

Connexional Team Work Priorities 2010-11**Basic Information**

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Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	To note
Draft Resolution	The Council welcomes the 2010-11 workplan of the Connexional Team.
Alternative Options to Consider, if Any	None

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	In the light of 2010 Conference decisions, this paper summarises the Connexional Team's proposed work priorities for the coming year.
Main Points	• The 85 tasks set by the 2010 Conference are listed • Proposals are made concerning the dates for future reports on this work and the relative priorities for the Connexional Team • A reminder of the major themes of ongoing Team work is provided
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	The Methodist Council is required to agree a work plan for the Connexional Team each year in the light of Conference decisions.
Consultations	Strategy and Resources Committee

Connexional Team Work Priorities 2010-11

1. The list in Appendix 1 sets out the decisions of the 2010 Conference, most of which require action to implement them. Suggested dates for reports to governance bodies are shown in the table although most of these are proposals which were not explicit in the Conference's own decisions. The table refers to which area of the Team is proposed to take the lead in doing the necessary work and the five staff Clusters are shown by their initials as follows:

PR&D	Projects, Research & Development
CCEA	Christian Communication, Evangelism & Advocacy
D&M	Discipleship & Ministries
GS	Governance Support
SS	Support Services

2. The Council may wish to focus on the final column showing a proposed priority rating; this reflects the pattern used in 2008-9. It is important to stress that this is not an assessment of the importance of the subject to the Church or the Kingdom and still less an assessment of the wisdom of the Conference. It attempts to address the issue of what priority is the Connexional Team's contribution to implementing the decision (which in some cases may be a very small part of the whole) and what priorities does that part have for work in the Connexional Year 2010-11. With this in mind, the key is as follows:

A	Work definitely to be done in 2010-11 for which the Team would expect to be held accountable.
B	Work which it is hoped may be done in 2010-11 but which will have to take its place alongside other work and the Team is explicitly not providing a guarantee it can be covered this year.
C	Work which at present we do not envisage having the capacity to do this year.

3. The volume of work involved in implementing the different decisions varies enormously but on a purely arithmetical basis around two thirds of the present tasks are given an A rating, with around 15% a B rating and the remaining 15% a C rating.
4. As background, Appendix 2 provides a reminder of some of the regular ongoing tasks of the Connexional Team. Most staff for most of their time are absorbed in this work, to which the specific requests of the Conference are added.

Resolution

The Council welcomes the 2010-11 workplan of the Connexional Team.

Appendix 1

Resolution/Memorial/Notice of Motion of the Conference	Date for report or action	Work to be undertaken by	Scheduled for SRC/Council.	Deadline for report to Conference	Other Notes	Proposed Priority rating A, B, C
4/3 Connexional Central Service Budget	2010-2011 Connexional year	SS (Finance)				A
5/1 Connexional Allowances Committee Review of the formula used for calculating stipend increases.		Connexional Allowances Committee / SS	MC Jan 2011	2011		A
8/12 Review responsibilities of Warden of MDO in consultation with the Convocation		Methodist Council D&M/MDO	MC April 11	2011		A
8/13 Review the provision currently made for the incidental expenses of the President and Vice-President		SS/GS	MC April 11	2011		A
10/1 Abortion to keep developments under review.		CCEA/JPIT				A
Carbon Reduction 12/2 Districts and circuits appoint a person who can take responsibility for raising awareness in these matters.		PR&D				A
12/4 Circuits should endeavour to use model trust money to put in place high standards of energy efficiency		PR&D				A
12/5 Circuits should endeavour to provide smart meter devices in manses		PR&D				A
12/6 Circuits encouraged to use government sponsored smart driver training for Presbyters, Deacons and lay employees where appropriate, and ask critical questions about travel within the circuit.		PR&D				A
Now is the Time 13/3 Connexional Team to make appropriate representations to the UK government and European Parliament.		CCEA/SER		2011 Team report to Conference		A

