

Minutes of the Methodist Council held on 3-4 April 2009 at All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney

Present: The President, the Vice-President and 48 voting members

Norman Mann (Audit Committee), Peter Phillips (Faith and Order Committee), Sarah Malik (Youth President), Gareth Powell (Assistant Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice) as participating observers

Apologies: Keith Davies, David Perkins, John Best, Gareth Hill

Prayers were led by the Chaplain, the Revd Ian Bell.

It was agreed to send letters to Neville Johnson's widow, Pat, and to his former colleagues at TMCP and the Connexional Team offices in Manchester.

It was noted that Sue Millman was attending in place of Gareth Hill as a representative from the Strategy and Resources Committee.

09.2.1 The Minutes of the Methodist Council held on 16-17 February were agreed and signed as a correct record.

09.2.2 Matters arising from the Council Minutes [MC/09/33]

Ken Howcroft presented MC/09/33, which the Council noted.

09.2.3 Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 11-12 March 2009

Ken Wales, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC), presented the draft minutes of the meeting held on 11-12 March. The main work had been in the areas of budget, pensions and staffing matters.

Janet Morley reported that the detailed exercise to put together the costings for the proposed hymn collection had now been undertaken and has been scrutinised by the Music Resources Group.

09.2.4 Chair's Business

There were no items under this heading.

09.2.5 Connexional Leaders' Forum report

Martyn Atkins presented a verbal report from the recent meeting of the Connexional Leaders' Forum (CLF). The CLF, meeting from 17-18 March, had heard updates on matters relating to local preaching, personnel issues such as the gathering of passport information from presbyters and deacons and the living wage. There had also been a presentation concerning the annual development review proposals. There was a major discussion on several aspects relating to overseas ministers serving in the British connexion and the Connexional Team is now reflecting on how further work in this area can best be undertaken in future. There was a presentation about the Youth Participation Strategy with an opportunity for discussion and clarification. There was an update on Mapping a Way Forward. The CLF also spent time in groups, providing members of the CLF with an opportunity to share and reflect together.

09.2.6 Strategic Leaders

There was no report from the Strategic Leaders on this occasion.

09.2.7 Revised Expectations document [MC/09/34]

Ken Howcroft explained that there had been a document detailing the ‘Expectations of Various Groups’ for use during the Team Focus process. This had been felt to be helpful in setting out the different groups’ responsibilities under Standing Orders. This document had been updated to take account of the changes in the Connexional Team and to enable it to be applied more generally; references to the Law and Polity and Faith and Order Committees have also been added in. However, it does not mention the Connexional Team and in particular the cluster heads and the role that they play. It was proposed to the Council that work continues to bring a fully revised version to the 2010 Conference. It might be that the Standing Orders on which the document is based also need some revision.

It was asked whether there needed to be reference to the Diaconal Order in this document. Although it is not a governance body, the change from the Diaconal Session of the Conference to a Diaconal Committee should be noted. This document also does not refer to the Ministerial Session.

It was agreed that this document should be included in this year’s Conference Agenda, noting that further work is to be done in the future.

09.2.8 Pattern of Meetings for SRC and Council in 2009/10 [MC/09/35]

Mark Wakelin presented MC/09/35, which set out the proposal from the SRC for a changed pattern of meetings for SRC and Council through 2009/10. There was support for a longer meeting of the Council in April, to allow more detailed scrutiny of the papers before it. It was felt that the proposed 48 hour meeting in April should be over a weekend (avoiding Holy Week and Easter), to enable lay people to participate. Work will now proceed to identify dates as quickly as possible.

09.2.9 Attestations

The Journal of the 2008 Conference was signed by the President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Conference and the two attesters appointed by the Conference, Carrie Seaton and Ken Wales, in the presence of the Council. The Council agreed to record its thanks to the Journal Secretary, Jenny Dyer, for her work in preparing the Journal.

