

# Methodist Council Objectives

MC/22/71

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- 1 The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of the love of Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.
- 2 The Council objectives have been with us for the past few years, and have been shaped in response to *Our Calling*. Since approved by the Conference in 2021 and 2022 the Council Objectives have been in the following form:  
*Methodist Council Objectives 2022/23*
  1. *Proclaiming the Gospel through worship/ The ministry of the whole people of God in the life of the World*
  2. *A Church for all people/ The Inclusive Church*
  3. *God's Church in God's world/ Striving for Justice and Peace*
  4. *Evangelism / God For All*
  5. *Resources for the Church: the use of God's gifts*
  6. *Responding to the Gospel in partnership*
- 3 As usual the Council will continue to receive a written report from the Connexional Team showing how each area of the Connexional Team is contributing towards the Council Objectives providing updates that have taken place since the previous report.
- 4 This paper reminds the Council of the headline objectives it has set and offers a plan and target timeframes for how specific pieces of work will be undertaken over the coming connexional year and beyond. In some cases the work is only for the next year and so there is no longer term target and in others there is some indication of where this is hoped to lead.
- 5 A table showing target timeframes for specific pieces of work is listed below.

## \*\*\*RESOLUTION

### 71/1. The Council receives the report.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

*We seek to be an inclusive, justice seeking, evangelistic Church.*

### Methodist Council Objectives

Objective	Target for 22/23	Team(s) responsible	3-5 year target (where applicable)
Proclaiming the gospel through worship and promoting the ministry of the whole people of God.	Local lay-pastor guidelines written and published	Ministries & HR	
	Ongoing work with Worship Leading & Preaching, Tutors, Mentors and students	Ministries & Learning Network (LN)	
	Ongoing work with the Methodist Modern Art Collection – ensuring it has a home and is used to its full potential.	Mission	Collection has a permanent home – and elements of the collection are on loan 2 or 3 times each year
	3Generate - delivery of 2022 event and budget development for 2023 event. Move event to focus on discipleship and vocation of children and young people, propose the element of ‘hearing the voice’ move to the Youth President role. Increase numbers at event from 1,000 in 22 to 1,500 in 23	Mission & LN	24 and 25 event booked at NEC numbers stabilised at 1,800 – develop invitations to partners from other parts of methodism (eg Europe etc)
	Development of a new MCB website.	Communications	
	Development of the Connexion magazine	Communications	
	Work on the Ministerial Covenant and embedding it across the Church – along with the production of the Ministers’ Handbook	Ministries	
	Candidating Review actioned and new system underway	Ministries & LN	
	Encourage work on interfaith relationships and fellowship groups	Conference Office/ASC	

<b>Building a church for all people;</b> an inclusive church, diverse, welcoming, and reaching out to the marginalised in society.	Cost of Living Crisis 2 strands- response and advocacy	Mission/ JPIT	
	Continuing work with JDS Committee on mandatory modules to go live	LN & JDS Committee	
	Continuation of the implementation of the JDS strategy.	Conference Office/ SoC	Fulfil all elements of the JDS strategy given to the Connexional Team
	Ongoing delivery and support for Safeguarding training: Advanced Module and Foundation Module. Revision of safeguarding training advanced module 2022-23	LN & Safeguarding	
<b>Being God's church in God's world;</b> striving for justice and peace and resourcing work and programmes which transform individuals and communities; changes to embody the Kingdom of God.	Action for Hope/ Net Zero agreed steps within the Connexional Team	SMG/Connexional Secretary	Meet targets and continue to ensure informed decision making with regards to events/travel
	Walking with Micah – Initial report end of 2022 and then full report to Conference 2023	Mission	Agreed principles embedded and used as our focus in Justice work
	Ukraine refugee response – develop strategic partnership with Citizens UK- enable members to become excellent and supported hosts	Mission	
Having an Evangelism and Growth strategy ( <b>God for All</b> ), equipping Methodists to be people confident in evangelism and church planting.	Producing tools and training for churches to engage with a Methodist Way of Life.	Mission & LN	
	Continuing to build the response to the overall Strategy	Mission & LN	Looking ahead at the vision for God for All
	Moving into third tranche of District involvement with New Places for New People – shifting to circuit level.	Mission	
	Training Coaches for Methodist Pioneering Pathways and Transformational Leadership Learning Community	LN & Mission	
	Work on young evangelists – focusing on young adult work.	Mission/ HR	
	Work on pioneering Superintendents	Ministries & Mission	

