools for the Team 's work	Formal projects all now subject to evaluation reviews and policy agreed for other Team processes

vi. Consolidate the new in-house Methodist Publishing	MP embedded in Connexional Team
vii. Develop strategy for Methodist Heritage work	Draft strategy emerging via Heritage Committee
viii. Develop Equality and Diversity strategy for Connexion	New architecture approved
ix. Develop proposals for personnel files for Ministers	Principles agreed by the Conference and pilot scheme to commence with the Methodist Diaconal Order in January 2011
x. Develop Safeguarding resources	Policies on Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding of Adults approved by the 2010 Conference
xi. Develop the Youth Assembly	Initial successes indicate this is moving in the right direction
xii. Explore a possible Children's Assembly	Now being explored with ecumenical co-operation

APPENDIX 2

Work from 2009 & previous Conferences

Cluster	Resolution/N M/ Memorial	Text	Allocate to (if accepted)	Status as at September 2010
GS	M16 Legislative Burden on Voluntary Organisations	Methodist representatives on CLAS to ensure concerns are noted and discussed	CLAS reps	Various representations made via CLAS and directly to the Charity Commission.
SSC	R37/6(b) (2008)	Connexional Team to propose to Council for approval a list of Districts in which a pilot project for regulation of property schemes will operate during 08/09,	pilot has been in operation and Conference 09 approved the new Part 9	Completed.
CCEA	34/3	Directs the Council to appoint the members of the Methodist Heritage Committee	CCEA	Done.
CCEA	NM 229	Conference exhibitions	CCEA	Done. February 2010 Council adopted Exhibitions Policy
CCEA	43/2	directs the Council to allocate an additional post within the WCR sub-cluster	CCEA - in hand	Done. Post appointed to in January 2010.
CCEA	M21-22 City of Sanctuary	directs the Council to ensure that information is made available to churches, circuits and districts	CCEA/JPIT	Done via ongoing work and referencing.
CCEA	NM 226	set up working group facilitated by JPIT to bring to Conference 2010 a statement on position re Israel/Palestine	JPIT is convening this	Done.
CCEA	R19/3 (2008)	Council to appoint a group to do further work on issues surrounding abortion, including drafting a revision of the Methodist Statement on Abortion	JPIT - working group is convened, terms set to update existing Statement rather than root and branch exercise	Done and reported to conference 2010

CCEA	NM 203	Council be directed to explore changes needed to give fuller effect to principle that being member of organisation which promotes racism is incompatible with being member of Methodist Church; Team makes available resources to enable engagement with issues; that JPIT engage with government	JPIT taking the lead and has convened a group with relevant stakeholders	Done and reported to conference 2010
CCEA	NM 230	WCR staff to make contact with Foreign Office re situation in Fiji	World Church Relationships	Done.
CCEA	NM 208	Designation of 2011 as year of the Bible	CCEA	Done. Work now on going to coordinate a programme of activity.
CCEA	R54/2 (2008)	Council to receive and approve the guidelines to be produced by the Fresh Ways Working Group	Fresh Ways Working Group - guidelines planned for Conference 2010 but deferred to 2011	Work ongoing. Open dialogue required cross-cluster to coordinate these discussions
CCEA/ A&H	34/5	Directs the Heritage Committee in liaison with the Archives and History Committee to bring appropriate SO changes	CCEA/Archives and History	Done.
CCEA/ A&H	R34/2 (2008)	Create Methodist Heritage Committee	shadow committee established and reported to 2009 Conference. Council to appoint Committee for 09/10	Done
CCEA/ F&O	34/4	Directs the Heritage Committee in liaison with the Faith and Order Committee to continue work on developing the theology of Methodist Heritage and Mission	CCEA/Faith and Order committee	Done.
CCEA/ SS	34/6	Directs the Heritage Committee to devise criteria to recommend to the Connexional Grants Committee to approve funds in the Heritage Grant Stream from September 09 and to report to the Methodist Council	CCEA/Support Services	Done. Council April 2010. Further development as necessary with Heritage Stream etc.

