

## Network Relations with Regional Training Partnerships or Similar Ecumenical Groupings

### Basic Information

<b>Contact Name and Details</b>	Claire Rakich, 020 7467 3523 rakichc@methodistchurch.org.uk
<b>Status of Paper</b>	Final
<b>Action Required</b>	Decision
<b>Draft Resolution</b>	<p>25/1. The Methodist Council appoints the Revd Dr Martin Ramsden to the Board of the Lindisfarne Training Partnership.</p> <p>25/2. The Methodist Council appoints the Revd John Fenn to the Council of the Eastern Region Ministry Course (ERMC).</p> <p>25/3. The Council agrees to appoint a representative to the Board of Trustees of Luther King House Educational Trust, and notes that a name will be brought to a future meeting of the Council.</p>
<b>Alternative Options to Consider, if Any</b>	None

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	The report seeks to ensure, on the Network Committee's recommendation, that a number of regional training partnerships and ecumenical groupings continue to have representation and involvement from the Methodist Church.
<b>Main Points</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Requests from regional training partnerships and ecumenical groupings to continue to have representation and involvement sometimes at a governance level even though it is acknowledged that Methodist ministerial formation will now be done differently from the past.</li> <li>2. Information about suitable candidates.</li> <li>3. The Network Committee's recommendation to the Methodist Council.</li> <li>4. Resolutions.</li> </ol>
<b>Background Context and Relevant Documents</b>	None

### Summary of Impact

<b>External (eg ecumenical)</b>	Improvement in relationships and work with regional training partnerships.
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## **Background**

1. A number of regional training partnerships and ecumenical groupings have requested of the Discipleship and Ministries Cluster that the Methodist Church continues to have representation and involvement, sometimes at a governance level, even though it is acknowledged that Methodist ministerial formation will now be done in a new and different way.
2. It is felt that contribution is best made to the governance or trusteeship bodies where requested, whilst making it clear that we can offer no commitment for funding or students in the future. This is with the hope and expectation that such involvements could allow Learning Network staff or others to build relationships regionally on behalf of the Methodist Church.

## **The Lindisfarne Training Partnership**

3. The Lindisfarne Training Partnership has a memorandum of understanding which states clearly that the Methodist Church is part of their enterprise and have requested future representation from the Methodist Church. We have no financial commitment to Lindisfarne and have not had any students there in recent times but they consider us to be a significant player nationally and regionally.

## **The Eastern Region Ministry Course (ERMC)**

4. Ian MacIntosh, the Principal of the Eastern Region Ministry Course (ERMC) has requested a Methodist representative on their Council. Previous representatives have been appointed by the Council.

## **Luther King House**

5. The Network Committee also agreed to maintain a Methodist presence on the Board of Trustees of Luther King House Educational Trust from the point of closure of Hartley Victoria (31 August 2015), without any continuing financial commitment by the Methodist Church. A name will be brought to a future meeting of the Council.

## **Regional Training Partnership Terms of Office**

6. It is recommended that Methodist representatives to these bodies be appointed on an annual basis by the Methodist Council, which will appoint the representatives at its October meeting.

## **Implementation**

7. The Network Committee agreed at their meeting on 7 June 2014 to recommend this proposal to the Methodist Council.

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

**25/1. The Methodist Council appoints the Revd Dr Martin Ramsden to the Board of the Lindisfarne Training Partnership.**

Martin Ramsden has served as a presbyter since 2000. His first appointment was in the Doncaster Circuit and then in the Middlesbrough and Eston Circuit where he has served as Superintendent since 2008. Martin has served on the Darlington District Candidates' and Probationers' Committees and acted as the District EDEV Coordinator for three years and on the Wesley Study Centre Oversight Committee for seven years. He has worked closely with the developing Chinese Church in the North East and supported the Methodist Asylum Project (MAP) which works with a large number of refugees and asylum seekers in Middlesbrough.

Martin has a PhD from Durham University in New Testament Interpretation focusing on the practical task of faithfully responding to the baptismal command in Matthew 28:19 in a post-Christian missiological context. He has been a part-time tutor at the Wesley Study Centre where he contributes to the BA programme in Theology and Ministry. He is an experienced Superintendent and a gifted communicator and theologian.

**25/2. The Methodist Council appoints the Revd John Fenn to the Council of the Eastern Region Ministry Course (ERMC).**

Consultation with the East of England Regional Coordinator and Paul Taylor has brought forward this suggestion. John Fenn is the Superintendent of the Norwich Circuit in East Anglia District. He currently serves as the District Probationers' Secretary through until the end of this connexional year and has previously served as Candidates' Secretary. He has an active interest in learning and development as well as being passionate about ecumenical relationships. He has previously served on the ERMC Council and is enthusiastic about representing Methodism and serving in this capacity. The East Anglia District Policy Committee voted in favour of this appointment on 10 February 2014 and therefore fully support, endorse and recommend this appointment.

**25/3. The Council agrees to appoint a representative to the Board of Trustees of Luther King House Educational Trust, and notes that a name will be brought to a future meeting of the Council.**