09.2.10 Connexional Team Budget [MC/09/36]

John Ellis presented MC/09/36, explaining that this had been prepared in the context of the first year of a new structure and a new financial framework. He also reminded the Council that the two major parts of the “Team Focus” process that were still outstanding (namely the reviews of the finance and property functions) were yet to be conducted.

External factors such as the current recession, and the increased cost of staff pensions have a significant impact on this budget. The proposed budget would maintain the current level of grants to churches around the world, support those projects already agreed (eg pioneer ministries), retain money for innovative ideas as they arise, and avoid redundancies. It requires some drawing down of reserves, but that would be in line with the decisions of the Conference on the reserves policy.

The aim in this budget is to present a transparent picture of which money is being used for which purpose. The proposal is that there should be a 9% charge on the Connexional Priority Fund, the Fund for the Support of the Presbyters and Deacons, and the Mission in Britain Fund. Those funds are primarily for the making of grants. The World Mission

Fund, however, is not just a grant-making fund, but also supports the building of relationships with partner churches around the world. It is therefore proposed that there be a charge of 15% on the World Mission Fund in order to enable greater scope for the staffing of the World Church Relationships sub-cluster, in addition to the provision of grants.

This proposed budget represents a significant reduction in the costs of the Team in relation to those prior to the Team Focus process. The changes in the structure of the team and of the budgeting and accounting processes mean, however, that it is very difficult to make a simple comparison. Detailed scrutiny of this budget had been undertaken by the Finance Sub-Committee, and it is commended to the Council by the SRC.

Some Council members expressed concern that the fundraising programme referred to in the paper should be handled sensitively, without undervaluing the fundraising that already takes place. The fundraising strategy will be brought to a future meeting of the Council for consideration.

There was some concern about treating the World Mission Fund differently from the other funds without a clear rationale for the difference being immediately obvious. The SRC was asked to consider further whether the word 'charge' adequately expresses what is intended.

The Council agreed the following resolutions:

The Methodist Council recommends the proposed Connexional Team budget for 2009-10 (subject to further necessary amendment regarding actual fund income) for approval at the Methodist Conference.

The Council asks that the necessary work be done to present to the Conference a proposal and the rationale for ending the designation of the Training Assessment Fund, releasing the money for the general purposes of the Church.

09.2.11 Connexional Allowances Committee [MC/09/37]

Rob Lolley, Chair of the Connexional Allowances Committee, was welcomed to the Council to present MC/09/37. Paragraph 1.6 of the report was withdrawn in its present form and there also needs to be an additional section concerning pension contributions.

It was agreed to ask the Connexional Allowances Committee to consider whether the arrangements for preaching expenses for supernumeraries should apply to deacons as well as presbyters.

The Council agreed the following resolutions:

The Council

- (i) *recommends the living wage, as published from time to time by Church Action on Poverty as the minimum pay rate for lay employees. This should be implemented after any update is published. The current hourly rates are £7.00 outside London and £7.45 within London.*
- (ii) *subject to section 1.6 of the report being redrafted to reflect (i) above, approves the report for presentation to the Conference.*

Following a discussion about whether the living wage should be mandatory, the following resolution was agreed:

The Council notes that the 2007 Conference Resolution on Lay Employee salaries, commanding a minimum “Living Wage”, did not have an implementation date. Mindful of our obligation as Christians to be ethical and responsible employers, the Council directs that the Connexional Team investigate the impact of making the Church Action on Poverty Living Wage a mandatory minimum for Methodist Church Lay Employee contracts, and report to the February 2010 meeting of the Methodist Council with a view to bringing an appropriate resolution to the Conference in 2010.

09.2.12 Pensions

(1) Report from the Trustees [MC/09/38C]

Nigel Wrighton presented MC/09/38C, which represented a report from the trustees of the two pension schemes.

Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme (MMPS)

The following resolution was agreed:

The Statement of Funding Principles, including the economic and demographic assumptions proposed by the Trustee of MMPS as the basis of the Actuarial Valuation, is agreed by Council on behalf of the Conference.