Conn Grants Comm	NM124 (2008): Grant-making framework		referred to Connexional Grants Committee	Build into Belonging Together
D&M	M2 Support for Local Preachers	Referred to Council for initial report to 2010 Conference	Discipleship and Ministries	Initial report presented 2010. More to follow 2011 to address all issues
D&M	M3 Local Preachers' Sunday	Referred to Council for initial report to 2010 Conference	Discipleship and Ministries	
D&M	M4 Faith & Worship Course	Referred to Council for initial report to 2010 Conference	Discipleship and Ministries	
D&M	M5 and M6 Contemporary Worship and Faith & Worship Course	Referred to Council for initial report to 2010 Conference	Discipleship and Ministries	
D&M	M7 and M8 Timing of Sabbaticals	Referred to Council for initial report to 2010 Conference	Discipleship and Ministries	Not done
D&M	13/5	Directs the Methodist Council to produce proposals that will open programmes for EDEV to young people and equip them for ordained and lay ministry	Discipleship and Ministries	Done
D&M	M34 Training and support for LPs	Referred to Council for initial report to 2010 Conference	Discipleship and Ministries	Done
D&M	42/5	Council to oversee ongoing work to develop a connexional ministerial review process for implementation from Sept 2011	Discipleship and Ministries	All in place
D&M	46/2	Establishment of a Youth Assembly	Discipleship and Ministries	Done
D&M	NM 213	Connexional Team to report to Conference of 2010 on initiatives being undertaken to support and develop preaching across connexion	Discipleship and Ministries	Initial Report 2010
D&M	M15 Confidentiality and Prayer	Directs the Council to ensure that appropriate material be included in the initial and further training of all who lead worship	Discipleship and Ministries	
D&M	NM 209	Conference documentation be sent to ordinands	Discipleship and Ministries	Done

D&M	M29 (2007)	Payment of utility bills for ministers who live in their own homes - criteria and processes for permission for ministers to live in own property to be reviewed. Referred to Council for report no later than 2010 Conference	Discipleship and Ministries - on 'Priorities' list	CAC sent to Ministries Committee. Ongoing
D&M	M7-14 (2008): Candidates for the Ministry	Referred to Council and TSRE for further consideration and report to 2009 Conference	Discipleship and Ministries and Discernment and Selection	Now Ministries Committee
D&M/ SSC	33/2 (NM107)	Directs that the Training Assessment Fund be re-designated, releasing the remaining funds for the purposes of training and education for the whole church.	Discipleship and Ministries/Support Services	Dealt with - balance of funds to be looked at.
D&S/ D&M/ GS	NM 222	Single system of transfer to British Methodist Church		Work ongoing
F&O	NM 224	Faith and Order Committee in consultation with others to explore possibility of suitable order of service for joint diaconal and presbyteral ordination service	Faith and Order Committee	Work Undertaken
F&O	13/4	Referred to Faith and Order Committee: Standing Orders to allow members of the Methodist Church to hold membership in more than one local church for the purpose of satisfying membership requirements related to the holding of office	Faith and Order Committee	Much of this permissible . No changes required.
F&O	M18-20 Authorisation to preside at Communion	Referred to Faith and Order Committee for report to Conference of 2010	Faith and Order Committee	Ongoing consultation
F&O	NM 216	Faith and Order working party on membership to take into account pastoral issues of those who request adult baptism (who have been previously baptised)	Faith and Order Committee	Ongoing

