

Ecumenical Associate Members of the 2017 Conference

Contact Name and Details	The Revd Neil A Stubbens: Connexional Ecumenical Officer stubbensn@methodistchurch.org.uk 020 7467 3520
Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	Decision
Draft Resolutions	<p>26/1. The Council receives the report and notes the addition to the list of churches and Christian bodies eligible to be invited to appoint associate members of the Conference as detailed in paragraph 2.2.</p> <p>26/2. The Council recommends to the 2016 Conference those churches and Christian bodies listed in paragraph 3.3 as those to be invited to appoint associate members of the 2017 Conference.</p>

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	The appointment of the ecumenical Associate Members of the 2017 Conference.
Main Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update of list of churches and Christian bodies that are eligible to appoint associate members of the Conference. • Recommendations to the Conference of the churches and Christian bodies to be invited to appoint associate members of the 2017 Conference
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section H of the Ecumenical Committee's report to the Conference in 1989 (<i>Agenda</i>, pp. 558-561). • SO 107(1)(i) and (2). • MC/13/22: Ecumenical Associate Members of the Conference in 2014 and subsequent years • MC/14/66: Ecumenical Associate Members of the Conference: 2014 and 2015 • MC/15/65: Ecumenical Associate Members of the 2016 Conference
Consultations	The Ecumenical Stakeholders' Forum

Summary of Impact

External (eg ecumenical)	On-going development of relationships with other churches and Christian bodies through the ecumenical Associate Members of the Conference.
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Ecumenical Associate Members of the 2017 Conference

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In 1989 the Ecumenical Committee proposed that six churches be invited to send representatives to the Conference in any one year. The proposal was adopted by the Conference¹ and ecumenical representatives have been attending the Conference since 1991.
- 1.2 At its meeting in January 2013, the Methodist Council received a report on ecumenical associate members of the Conference and adopted revised principles for inviting churches and Christian bodies to appoint those associate members.

2.0 List of churches and Christian bodies eligible to appoint associate members

- 2.1 For the purpose of Standing Order 107(1)(i), the following list of ecumenical bodies and associations in Great Britain of which the Methodist Church is a member is used:
- Action for Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS)**
 - Churches Together in England (CTE)**
 - Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales)**
 - Free Churches Group (FCG)**
 - Free Church Council of Wales (FCCW)**
- 2.2 In the period since April 2015, when the Council was last updated on this matter, the United Kingdom World Evangelism Trust has become a member of CTE.

3.0 The 2017 Conference

- 3.1 On the basis of the principles agreed by the Council in January 2013, five of the churches and Christian bodies that have appointed associate members of the 2016 Conference are due to do so for the 2017 Conference.
- 3.2 One of the principles was that those churches and Christian bodies other than the Church of England and the United Reformed Church, should be invited to appoint an ecumenical associate member of the Conference normally for two successive years.² 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and it would be appropriate for the Conference to invite the Council of Lutheran Churches to appoint an associate member of the Conference for that year. Since, however, that Council appointed an associate member for the 2012 and 2013 Conferences, it is proposed that the invitation be for only one year.
- 3.3 In the light of paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2, it is proposed that the Council recommends to the Conference that the following churches and Christian bodies be invited to appoint associate members of the 2017 Conference:
- The Church of England**
 - The United Reformed Church**
 - The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales**
 - The Church of the Nazarene**
 - The Council of Lutheran Churches**
 - The Moravian Church³**

¹ Daily Record (1989), 9/30.

² MC/13/22, paragraph 4.5.

³ This would be for the second of two years.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

26/1. The Council receives the report and notes the addition to the list of churches and Christian bodies eligible to be invited to appoint associate members of the Conference as detailed in paragraph 2.2.

26/2. The Council recommends to the 2016 Conference those churches and Christian bodies listed in paragraph 3.3 as those to be invited to appoint associate members of the 2017 Conference.