There was a discussion concerning the proposal from the trustee to reduce the ill health benefit of the scheme and the following resolution was agreed:

The Council advises the Trustee of MMPS that it recognises the need for a reduction in the ill health benefit, and asks that further work be undertaken on this as a matter of urgency.

The following resolutions were agreed:

The Methodist Council nominates, for the approval of Conference, Mr Michael Willett, Sir Michael Partridge and Mr Keith Woodley for reappointment as directors of the Trustee Board of MMPS as from 1 September 2009.

Pension Assurance and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC)

The following resolutions were agreed:

- (i) *Council agrees to recommend to Conference that the proposed Pension Reserve Fund should apply to PASLEMC as well as MMPS.*
- (ii) *Council agrees an increase in the combined employees and employers contribution rate of 7% of pensionable earnings from 1 September 2009.*
- (iii) *Council agrees the Statement of Funding Principles, including the economic and demographic assumptions proposed by the Trustee of PASLEMC as the basis of the Actuarial Variation.*

(2) Methodist Ministers’ Pension Scheme (MMPS) [MC/09/38A]

Ron Calver, Connexional Treasurer, presented MC/09/38A.

The following resolutions were agreed:

- 1a. *The Council recommends to the Conference that the contribution of ministers to the pension scheme be increased from 7% to 9% of stipend from 1 September 2009.*
- 1b. *The Council recommends to the Conference that the contribution of those responsible for the payment of stipends be raised by 5% of stipend from 1 September 2009 and a further 7% of stipend from 1 September 2010.*
2. *The Council recommends to the Conference that a Pension Reserve Fund be set up from 1 September 2009.*

The Council considered the following draft resolution concerning how a Pension Reserve Fund would be established, and directed that this should be sent to the SRC, requesting that the SRC identifies an alternative calculation formula which would reduce the impact on the Circuit Advance Funds. The Council was content that this revised proposal from the SRC should be the single one presented to the Conference, including a worked example.

Draft resolution:

The Council recommends to the Conference that, with effect from 1st September 2009, the Connexional Priority Fund levy on the proceeds of property sales in accordance with SO 972 will be increased from 15% to 25% on the first £100,000 of such proceeds and from 25% to 40% on the balance of proceeds.

At the end of each connexional year, when the net proceeds of CPF have been determined in accordance with SO 974, 40% of such proceeds will be allocated to a designated Pensions Reserve Fund and 30% of such proceeds to the District Advance Funds.

(3) Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC) [MC/09/38B]

Nick Moore, Head of Support Services, presented MC/09/38B.

The following resolutions were agreed:

1. *The Council proposes that from 1 September 2009 the employee contribution rate increases to 8% of pensionable salary and the complementary employer rate of 24.1% be set to eliminate the actuarial deficit.*
2. *The Council confirms that the Pension Reserve Fund will be available to support the PASLEMC.*
3. *The Council rescinds resolution (iv) of paper MC/09/11A. [This requested that a resolution be put to the Conference, which is not required.]*

09.2.13 Stationing Review Group [MC/09/43]

Siôn Rhys Evans made a presentation and then introduced MC/09/43, which set out the progress of the Stationing Review Group's recommendations since the 2008 Conference.

The following resolutions were agreed:

The Methodist Council:

- a. *receives this report;*
- b. *authorises ongoing work in this area to be reported to the 2009 Conference using the 'twofold legacy of the SRG report' model outlined in Section 3.*

09.2.14 Annual Development Review [MC/09/42]

Anne Topping presented MC/09/42, explaining that Annual Development Review (ADR) is being piloted in a few Districts. There is still some feedback to come, but it is felt that more work is needed in the areas of strategy, theology, culture and practicalities before the scheme can be implemented successfully.

There was concern about the proposal not to implement ADR until September 2011 and the implications of this for presbyters and deacons. Work will be undertaken during the connexional year 2009/10 to refine ADR so that there will be a connexional scheme which is fit for purpose to be implemented from September 2011.