F&O	M55 (2007)	Nature of membership - referred to Faith and Order Committee. Interim reply in 2008; full reply to come to 2009 Conference	Faith and Order - working party is in progress Interim 2009	Completed
F&O/JIC		Faith and Order Committee and JIC to consider the issues raised	Faith and Order Committee/JIC	Ongoing with JIC
GS		Further work on new safeguarding policy and guidance resource by April Council	Governance Support	Completed
GS	25/2	Guidance for referrals to ISA for October 2009	Governance Support	Awaiting further news on implementation of ISA scheme
GS		Complete safer recruitment policy for churches by February Council	Governance Support	Completed
GS	25/2 (NM103)	Development of policy and guidelines on working with vulnerable adults	Governance Support	Completed
GS	Presidential Inquiries	Directs Council to appoint small group to consider issues	Governance Support	Report to be brought 2011
GS	52/21	Delegates to the Council the appointment of the Connexional Reconciliation Group	Governance Support	Council made appointments in October 2009
GS	NM 204	Reflecting equality and diversity issues in electing people to offices	Governance Support	E&D officer
GS	NM 217	Summary sheets to be included with all Conference reports	Governance Support	Undertaken
GS	R53/3 (2007)	Council to implement grievance procedures in all districts on trial basis. Report to Conference 09 outlining lessons learned from the trial and bring proposals for permanent system	GS Pilots running	Insufficient experience so far to review; review 10-11
SSC	M47 (2007)	Equal Opportunities policy - follows on from E&D report to 08 Conference	SSC	Update report to 2010 Conference
GS	M38 (2005)	Guidelines for Local Ecumenical Partnerships	GS - in 'Priorities' list for 08/09 Now available ecumenically - report to Conf 2010	Completed

GS	R29/2 (2008)	Council to produce a consultation questionnaire to accompany the report, to receive comments from Circuits, Districts and other interested parties and to report the outcomes and any resulting recommendations to Conference 09	Governance Support	Insufficient material for report.
GS	M5 (2008): Circuit Responsibility for local church property	Referred to Council for consideration and report no later than 2010	Interim report 2009 Agenda item 59	No report made, but work with specific cases continues on a weekly basis.
GS	M24 (2008): Eligibility to vote on stipends	Referred to Council for consideration and report to the 2009 Conference	Interim report 2009 Agenda item 59	Report may be required for 2011
GS	M25 (2008): Consultation with Circuits and Districts	Referred to Council as the connexion continues to discern appropriate ways of engaging in Christian conferring	Interim report 2009 Agenda item 59	Some implementation of this has taken place
GS	30/1	Directs the Council to report to 2010 Conference	Working party	Report made 2010. Consultation ongoing
GS	paragraph 14	Connexional Team will initiate a consultation	Ecumenical Officer	Report made 2010. Consultation ongoing
GS/ CCEA	NM 202	Availability of CPD, Minutes etc for free download from website	Governance Support/CCEA	CPD on website.
GS	paragraph 8	Council undertake a detailed consideration of the report at its meeting in September 09	Ecumenical Officer	Consideration undertaken and comments passed to JIC
GS	paragraph 14	Connexional Team will initiate a consultation	Ecumenical Officer	underway
	13/3	Methodist Council to establish a working group to develop materials which will assist local churches and circuits to discuss and make clear the 1993 sexuality resolutions	Children & Youth	To be dealt with at Youth Assembly
L&P	52/16	Directs the Law and Policy committee having consulted Faith and Order Committee and Warden of MDO, to report to Conference 2010 upon whether clause 4 of the Deed of Union might be amended re terminology and	Law and Polity Committee	Report made in 2010. Differed special resolution now sent to the Local Churches and Synods. Final report back to the Conference in 2012

