

# Minutes of Conference 2022



THE METHODIST CHURCH  
IN IRELAND

# METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND

## Minutes of Conference & Directory 2022

### Contents

#### MINUTES

<b>Ministerial Session</b>	3
List of Stations	9
Ministries Policies and Procedures	15

<b>Representative Session</b>	19
Faith & Order Committee	22
Council on Social Responsibility	23
Governance Board	25

<b>Resolutions from the Book of Reports</b>	32
Safeguarding	33
Property Board	34
Statutory Trustees	37
Comprehensive Assessment	39
Stipends & Allowances	41
Ministers' Retirement Funds	44
Ministers' Disability Fund	47
Ministers' Children's Fund	49
Ministers' Medical Fund	51
Covenant Council	53
Inter-Church Relations Committee	53
Ministry of Healing	54
Prison & Healthcare Chaplaincy	54
Board of Education	55
City Missions	57

Connexional Team	59
Youth & Children’s Team (IMYC)	60
Child Care Society	62
Home Missions	63
Ministries Team	65
MWI	67
World Development & Relief	68
World Mission Partnership	69
<b>Resolutions from Associated Bodies</b>	
Colleges	71
Eastwell Residential Home	72
Methodist Historical Society	72
<b>Appendices</b>	
Connexional Calendar	76
Manual of Laws Changes	85
Ministry of Healing	90
Ministries Team	97
<b>DIRECTORY</b>	
Mission Partners	112
Chaplains	114
Ordained Ministers and Probationers	119
Ministers’ Widows and Widowers	141
Circuit Lay Workers	144
Local Preachers	147
Lay Officers of Boards etc	155
Church Departments	160
INDEX	163

# MINUTES

of the

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THIRD  
(Two Hundred and Forty-First Annual)

## CONFERENCE

of the people called Methodists

in the Connexion established by  
THE LATE REV JOHN WESLEY, AM

ON THURSDAY 9 JUNE

# 2022

### MINISTERIAL SESSION

REV SAHR J YAMBASU, BD, MA, PhD, President of the Conference and President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

REV HEATHER M E MORRIS, BSc, BD, PhD, Secretary of the Conference

REV ALAN G WARDLOW, BA, Senior Assistant Secretary

REV COLIN D GRACIE, BA, MA, MDiv, Editorial Secretary

REV RUTH E PATTERSON, BTh, Journal Secretary

REV KENNETH CONNOR, FdA, BA, Letter Writer

**1. MINISTERS NOW RECEIVED INTO FULL CONNEXION WITH THE CONFERENCE**

Edem S Dzunu  
Daphne Hanna  
W Michael Jones (PT)

**2. PROBATIONERS REMAINING ON TRIAL**

Susan Gallagher  
    who has travelled two years  
Tanita Lee  
Leah McKibben  
Peter K Morris  
Philip W J Patterson  
    who have travelled one year

**3. RECEIVED AS PROBATIONERS**

John McNair  
R E Richard Wright (NS)

**4. APPOINTED FOR INITIAL TRAINING AND FORMATION**

Fadzanayi Jongoro  
Andrew Topley  
    for a second year  
Cheryl Bruce  
Jennifer M Gault  
Norman R A Henry  
Ruth E Mathews  
Jacqueline E Whittle  
    for a first year

**5. ANNUAL ENQUIRY CONCERNING THE CHARACTER AND EFFICIENCY OF MINISTERS AND PROBATIONERS**

They were examined one by one.

**6. MINISTERS RETIRING**

George A Bowes  
Colin J Duncan  
Robert T Loney  
Thomas C Stevenson

**7. MINISTERS OF OTHER CONFERENCES SERVING IN IRELAND**

R Andrew Robinson, BTh, BA (Methodist Church of Southern Africa)  
Marlene Skuce (Deacon) (Methodist Church in Britain)  
Tawanda Sungai, BA, BD (Methodist Church in Zimbabwe)  
Robert E Thomas, (Methodist Church in Britain)

**8. PERMISSION TO SERVE WITH OTHER CONFERENCES**

John W Purdy, BD (Methodist Church in Britain)

**9. CEASED TO BE RECOGNISED AS MINISTERS AMONGST US**

Their names are recorded in the Journal of the Conference.

