

Special Resolution 44/7 – Proposed Connexional Council – Susan’s Summary

Currently we have:

- Methodist Council – representatives from each District plus various others – mix of lay and ordained.
- Strategy & Resources Committee.
- Methodist Conference – this is the Charity body so its 300 + members are trustees have to complete forms for the Charity Commission each year.

The proposal is to have:

- Connexional Council – likely size around 20 people and will be the new Charity body so its members are trustees. It will have general control and management of the Connexional administration of the Methodist Church. It will consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary of Conference and other members as prescribed by Standing Orders including a Chair of the Council. Its other members will be appointed by Conference. The Secretary of Conference described it as “small enough to be nimble and flexible and large enough to have different views and balance”.
- Methodist Conference – as now, but separately consideration is being given to reducing this in size.

Timeline

- Changes are needed to the Deed of Union (as well as to Standing Orders and some Model Trusts) which involves a 2 year consultative process. Conference 2022 provisionally adopted the changes by Special Resolution.
- The Resolution is to be submitted to Synods for approval or disapproval (unable to propose amendments) – votes to be counted.
- Changes to be brought to Standing Orders and some Model Trusts to Conference 2023 plus results from Synods voting on Special Resolution.
- If all agreed, new arrangements would commence from 1 September 2024.

Responsibilities (under the proposed set-up)

- The government and discipline of the Methodist Church remains vested in the Conference (but members of the Connexional Council must be able to perform their duties as trustees).
- Conference has final authority over the items listed in 18 (b) on page 2 of the briefing note.
- Conference has other discretionary powers as listed on pages 2 and 3 of the briefing note.
- The Connexional Council has exclusive authority over the items listed in 37C (b) of the briefing note.

From the Conference Report

- The Connexional Council will be charged with the responsibility to keep in constant review the life of the Methodist Church, to study its work and witness throughout the Connexion, to indicate what changes are necessary or what steps should be taken to make the work of the Church more effective.
- The Connexional Council will take forward the vision, strategies, decisions and directions set by the Conference.