

Headlines

"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist... But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power."
—John Wesley

The following bullet point statements are offered as suggestions in aiding Council Members to share the significance about reconfiguring the Connexional Team in their local churches, circuits and districts. They are not intended to be prescriptive or all encompassing. It is best if they are used in conjunction with the material contained in Volume 2: Team Focus Papers and the hand-outs of the PowerPoint presentation given at the Council session on Team Focus (30th January 07).

Reconfiguring the Connexional Team seeks to under gird and uphold the Methodist church's task in delivering the *Priorities*.

The reconfigured Team will achieve this by

- ⇒ conserving and maximising precious resources.
- ⇒ providing cohesive and affordable support services for the connexion.

The new Team will

- ⇒ journey with local churches, circuits and districts in their mission to share God's love.
- ⇒ be responsive and flexible to the changing context of mission in the 21st Century.
- ⇒ demonstrate responsible stewardship and best practice in all that it undertakes.

Council has agreed property approvals should be simplified

The Team Focus process affords the whole church with an opportunity to:

- 'think again' about how best to deploy our God-given resources.
- concentrate resources and energies not simply where they are needed but where they are needed most.

Council has agreed streamlined grant-making processes

A reconfigured Team will provide better separation between leadership and management.

- ⇒ add value to the essential work of the church.

- ⇒ provide an improved communication infrastructure within and across the Connexion.

Council explored the idea of a Help Desk to handle people's enquiries better.

- ⇒ seek to enable and encourage churches, circuits, and districts to fulfil their calling.
- ⇒ be rooted in worship and prayer.
- ⇒ promote and nurture a people-centred and flexible culture.
- ⇒ demonstrate service through disciplined servanthood.

Challenging Priorities: reconfiguring the Team is not about surviving, but thriving.

Challenging Priorities is a church-wide initiative — it is not so much about, 'what's in it for my church/circuit/district?', but rather 'how best can we fulfil our mission together?'

The newly configured Team seeks to work for the Connexion, enabling it to work more efficiently and effectively — likened perhaps to a finely graded lubricant in a car engine, which among other essential factors, enables the engine to achieve its maximum power.

Council endorsed the general direction of the proposals in the Core Report and encouraged the Joint Secretaries Group to develop them in line with the discussions at the Council

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labour in vain. — Psalm 127:1