Israel/Palestine 14/5 Faith and Order Committee to undertake work on theological issues and bring a report to the Conference.		Faith and Order Committee			2012		
14/6 Team to resource Churches, Circuits and Districts.		CCEA (JPIT)				A	
14/7 Team to make appropriate representations to the UK Government and the European Commission		CCEA (JPIT)				A	
14/8 Districts, Circuits and Churches encouraged to act in various ways.		CCEA (JPIT)				A	
14/10 Methodist Council and the Connexional Team, to consider and develop further ways in which the Methodist Church can work for an end to the Occupation.		Cross-Cluster	2012	In Council Team Report in 2012?	PRD - Inter Faith Officer to give input	C	
Racism is a denial of the Gospel. 15/2 Faith and Order Committee to consider implications of implementing changes to SO 050.		Faith and Order Committee		2012			
15/3 Council to ensure that the Equalities and Diversity policy of the Church be developed.		Methodist Council SS	MC Jan 11 or April 11?	2011?	Cross refer to 17/5		
15/4 The Conference encourages Districts, Circuits and Churches to incorporate a commitment to equality in all future job descriptions and adopt a Code of Conduct for employees; Team to bring a draft Methodist Council Code of Conduct to the Methodist Council for adoption early in the Connexional year 2010-11.		Methodist Council SS	MC April 12	2012		B	
Youth Participation 16/3 Council to ensure that Team explore new ways to continue the core elements of Breakout.		D&M	Youth Assembly 2011?	2012			
Youth Assembly 17/2 Methodist Council to investigate a wide range of vocational opportunities for young people.		Methodist Council D&M	Youth Assembly 2011?	2012			

17/5 Methodist Council to develop more contemporary forms of training for preachers		Methodist Council D&M			Council report 2012	Cross refer to 15/3	
Missing Generation research 18/1 The Conference received the Report	2010-2011	PR&D	MC April 11	Conference 2011		A	
Fresh Ways Working Group 19/2 The Conference encourages Districts, Circuits and Churches to engage with the resource 'Visions of Fresh Expressions of Methodism'.	Need to inform and encourage	CCEA	MC April 11	Conference 2011		A	
Urban Mission Review 20/1 The Conference received the report.		Further work may be taken forward via new urban mission ecumenical consortium				C	
Social Media Policy 21/1 Part 1 Connexional Social Media Policy to be made available to whole Connexion as guidelines for good practice.						A	
Biblefresh 27/1 The Conference receives the report.		CCEA/ESD				Related NOM 109 as amended (p73 OP)	B
Faith and Order 28/3 Further consultation on Eucharist Presidency.		Faith and Order		2011			
28/5 Council to ensure that work on Membership is taken up further by the relevant members of the Connexional Team.		CCEA/D&M	Council April 2011	2011	Report to Council	A	
Singing the Faith 29/5 Connexional Team to arrange for the collection to be published	By Conference 2011	CCEA/MRG	Council April 2011	2011		A	
29/6 Connexional Team to publish phase 1 of the Rolling Resource concurrently with the publication of the new collection.	By Conference 2011	CCEA/MRG	Council April 2011	2011		A	
Methodist Heritage R31		CCEA/MHC	SRC Feb 2011 Council April 2011	2011		A	

Towards an Inclusive Church R32		SS		Jan 2011 Belonging Together progress report to the April Council	Conference 2011		A
Methodist Women in Britain 33/3 Council to approve the Foundation document when completed.		Some assistance from GS		MC	2011 or 2012		
Personnel Files for Ministers 34/2 Establishing personnel files for all presbyters should begin in September 2010	2010-2011 connexional year	SS					A
34/3 Personnel files for Ministers should be piloted with the Methodist Diaconal Order	2010-2011 Connexional year	SS		MC Jan 12	Conference 2012		A
34/4 All Ministers to have access to their own personnel files within the provisions of the Data Protection Act.		SS					A
Recruiting Safely 35/1 (d) Council to approve revisions to Handbook.		SS		Council Oct 11 (d)	Council report to 2011 Conference		A
35/2 Local Churches, Circuits, Districts and connexional bodies to comply with any legal requirements and with the policy and procedures set out in the report		SS					A
35/3 Law and Polity Committee to bring to the Conference of 2011 any amendments to Standing Orders or the Guidance		Law & Polity GS			Conference 2011		A
Safeguarding Adults 36/1 The Methodist Conference adopts the policy document entitled "Safeguarding Adults" and directs that it be published and implemented throughout the Church.		SS					A

36/2 proposals for dealing with the issue of safeguarding vulnerable adults in processes of learning and development are formulated and to include the implications of this policy in a review of the policy and procedures entitled "The Church and Sex Offenders"	SS		MC Oct 2010 or Feb 2011	2011		A
36/3 The Conference directs the Law and Polity Committee to consider whether any changes to Standing Orders are required in light of the policy "Safeguarding Adults".	Law and Polity GS			Conference 2011		
36/4 Districts to appoint a District Safeguarding Adults Group or additional members of an existing Safeguarding Circuits should appoint, support and provide resources for a Circuit Safeguarding Adults Coordinator.	SS					A
Early Retirement for presbyters and deacons on grounds of ill-health 38/2 TOR of Medical Committee to be reviewed Good practice guide to be developed Various other actions	SS GS		Law & Polity Spring 2011	Conference 2011		A
Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme 39/1 MMPS to remain a defined benefit scheme.	SS					A
A revised reply to Memorial 10 : that the Normal Pension Date under MMPS should not be raised to 65 for the time being. 39/2B Changed accrual rate for future service	SS				See Memorial 10	A
39/2C Adoption of the graduated formula for calculating the enhancement of an ill health MMPS pension based on the proportion of the prospective service completed.	SS				See Memorial 10	A