The Council agreed the following resolutions:

The Methodist Council commends the report to the Conference and:

- a. *acknowledges and commends the work undertaken by the ADR Pilot Steering Group and within the ADR pilot districts;*
- b. *recommends to the Conference that ADR is not implemented across the whole connexion in the connexional years 2009/10 and 2010/11;*
- c. *affirms the importance of robust ministerial review processes;*
- d. *authorises ongoing work on developing a ministerial review process for the Methodist Church, for implementation from September 2011, addressing the issues of substance identified during the ADR pilot.*

09.2.15 Safer Recruitment Policy and Guidance [MC/09/44]

Pearl Luxon presented MC/09/44 and the tabled supplementary paper. The supplementary paper explained that the Government have now changed the implementation date of the new policy.

The following resolution was agreed:

The Council approves the supplementary paper as the basis of the report and resolutions to be presented to the 2009 Conference.

The Council endorsed the proposed facility for increasing the number and type of verifiers for disclosure applications to include administrators and/or safeguarding contacts at all levels of the church, provided this is

- a. *negotiated as part of their job description or role outline, and*
- b. *their details are entered on the Methodist database in accordance with data protection legislation.*

09.2.16 Fresh Ways Working Group [MC/09/45]

Christine Elliott presented MC/09/45. The Council approved the report for presentation to the Conference.

09.2.17 World Church Relationships Staffing [MC/09/39]

Christine Elliott presented MC/09/39, which proposed that there should be an additional full-time post allocated to the World Church Relationships sub-cluster with a focus on the area of pan-European relationships and engagement in mission. It was emphasised that the work formerly undertaken by the World Church Office is now spread throughout the Connexional Team, and this proposal relates only to the World Church Relationships sub-cluster. This proposal must also be seen in the context of the outcomes of the Team Focus process which aimed for a reduction of 30%.

The following resolutions were agreed:

The Council approves the report for presentation to the Conference.

The Council recommends that the ethos described in section 7 of MC/09/39 is communicated to the wider connexion in a way that ensures that support for the Fund for World Mission is not lost.

The Council recommends that an additional full-time post be allocated to the WCR sub-cluster with a focus on the area of pan-European relationships and engagement in mission.

09.2.18 Joint Implementation Commission [MC/09/40]

Ken Howcroft presented MC/09/40, which proposed that there should be a major discussion at the autumn meeting of the Council on the recommendations made by the JIC in its various reports in the first five years since the Covenant with the Church of

England was signed. The Council noted and approved the process as outlined in the paper.

09.2.19 Review of Committees [MC/09/46]

Mark Wakelin presented MC/09/46, which provided an update on the process of reviewing the committees, advisory groups and reference groups which support the Connexional Team. The intention is that Standing Order changes will be brought to the Council in 2009/10 and the 2010 Conference. The Council noted the report.

09.2.20 Methodist Heritage [MC/09/47]

Jo Hibbard, Heritage Officer, presented MC/09/47. Conversations are still taking place concerning the relationship of the Archives and History Committee to the newly appointed Heritage Committee. The proposal (at paragraph 3.4.2.3 in the report) to set up a reference group to consider this matter was withdrawn.

The Council noted this report as an interim update and that the Heritage Committee would prepare an updated report to be presented to the Conference.

09.2.21 Equalities and Diversity Update [MC/09/48]

David Gamble presented MC/09/48, which requested a deferral in preparing the theology on equalities and diversity and the Equal Opportunities Policy requested by the 2008 Conference. A group is working on the theological material, but it is very complex and the group feels that it needs to be a longer process which involves more people. The theology also needs to underpin the policy.

The following resolutions were agreed.

1. *The Council resolves to report to the Conference that it has agreed to the deferral of the date for reporting back to the Conference on Equalities and Diversity from 2009 to 2010.*
2. *The Council authorises the Equalities and Diversity Theological Working Group to proceed in the manner outlined above in preparing its report for the Conference in 2010.*

09.2.22 Personnel files for ministers and deacons [MC/09/49]

Carmila Legarda presented MC/09/49. The report to the 2008 Conference, *With Integrity and Skill*, had asked the Council to explore the possibility of personnel files for ministers and deacons.