# Obituaries

**David Houston**, who was born on 23rd October 1940, in Eden, Carrickfergus, the son of John and Violet Houston. His childhood was spent in Counties Antrim and Down and in Harrogate, England. Before candidating and entering Edgehill College, he studied at Magee University College, Londonderry where he gained a love for English Literature, which was to be a feature of his future ministry. His first appointment was to the North Belfast Mission in 1965, where he laid the foundation for the establishment of the Monkstown Society. He subsequently served on the following circuits: Ballynafeigh and Knockbreda, Waterford and Belfast Central Mission. Following ordination in 1970, he served on the Knock, Enniskillen, Londonderry City Mission, Springfield and Church Hill, Upper Erne, South Derry Mission and Carrickfergus Circuits. Whilst he was in Enniskillen, he met and married Margaret Brownlee and from then a very special team ministry began. So greatly was he respected in Whitehead, that the Houston Room was dedicated in appreciation of his ministry. In 1993, he served for a year at Donaghadee but then went without pastoral charge due to ill-health. Retiring from active ministry in 2006, he continued his involvement with Belfast Central Mission in the Healing Ministry and the Prayer Fellowship. He exercised a faithful and diligent pastoral ministry and his preaching was succinct, thoughtful and sincere, always presenting the claims of Christ as Saviour, Lord and Friend. He served both as a hospital and a prison chaplain and was a member of the Sacramental Fellowship of the Methodist Church. Over the years, he gained much pleasure in photography and later used these gifts as Conference photographer. He died on 22nd March 2022 in the eighty-first year of his age and the fifty-seventh of his ministry. His body was laid to rest in Victoria Cemetery, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim.

**John Robinson BSSc**, who was born on 24th October 1928, in Belfast. At the age of thirteen, Jack received a scholarship to Belfast Technical College where he studied for four years and passed the Matriculation Examination. Instead of going to University, and having an aspiration of becoming a Chartered Accountant, he accepted the post of 'Articled Pupil' with a Belfast firm of Accountants. He met Doris Agnew in Greencastle Methodist church, they were married in 1955 and were blessed with three children Michael, Carolyn and Gillian. Sensing the call of God to go to the mission field, after a period of training at St. Andrew's College, Selly Oak, Birmingham, they left for Nigeria to serve with the Methodist Missionary Society where he served as the accountant of

East Nigeria District. He was accepted for the ordained ministry in 1963 and served in Belfast Central Mission, Falls Road, Queen's Parade, Bangor, where he led a vibrant ministry amongst young people. Central to his ministry whilst stationed at Upper Falls (Suffolk), was reconciliation between the two communities. During this period, he obtained a first-class honours degree from Queen's University Belfast in Sociology. He subsequently applied for the post of lecturer in Economics and Accounting and taught in the University of Ulster in Coleraine and Queen's University Belfast for ten years. His love for Christ and his gift of preaching ultimately led him to return to circuit ministry in Rathgar in 1990. Characteristically, his pastoral involvement with people in difficult social circumstances inspired fresh hope in the small and diverse Methodist community being established in Tallaght. In retirement, he and Doris lived in Carrickfergus before moving to Swindon and in both places his leadership in public worship and small groups was infectious. He died on 8th February 2022 in the ninety-fourth year of his age and the fifty-ninth year of his ministry. His body was cremated at Kingsdown Crematorium, Swindon.