39/3 Members should be made more aware of the Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) scheme	SS					AVC Promotional leaflet already produced	A
39/5 Amendment Rule B17	SS						A
39/6 Amendment of Rule B8	SS						A
39/7 Increases to pensions in payment from 1 September 2010.	SS						A
Ministries, Learning and Development 40/1	D&M		Apr-11	Conference 2011 Initial report			A
40/2 Proposals for a Shadow Ministries Committee.	D&M		Jan-11	Conference 2011			A
Wesley College, Bristol 41/4 To take all necessary steps to achieve the closure of the college as soon as practically possible.	D&M GS		SRC Sept 2010 MC April 2011	In MC report to Conference 2011			A
41/5 Council to consider future use of site.	D&M			2011			A
Review of Committees 45/3 Methodist Council to establish a monitoring system, overseen by the Secretary for Internal Relationships	Secretary for Internal Relationships						B
45/4 Council to continue the explorations of how the principles identified in the Review can be extended to bodies with independent decision making authority delegated to them from the Conference or the Council.	GS			Conference 2012			B
Clause 4 of the Deed of the Union Deferred Special Resolution (47/9)	GS			Conference 2012			A
Epworth Press Interim Reference Group R58/1 58/2	Reference Group CCEA		Council April 2011	Conference 2011			A
Financial Reporting 61/1 Revised financial reporting processes.	SS						A

61/2 Report financial accounts via treasurers.		SS	SRC?			A
Resourcing Mission Office 64/1 Methodist Council to review its decision regarding the closure of the Resourcing Mission Office.		SS	SRC Sept 2010 MC Oct 2010	Conference 2011		A
All Partners Consultation R 83/2 Establishing a working party to take forward conversations initiated at the Consultation		Secretary for External Relationships		Conference 2012		A
MMS Financial Records A review of historical book-keeping.	2011	SS				A
M1 Age of ministerial candidates	2011	Ministerial & Diaconal Candidates & Probationers Oversight Committee D&M		Conference 2011		A
M2 Working with other denominations to provide ministerial oversight		Methodist Council Shadow Ministries Committee D&M GS - Ecumenical Officer				B
M5 Training of local preachers and worship leaders		Methodist Council D&M				A
M8 Releasing financial resources for mission priorities	No date given	Methodist Council SS GS D&M (RfM:MaWF)			Link to outcomes of 3-year financial planning	C
M18 Reclaiming ministers' sick pay M19, M20	2011	SSC (Payrolls) D&M (CAC as part of Min.Com)		Conference 2011		A
M22 Phasing out of cheques		GS				A
M23 Connexionally-mandated officers		Methodist Council D&M				A

M24 Banking ethics		None given, ongoing work	SS (Finance) Referred to SS				C
M27 Mental Health in the armed Forces			CCEA (JPIT)				C
M28 Palm Oil			CCEA (JPIT)				B
M29 Hunting with dogs			CCEA (JPIT)				B
M31 Methodist maintained schools			D&M P&RD				A
M35 Child protection case review		Progress report 2011	Methodist Council Law & Polity SS (Safeguarding) GS D&M (TOs)		Conference 2011		A
M36 Child protection: Minutes of Conference and case review		2011	Methodist Council Law & Polity SS (Safeguarding) GS				A
M40 Use of Methodist premises by other faiths			Methodist Council Law & Polity Faith & Order GS SS (RM0) PR&D - Inter Faith Officer to give input				A/B
M41 Eligibility for membership of the Youth Assembly			Methodist Council Law & Polity GS D&M (Children & Youth Work)				A
M42 Correct titles in the Minutes of Conference.			Law and Polity GS		2011		A
NOM 103: Singing the Faith to investigate the costs of produce backing tracks to accompany the hymns and songs			Music Resource Group	Council Jan 2011			A
NOM 104: The Living Wage (Agenda item 11)		2011-2012	SSC				A