Some concerns were raised about the potential use of the internet and security risks in that, and also about how the information might be used, for example, in the stationing process. Assurances were given that there would be proper consultation, and that comments and suggestions about this would be welcome.

The following resolutions were agreed:

The Council notes the report.

The Council approves that consultation be undertaken as set out in the report with a view to bringing final proposals for policies and procedures to the Conference of 2010.

09.2.23 Ecumenical Statement [MC/09/41]

Christine Elliott presented MC/09/41.

It was agreed to add the following text to paragraph 2, above the heading ‘Living in Ecumenical Partnership: *Practical Steps*’:

The Methodist Church affirms its commitment to its covenant relationships with the Church of England and churches in Wales, and, beyond that, to work with ecumenical partners wherever possible.

With this amendment, the Council received the paper for wider use.

09.2.24 Ministerial and Diaconal Candidates Selection Committees [MC/09/68]

MC/09/68 was presented to the Council, requesting that some additional names be co-opted to the committees. Sue Culver asked the Council to note that work is being done to bring these two committees closer together, and asked for assurances that there would be proper consultation with the Order as that work was done. Carmila Legarda gave that assurance, confirming that there would be discussions to clarify any confusion or concerns.

Maureen Hudd, Audrey Hensman, Jane Loades, Margaret Sawyer, Andy Packer, Andrew Carter were co-opted to the Ministerial Candidates’ Selection Committee.

Howard Mellor, Andrew Carter, Malcolm Peacock and Margaret Jones were co-opted to the Diaconal Candidates’ Selection Committee.

09.2.25 Faith and Order Committee [MC/09/51]

Pete Phillips presented MC/09/51, emphasising that the Faith and Order Committee seeks to work through a consultative process. It is therefore important that a Faith and Order contribution is invited early in the process of producing a piece of work that might require its input.

The Council received the report.

09.2.26 Appointment of the Chair of Conference Business Committee [MC/09/55]

With the addition of the Assistant Secretary of the Conference to the small group appointed to oversee the process, the process as outlined in MC/09/55 was agreed. It was agreed that the representative of the Council would be Rachel Deigh.

09.2.27 Special Resolutions [MC/09/64]

The Council approved the Special Resolutions which had been referred to it concerning the numbers of different category of people who are members of the Conference; the Conference Diaconal Committee; and Superintending a Circuit.

09.2.28 Appointments

The Council appointed Stuart Burgess to be Chair of the Management Committee of Methodist International Centre. The Council appointed John Cooke to be Chair of Governors for Southlands College for one year.

09.2.29 Hope in God’s Future [MC/09/50]

Steve Hucklesby and David Clough presented MC/09/50 to the Council.

The following resolutions were agreed:

The Methodist Council presents the report Hope in God’s Future to the Methodist Conference with the following resolutions:

1. *The Methodist Conference:*
 - a. *receives the report Hope in God’s Future*

- b. *commends the report as a helpful guide for reflection and action, and encourages local churches, circuits and districts to enable these through prayer, preaching, bible study, teaching, discussion and acts of corporate confession, repentance and commitment*
 - c. *acknowledges the action taken by many individuals across our churches with respect to their personal lifestyles and affirms members of congregations as they continue to make adjustments in their carbon emissions*
 - d. *directs the Methodist Council to investigate innovative approaches to the application of Methodist grant funds and reserves including the possibility of making available long-term affordable loans to enable circuits to meet the capital costs of improvements to buildings from the financial savings achieved in later years, thereby better enabling circuits to take advantage of available statutory grant-funding*
 - e. *directs the Methodist Council to establish a project to consult widely with circuits and districts to: -*
 - i. *identify appropriate and realistic approaches to assessing the carbon output of the Methodist Church in order to determine how to bring about a reduction in carbon emissions across the whole of church life in line with the national goal of a minimum 80% reduction by 2050 and appropriate interim targets*
 - ii. *assess Methodist Church travel and other policies*
 - iii. *make recommendations in relation to energy audits of buildings*
 - iv. *investigate the possibility and likely financial costs of setting a target date for the installation of solar hot water heating on the roof of every manse for which such an installation might be feasible and to bring to the Methodist Conference in 2010 a further report on the items i) to iv) above and on other measures that may be required to adequately resource circuits and district in their responses to Hope in God's Future*
 - f. *welcomes measures planned or underway to assess and reduce the carbon footprint of the Connexional Team and requests that the Methodist Council remain appraised of progress*
 - g. *welcomes the introduction of the UK Climate Change Act but is deeply concerned that the UK Government has not articulated a strategy for achieving the rapid decarbonisation of the economy implied by this legislation and commensurate with the challenge that we face. The Conference calls for UK support for a strong international agreement at the crucial Copenhagen UNFCCC Cop15 meeting in November/December 2009 and for adequate domestic action.*
2. *The Conference adopts sections 1 to 4 of Hope in God's Future as a draft Conference statement under Standing Order 129.*