		diaconal ministry		
L&P	R52/3 (2008)	L&P to report to 2009 Conference on the revision of eg CPD, proofing of future Conference reports and resolutions, re-labelling of Ministerial Session of Conference	Law and Polity committee to consult Faith and Order Committee and Warden of MDO	Ongoing - see above
L&P	M27 (2008): Size of Circuit Meetings	Referred to L&P and Council for consideration and report to 2009 Conference	Council to decide on policy Interim report 2009 Agenda item 59	No further work undertaken, although Law and Polity have given some consideration on this matter.
MRG/ F&O/ CCEA	35/4	MRG in consultation with the Methodist Council and Faith and Order Committee to continue its work to prepare a new rolling resource of commended material and directs the group to bring proposals to the Council for an appropriate timetable	MRG/Council/Faith and Order Committee and CCEA (Methodist Publishing)	Done. MRG now focused on delivery June 2011.
MRG/ F&O/ CCEA	35/2	MRG in consultation with the Methodist Council and Faith and Order Committee to continue its work to prepare a new authorised collection of hymns and to present full list of contents to 2010 Conference	MRG/Council/Faith and Order Committee and CCEA (Methodist Publishing)	Done. MRG now focused on delivery June 2011.
Projects	10/1 e)	Directs the Council to establish a project to consult widely with circuits and districts	Cross team project	Within Carbon Reduction project
Projects	10/1 d)	Directs the Council to investigate innovative approaches to the application of Methodist grant funds and reserves including the possibility of making available long-term affordable loans to enable circuits to meet the capital costs of improvements to buildings from the financial savings achieved in later years, thereby better enabling circuits to take advantage of available statutory grant-funding.	Cross team project Identifying what is available is part of the Carbon Reduction Project	Under the remit of the new climate change Project Officer

Projects /CCEA	10/1 f)	Welcomes measures planned or underway to assess and reduce the carbon footprint of the Team and requests that the Council remain apprised of progress	Cross team project - at present an ad hoc group - needs clarifying who is in charge	Feb 10 - Interim report on the HIGF draft Statement consultation
SL	DR 8/19	Secretary for Internal Relationships and Head of CCEA, in liaison with the Chair of MRG to reconfigure MRG and to bring additional names to next meeting of the Council	MHW/JM	Completed
SL	45/2	Directs the Council to ensure that the Vision Statement is made available to Circuits and Local Churches	Secretary for External Relationships	Underway
SL	paragraph 3.5	Future scenario to be recommended to September Council who will be asked to approve amendments to Sos to be brought to the 2010 Conference	MHW	
SL	NM M2	Theme of 2010 Celebration to be holiness	Secretary for External Relationships	Completed
SL	NM 207	delegation led by President and Secretary of Conference to seek audience with Home Secretary re Border Agency and visa difficulties	Secretary for External Relationships	Completed
SL	NM 223	Send letter of encouragement to organisers of ECG	Secretary of Conference	Completed
SSC	M27 Circuit Advance Funds	Referred to Council for further investigation and report to the Conference of 2010	Support Services	Abolition of CAF's in new CPD Part 9 removes this problem
SSC	M31 Sale of Methodist property to other denominations	Referred to Council to review policy and report to Conference in 2010	Support Services	Interim report accepted by the Council April 2010. Now with Law & Polity to complete
SSC	44/3	Directs the Council to prepare a guidance note on the safe use of internet banking	Support Services	Completed
SSC	M28-29 Candidating	Referred to Council for consideration	Support Services	Completed

SSC	R18/2 recommendati on 13.8 (2008)	Council be directed to arrange for a short guidance document of best practice in retaining records to be drawn up for churches and Circuits and made available by Conference 09	Development and Personnel - in the 'Priorities' list for 08/09	Part done
SSC		Ongoing work following report of review	Support Services	Completed
SSC	R18/2 recommendati on 13.7 (2008)	Council be directed to explore the development of the use of personnel files for ministers	Council has approved that a consultation take place with report to 2010 Conference	Completed
SSC/ D&M	M48 Criteria for Candidating	Referred to Council for consideration alongside work on preparing handbook for candidates	Support Services/ Discipleship and Ministries	Part done - link to Fruitful Field
SSC/ L&O	M13 Calculation of Circuit Assessments	Directs the Council to remind Churches, Circuits and Districts of requirement to collect assessments in way that doesn't use membership as sole criterion and directs Law and Polity Committee to produce a SO	Support Services/Law and Polity Committee	Propose working party of treasurers investigates. Needs to link into work on budgeting
Stat	Advertising of appointments	Referred to the Stationing Committee	Stationing Committee	Completed