	Continue to develop engagement with Bible Month	Mission, Ministries & LN	
	Continue to develop Theological and Biblical Literacy	Mission & LN	
<b>Resourcing the Church;</b> the use of God's gifts (people, money, and property) effectively; and to develop oversight and leadership functions appropriate to the Methodist Church for stewardship of resources for the mission of the church at all levels.	Policy development for sale of churches to ensure social impact	Property through PDC & Mission Committee	Managing Trustees supported to make best decisions locally
	Considering the shape of the LN & Safeguarding Teams in response to budgets and Conference direction	SMG through SRC	
	Prayer Handbook- develop product. Find new mechanism for developing lectionary	Mission	
	Management development - line management training for a streamlined and effective team.	HR & LN	
	Development in a short course programme at Cliff College	LN & Mission.	Course for C&Y work established
	Ongoing work in Supervision including continuing development in Supervision	Ministries & LN	
	Enhance and promote the provision of lay employment resources	HR	
	A focus on Positive Working Together to continue to develop skills through the training courses and promoting culture change	LN	
	Reconciliation and Mediation Team Pilot Project – North West & Mann, London and Eastern LN regions – review project and consider expanding across the Connexion	LN	If project extended work with Place for Hope to build capacity in the practitioner team to meet demand from across the Connexion to provide appropriate resourcing.
	Circuit and Church Stewards training (5x2hr weekly sessions – to be delivered twice a year)	LN	
	Resourcing churches on their journey to engage and promote engagement of families with additional needs requirements	LN & Mission	
Support for rural churches – Positively Rural and Rural Dreaming Beyond	LN & Mission		

	Core Skills/Essential Ministry (Children, Youth & Families)	Mission & LN	
	Pastoral Work and Visitors support/training	LN & Ministries	
	A review on hybrid working – including developments to Onboarding and induction material.	HR & SMG	
	Ongoing review of processes in response to managing the challenges around recruitment and retention.	HR	
	Digital and media training for relevant Team members	Communications & LN	Ensuring excellent external communication
	A review of internal communications including a review of the intranet.	Communications	Improved Internal Communication
	Development of a Communications calendar prioritised by month.	Communications	
	Ongoing work around campaigns	Communications	
	Implementation of the new Connexional Database	Finance & Resources/ IT	Consolidation of IT systems onto one technology platform where possible
	Identify preferred Finance system replacement	Finance & Resources/ IT	
	Implement fit for purpose email system for ministers across the Connexion	Finance & Resources/ IT	
	Implementation of the safeguarding case system	Finance & Resources/ IT	
	Review the Connexional Financial Strategy in the light of a refreshed long term budget.	Finance & Resources/ Finance	Agree the District Assessment over the medium term and the consequent resourcing for the Connexional Central Services Budget
	Undertake an options appraisal for the future of the MMPS	Finance & Resources/ Finance	Agree a long term strategy for the funding of MMPS and PASLEMC
	Draft the Terms of Reference for the Resourcing Committee and appoint a Chair	Finance & Resources/ Finance	

	Ongoing work to support the move into Church House Westminster, final clearing of Marylebone Road and development work on Tavistock Place	Connexional Secretary/ SMG	Tavistock Place fully established as the base for the Connexional Team fulfilling all the requirements set out by the Council.
	Developing leadership – including work with new District Chairs.	Ministries & LN	
	Appointment of interim Nominations Committee with terms of reference	Conference Office/ SoC	
	Develop resources to support Local Preachers' Meetings	Ministries	
	Review of Ministers of other Churches and Conferences (MOCC) process.	Ministries	Implementation of the review/reopening of MOCC programme
	Continuing work on Ministers' wellbeing	Ministries	
	Stationing Review to be undertaken	Conference Office/ ASC	Issues with stationing system addressed
	Reassess the work of the Legal and Constitutional Practice team and build on relationships with TMCP.	Conference Office/ SoC	
	Completion of Part 11 Review	LCP/ SoC	
	Ongoing work of the Safeguarding processes	Conference Office/ SoC	
<b>Responding to the gospel in partnership</b> in Britain and overseas and playing a part in the transformation of the world.	Focus on the World Mission Fund. Significant capacity-building grants for MCB Partners to be decided upon in order to enable the World Mission Fund to reduce to its reserve level in the least problematic way possible for MCB Partners.	Mission	
	Continuing the work from the Global Consultations from last year Recommendations to Global Relationships and Mission Committee	Mission	
	10 year review of Methodist Liaison Office with stakeholder group.	Mission	
	A review of the work, including the funding, around immigration and mission partners.	HR / Mission / Ministries	Addressing risks and ensuring best practice in this area

	Ongoing work with the Concordat with the United Methodist Church to build relationships and harness opportunities in mission	Conference Office/ ASC	
	Work with Methodist Ecumenical Office Rome	Conference Office/ ASC	Prepare for ending of funding relationship and transition to a new working relationship
	Work with the Mission and Ministry in Covenant – Anglican/ Methodist Covenant	Conference Office/ ASC	
	The initiation of Life in Covenant Group	Conference Office/ ASC	
	Initial review of representation of Methodist bodies in Europe and globally	Conference Office/ ASC	Long term review of representation of the Methodist Church ecumenically and look to increase diversity.
	Developing the Methodist identity in Britain - Pan-Methodist gathering	SoC	Increased awareness and collaboration of Methodist groups in these islands
	Schools work – appropriate support of Transforming Lives	Ministries	
	Ongoing partnership work with Methodist Homes (MHA) – workshops on death and dying – The Last Taboo – to be run over the autumn	LN	