09.2.30 Notices of Motion and Memorials referred to the Council [MC/09/52]

The suggested replies of the Council were presented as MC/09/52 and a tabled supplementary paper.

The proposed response to Notice of Motion 6 was agreed.

The following response to Notice of Motion 9 was agreed:

The Methodist Council takes on board the concerns raised by NOM9. One challenge within the elections for the President/ the Vice-President position includes the fact that non-members of the Conference can (and have) been nominated for either role. Therefore the Council directs the Governance Support Cluster (in partnership with the Conference Business Committee) to find a more participatory way for all members of Conference 2010 to engage with candidates for both positions. The result will be trialled

at the Methodist Conference 2010. Should this be deemed successful then suitable amendments to SO 110(A) will be proposed at the Methodist Conference 2011.

The proposed response to Notice of Motion 124 was agreed.

The Council were reminded that the Notices of Motion from number 201 onwards were of a quite different type as they arose, amongst a variety of other points, from the Resourced Debate at the 2008 Conference and the Conference had expressed no view on their content.

The response to Notice of Motion 201 as printed on the supplementary paper was agreed, referring it to those with responsibility for the Youth Participation Strategy to engage with the spirit of this notice of motion.

Notice of Motion 202 was referred to the Support Services Cluster.

The following reply to Notice of Motion 203 was agreed:

In view of the cessation of the Diaconal Session of the Conference, the Council responds to the opportunities and concerns raised by deacons in the Resourced Debate at the 2008 Conference by asking the Methodist Diaconal Order, assisted by the Connexional Team, to reflect thoroughly on the matters raised, keeping them under constant review, and to present their reflections to a future Council meeting.

Notice of Motion 204 was referred to the Christian Communication, Evangelism and Advocacy Cluster.

M5 has been referred to the Governance Support Cluster; work on this will need to take account of changes in Charity Law.

The proposed responses to Memorials 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, 25 and 27 were agreed.

The following response to M26 was agreed:

The Council at its April 2009 meeting adopted a resolution permitting safeguarding contacts and administrators whose details are entered for the purpose on the connexional database and for whom this has been negotiated as part of their job descriptions or role outlines to act as verifiers for CRB disclosure applications in addition to presbyters and deacons.

09.2.31 Guidelines for the use of internet banking [MC/09/53]

The Council agreed the following resolutions:

The Methodist Council:

- i. *endorses the use of internet banking subject to appropriate precautions;*
- ii. *approves the preparation of a guidance note on the safe use of internet banking;*
- iii. *requests that consequential changes to Standing Orders are brought to the 2009 Methodist Conference.*

09.2.32 Report of Connexional Trustees for Connexional Offices, Central Buildings, Manchester [MC/09/54]

The report from the connexional trustees for the connexional offices in Manchester was received.

09.2.33 Update on Communications Strategy [MC/09/56]

The update report on the communications strategy was received.

