

The MDO as a religious order

Contact Name and Details	The Revd Gareth J Powell, Secretary of the Conference soc@methodistchurch.org.uk
Status of Paper	Decision
Action Required	Appointment of a small group
Resolution	92/1. The Council appoints a group as outlined in this paper to consider Resolutions 33/2 and 33/3 from the 2016 Conference.

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims / Main Points	Following its receipt of the interim report into the theology and ecclesiology underpinning the diaconate, the 2016 Conference directed the Methodist Council to consider further questions relating to the MDO as a religious order. The Council is asked to appoint a small group to take forward this work, in order to enable the Council to report to the 2018 Conference.
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	<i>The Theology and Ecclesiology Underpinning the Diaconate – Interim Report</i> to the 2016 Conference

The MDO as a religious order

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The 2016 Conference received an interim report on *The Theology and Ecclesiology Underpinning the Diaconate* (Report 33), which advocated “the need for further clarity to be brought as to the nature of the MDO as a religious order in the British Methodist Church” (para. 6.5). In response, the Conference agreed the following resolutions:

33/2. The Conference directed the Methodist Council, with the Methodist Diaconal Order and the Faith and Order Committee, to consider whether the religious order should be opened to receive into membership Methodists who are lay or ordained to presbyteral ministry and report to the 2018 Conference.

33/3. The Conference directed the Methodist Council, with the Methodist Diaconal Order and the Faith and Order Committee, to consider whether those whom it ordains to the diaconal order of ministry continue to be required also to become members of the religious order and report to the 2018 Conference.

- 1.2 In order to address these significant and complex questions, it is proposed that the Council appoint a small group to take forward this work and to advise the Council in sufficient time to enable it to report to the 2018 Conference.

- 1.3 The proposed membership of this group is as follows:

Mrs Stella Bristow (Chair)

Former Vice-President of the Conference, extensive understanding of ministry in a variety of contexts.

The Revd Dr Richard N Clutterbuck provides some helpful continuity, having been involved in the work of the Faith and Order Committee on the theology and ecclesiology underpinning the diaconate and in the process of consulting with the Methodist Diaconal Order.

Deacon Deborah Marsh

An ordained deacon, currently serving in the Bude and Holsworthy Circuit. Nominated by the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order.

Deacon Stephen F Roe

An ordained deacon, currently serving in the Cymru Circuit. Nominated by the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order.

***RESOLUTION

- 92/1. The Council appoints a group as outlined in this paper to consider Resolutions 33/2 and 33/3 from the 2016 Conference.**