

Decisions made by the Council since its last meeting

MC/22/88

1. Decisions made by the Council

- 1.1 Pursuant to SO 116B, the Council appointed the Revd Nathan Falla as Precentor for the Presbyteral Session of the 2022 Conference.
- 1.2 Pursuant to SO 116B, the Council appointed Mr Matt Beckingham as Precentor for the Representative Session of the 2022 Conference.
- 1.3 Under the terms of SO 136(1C), the Council appointed the Revd Kofi Amissah to the Conference Business Committee for the 2022 Conference.
- 1.4 The Council appointed Linbert Spencer OBE to the All We Can Trustees as its Chair with immediate effect, for an initial period of three years.
- 1.5 The Council received a report from an appeal panel appointed for the purpose from the membership of the Council, agreeing that the panel's recommendation in respect of an application by a former presbyter to be reinstated under SO 761 should be brought to the Conference.
- 1.6 The Council agreed to nominate the Revd Nicholas A Oborski and Mr Nicholas H R Garrett to the Strategy and Resources Committee.
- 1.7 Pursuant to SO 313, the Council nominated to the Conference the Revd Mark Rowland as Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee with effect from 1 September 2022, for an initial period of six years.
- 1.8 The Council nominated to the Conference the Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling as Chair of the Mission Committee with effect from 1 September 2022.
- 1.9 Under the terms of SO 011(3), the Council appointed an appeal committee from amongst the members of the next Conference to hear appeals against the recommendations of the Authorisations Committee.
- 1.10 The Council nominated the Revd Loraine N Mellor as Chair of the Conference Business Committee for the 2023 Conference.
- 1.11 The Council recommended to the President that, pursuant to clause 29(b) of the Deed of Union, the Revd Dr Nicola Price-Tebbutt be stationed to the Connexional Team to serve as Director of Research and Scholarship, with immediate effect, until the adoption of the stations at the 2023 Conference and recommended to the Conference that Dr Price-Tebbutt be appointed to continue in that appointment for four years from 1 September 2023.
- 1.12 Following the Council's approval to the deduction of the costs for roof repairs in connection with the sale of 240 Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield [ref. MC/22/63], on 25 July 2022 the Connexional Secretary and the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice approved the final costs associated with the sale of that property. The Council is entitled to a 50% share of the sale proceeds.

2. Documents signed

- 2.1 In connection with the sale of Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR and the purchase of 25 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9SF:
 - 2.1.1 under the Section 333 Charities Act 2011 Resolution passed by the Council (as managing trustees) in October 2021 [Minute ref. 21.6.29], the Revd Sonia Hicks and Professor David Matthews approved and signed the transfer deed giving effect to the sale of 25 Marylebone Road;
 - 2.1.2 under the Section 333 Charities Act 2011 Resolution passed by the Council (as managing trustees) in December 2021 [Minute ref. 21.7.1], the Revds Tim Swindell and Dr Jongikaya

Zihle approved and signed the lease allowing the Connexional Team to remain in occupation of 25 Marylebone Road on a temporary basis after the sale of 25 Marylebone Road completed;

- 2.1.3 the sale of 25 Marylebone Road completed on 15 June 2022;
- 2.1.4 by order of the Charity Commission dated 1 June 2022, the transfer of the beneficial interest in 25 Tavistock Place from the Model Trusts to the Methodist Centenary Hall Trusts and payment of money from the sale proceeds of 25 Marylebone Road to repay the loan over 25 Tavistock Place was authorised;
- 2.1.5 under the general delegation granted by the Council in April 2022 [ref. MC/22/62], the Secretary of the Conference and the Connexional Secretary signed the declaration of trust to effect the transfer of the beneficial interest in 25 Tavistock Place from the Model Trusts to the Methodist Centenary Hall Trusts;
- 2.1.6 the declaration of trust was completed on 15 June 2022.

2.2 The Council annually appoints the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice (COLCP) and the Assistant Secretary of the Conference (ASC) to be the persons 'authorised by the Methodist Council' to sign Memoranda of Consent under Model Trust 26 consenting to the disposal of Methodist Model Trust Property [ref. MC/21/66]. Only one signatory is required for each Memorandum. At various times during July and August 2022 the COLCP and ASC were both unavailable to sign such Memoranda at short notice; therefore, the Secretary of the Conference signed six Memoranda in their stead, acting under the general delegation approved by the Council in April 2022 [ref. MC/22/62].

3. Action taken

- 3.1** The Chair of the Council appointed a scrutiny group comprising the Revd Leslie M Newton, the Revd Jeremy H A Hackett and Mrs Valerie Mayers to consider the reinvasion of a member of the Connexional Team.
- 3.2** On 22 April 2022 a group of three Council members appointed by the Chair of the Council considered an application under Model Trust 20(1) by the Walsall Circuit Meeting to grant a tenancy of a residential property at below market rent. The group rejected the application, on the grounds that the requirements of Model Trust 20 (that the letting must advance Methodist Church purposes) had not been met.
- 3.3** On 26 September 2022 a group of three Council members appointed by the Chair of the Council considered and approved two separate applications under Model Trust 20(1) to grant short-term tenancies of vacant manses (one in the Durham and Deerness Circuit, the other in the South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area) to Ukrainian refugees at below market rent.

*****RESOLUTION**

88/1. The Council receives the report.