09.2.34 mph Transition [MC/09/57]

The Council agreed the following resolutions:

1. *In light of the decision of the Conference 2008 that ‘mph should cease to exist as a separate entity within the connexional structure’, the Council delegates the authority to handle permissions for material where the copyright is the property of the custodian trustee TMCP (a power previously delegated by the Council, acting as managing trustees, to mph) as follows:*
 - a) *in respect of Epworth Press imprint, to the Chair of the Epworth Press Editorial Committee and the Commissioning Editor for Epworth Press.*
 - b) *in respect of all other TMCP copyrights that were previously handled by mph, to the appropriate Connexional Team staff, normally the Director of Communications and Campaigns, the Methodist Publishing Manager, or the Publications Coordinator.*
2. *The Council notes the report on progress towards integrating the continuing mph functions into the Connexional Team, and directs that in consultation with the Law and Polity Committee appropriate amendments to Standing Orders 242 and 243 be brought to the 2009 Conference to effect the previous decisions of the Conference in the light of it.*
3. *The Council authorises the General Secretary, the Revd Martyn Atkins, and the Secretary for Team Operations, John Ellis, to execute the Deed of Retirement, Appointment and Release between the Board of Management for the Methodist Publishing House and the Methodist Council Connexional Trustees, in the names and on behalf of the New Trustees, the Methodist Council, in respect of Methodist publishing as defined in that Deed.*

09.2.35 Conference Appointments [MC/09/58]

The Council appointed Peter Smith to the Conference Business Committee for the 2009 Conference.

The Council appointed Jonathan Todd to be the Precentor for the Ministerial and Representative Sessions of the Conference of 2009.

The Council appointed Susan Hibberd to be the Precentor for the Diaconal Session of the Conference of 2009.

The Council appointed Denise Creed to be the Letterwriter for the Diaconal Session of the Conference of 2009.

The Council appointed Anne Smith to be the Letterwriter for the Ministerial Session of the Conference of 2009.

The Council appointed Elizabeth Edwards to be the Letterwriter for the Representative Session of the Conference of 2009.

09.2.36 Diaconal Representation at the Conference [MC/09/59]

The rota for diaconal representation at the 2010 Conference was approved.

09.2.37 Appointment of two associate members as members of the Conference [MC/09/60]

The Revd Eduardo Conde (Portugal) and Bishop Simbarehe Sithole (Zimbabwe) were appointed from the Associate Members to be voting members.

09.2.38 Appointment of the Memorials Committee [MC/09/61]

Correcting “Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, Team Secretary”, to read “Revd Dr Mark Wakelin, Team Secretary”, the Memorials Committee was appointed.

09.2.39 Youth Participation Strategy [MC/09/62]

The Council agreed the following resolution:

The Methodist Council:

- a. receives this report;
- b. notes that the difficulties in staff recruitment have required the amendment of the implementation of the Strategy as contained in the 2008 Conference report.

09.2.40 Appointment of Mission Partners [MC/09/63]

The Council appointed Drs Graham and Jenny Longbottom as Mission Partners employed by the Council and seconded them to serve with the United Church in the Solomon Islands in response to an invitation from that Church for an initial period of two years nine months from July 2009.

09.2.41 Appointment to the Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment [MC/09/65]

The Council appointed Chris Moorhouse to the Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment.

09.2.42 Principal of Hartley Victoria College [MC/09/66]

The Council confirmed the appointment of Dr Tony Moodie as Principal of Hartley Victoria College.

09.2.43 Trustee of the South North West Training Partnership [MC/09/67]

The Council confirmed the appointment of the Revd Andrew Pratt as a Trustee of the South North West Training Partnership from 1 September 2009.

09.2.44 Sale of Bristol Methodist International House [MC/09/67]

The Council noted the intention of the Bristol District Trustees, the District Policy Committee and the local MIH Management Committee to the planned sale of the MIH property, Rodney House, Clifton.

During the Council, the President and the Vice-President of the Conference shared some of their reflections and experiences during their year of office.

Thanks were expressed to those who have now completed their term on the Council. In particular, the Vice-President offered the thanks of the Council to Will Morrey, who has now completed his time as Chair of the Council.