NOM 107: Youth President - Youth Participation Strategy		D&M Youth Assembly				A
NOM 108: To amend the Budget Resolution 4/2 (iii) (Agenda item 4) re: Youth Participation Strategy		D&M with Venture FX PR&D - Venture FX Coordinator to work with Children's & Youth Team to ensure maximum synergy.				A
NOM 109: 2011 year of the Bible - Biblefresh		CCEA	CLF Sept 2010 Council April 2011			A
NOM 111: Towards an Inclusive Church		Methodist Council SS				A
NOM 201: Year of Jubilee		Methodist Council				
NOM 202 Korean Methodist Church		Secretary for External Relationships				
NOM 203: Conflict in North Kivu		CCEA				C
NOM 206: Supporting Christians against discrimination in the workplace		Vote note taken, Referred to Methodist Council				
NOM 207: Ministry of healing and wholeness within the Methodist Church		Methodist Council CCEA	Council April 2011			B
NOM 208 Greetings to Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma		Secretary of the Conference				A

APPENDIX 2

Ongoing work of the Connexional Team

The following lists some of the key areas of ongoing work being undertaken by the Connexional Team.

Support Services

- Overseeing the connexionally-held finances, property and other assets of the Church. In addition to the production of the annual consolidated accounts and budget, this includes management of income and expenditure for all funds, regular reporting and payment of all expenses, stipends and salaries. It also includes maintaining effective relationships on behalf of the Council with other key Methodist bodies such as TMCP, CFB and trustee boards of both pension schemes.
- Managing the process by which candidates explore their vocational calling into the Methodist ordained or mission partner ministries and by which Council employees are recruited. Providing expert HR input into the Church's relationship with lay and ordained workers, including best practice in Safeguarding and Equality and Diversity.
- Providing a centralised administrative, IT and facilities support across the Connexional Team, including the management of MCH, and provision of modern archiving and record management.
- Administering and advising on the £8million+ per annum programme of connexional grants for mission and ministry in Britain and amongst partner churches.
- Oversight of the consents process and website by which capital projects involving Methodist property are managed, including maintenance of the ecclesiastical exemption for listed buildings and assisting managing trustees regarding funding and charity registration issues.

Projects, Research and Development

- To continue or complete work on eight projects currently being undertaken by the Cluster (Belonging Together, Carbon Reduction, Education Commission, Inspire, Inter Faith Relations, Missing Generation, Olympics and Paralympics, and VentureFX)
- To complete the consultations for the *Hope in God's Future* Conference Statement as agreed will be undertaken by the Research Officers.
- To oversee Statistics for Mission and the triennial report to the Conference.
- To engage in research which supports the Strategic Leaders and the Connexion.
- To offer executive support to the Strategic Leaders and Senior Managers of the Connexional Team.
- To offer expertise in projects management, monitoring and evaluation to others in the Connexional Team and in the Connexion.

Discipleship and Ministries

- Co-ordination of the learning & development programmes and Connexional processes pertaining to recommended ministerial candidates, ministerial probationers, ordained ministers, persons on note and on trial, local preachers and lay employees

- Support for the development of children's and youth work through the training and education of volunteers and paid staff as well as the running of Conference directed gatherings
- Developing and improving the work of our 65 Methodist maintained schools throughout the Connexion
- Networking the eight disciplines of Methodist chaplaincies through conferences, newsletters, websites, whilst ensuring ecumenical involvement where possible
- Delivering on the agreed third year objectives for the Youth Participation Strategy throughout the Connexion

Christian Communication Evangelism and Advocacy

- Developing and delivering 2010/11 action plans, including for Internal and external communications, Fundraising, Heritage and World Church Relationships.
- Developing and creating a new annual 'showcase' Methodist Church publication.
- Follow up World Church Relationships work on the All Partners Consultation.
- Implementing *The Raiser's Edge* database jointly with Finance as pilot project in 2 Districts.
- Devising and launching the new Advent Offering campaign for 2010 in support of the Mission in Britain Fund.
- Leading a strategic 'multi-annual' approach to the discipleship motif.
- Developing and extending the Circuit and District Evangelism Enablers Networks.
- Campaign and maximize influence in three defined areas - poverty, climate change and peacemaking, through the Joint Public Issues Team.

The Office of the Secretary of the Conference: Governance Support

- Support the role of the Secretary of the Conference.
- Service the Faith and Order Committee and Network.
- Implement the Church's vision for ecumenical commitment and represent the Methodist Church in ecumenical dialogue
- Assist the Church in continually developing its governance arrangements to enable the Methodist Church to live out *Our Calling* and *Priorities* in new and innovative ways.
- Oversee the provision of advice in legal, constitutional and governance matters to a range of Connexional bodies as well as to the Connexion as a whole while also working to ensure compliance with public law.
- Provide guidance in the interpretation and implementation of the Church's behavioural, disciplinary and constitutional policies so as to achieve compliance and best practice throughout the Connexion
- Developing innovative solutions to difficult cases relating to connexional procedures, particularly those relating to the covenantal relationship between Conference and Ministers