**Richard Kenneth Russell, BTh, FIMLS**, who was born in Belfast on 3rd July 1938, the third of five children to Norman and Anna Russell. He began his schooling at Lynn Memorial Primary School, later moving to the Belfast Model School, where his love of science and rugby was nurtured. At the age of 18, he started work in the laboratory of Whiteabbey Hospital, going on to become a Fellow of the Institute of Medical and Laboratory Services. He married Joan Smallwood in 1963, and they had two children, Heather and Alan. In 1970, he and his family spent a year at The Salvation Army Hospital in Zambia, where he worked in a training laboratory for local students. He was to return to Africa in 1993, to assist with the development of a programme to help AIDS victims in Nigeria. At home, he and Joan were founder members of the Methodist Church in Monkstown. Sensing God's call, he was accepted for the ordained ministry becoming one of the first Local Non-stipendiary Ministers. He was stationed in Carryduff and then in Craighyhill and in both churches his prayerful, wise, energetic and committed ministry resulted in growth and development. Following retirement, he and Joan joined Glengormley Methodist Church and made a significant contribution to its life. He had committed himself to the Lord at 15 years of age. He influenced many people for God and for good, always seeing the possibilities in others and lavishing encouragement. Having endured ill health for many years, his health deteriorated during 2021. He died on 11th August 2021 in the eighty-fourth year of his age and the twenty-fifth year of his ministry. His body was cremated at Roselawn Crematorium, Belfast.



**Vanessa Wyse Jackson, BA**, who was born in Dublin on 18th December 1961. Her home circuit was the Methodist Centenary Church, Dublin, where she served as Circuit Steward. After studying for a BA in Modern Languages and an H Dip Ed, at Trinity College, Dublin, she taught in St Columba's College and Alexandra College, Dublin. She candidated for the local, non-stipendiary ministry and was ordained in the year 2000. Appointed to the North Dublin Circuit, where her proficiency in French was a useful asset in relating to Congolese asylum seekers. She also served on the united Methodist/ Presbyterian Sandymount and Dublin South Circuits in Dublin. She was married to Patrick and had two daughters, Susanna and Katie. She was a creative and imaginative teacher, who published two volumes of talks for children based on her assemblies delivered at Rathgar National School and The High School Dublin. Her preaching was always thoughtful, with a readiness to see things from different perspectives. This was also shown in her willingness to explore different traditions, such as participating in the Lough Derg pilgrimage and she found great strength from her experience of Quaker witness and worship. Having undertaken the TCD Holocaust studies course, she often represented the Methodist Church at the annual Holocaust Ceremony in Dublin and volunteered to serve with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel. Her inter-church church interests were also evident in her membership of the ecumenical Rathgar-Terenure Fellowship and 'The Ten'- an Ecumenical Fellowship Group in Donnybrook. In recent years, she faced the challenge of cancer with courage and quiet calm. She died on 6th April 2022 in Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross in the sixty-first year of her age and the twenty-second of her ministry. Her body was cremated at Mount Jerome Crematorium, Dublin.

# Methodist Church in Ireland

## Stations of Ordained Ministers and Probationers

### JUNE 2022

#### SOUTHERN DISTRICT District Superintendent: Andrew J Dougherty

1. **Dublin South City**, Andrew G Kingston, Yongnam Park.  
Retired Ministers: John Parkin, Christopher G Walpole.
2. **Dublin Central Mission**, Laurence A M Graham, Tawanda Sungai
3. **Dublin North**, Ivor N Owens.
4. **Dublin South**, Stephen R Taylor.  
WESLEY COLLEGE, Nigel D Mackey, Chaplain.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chaplain to Trinity College, Dublin.
5. **Dublin, Sandymount Christ Church**, W Michael Jones (PT). The Superintendent is Andrew J Dougherty.
6. **South East Leinster**, David H Nixon, PRESIDENT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND, Mark S Forsyth, Katherine M Kehoe.  
(The Superintendent of Circuit and Urban Junction is Andrew J Dougherty)  
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT: Andrew J Dougherty.  
Retired Ministers: R Donaldson Rodgers, Desmond C Bain, Paul Kingston (C), Eric Duncan, E Rosemary Lindsay.
7. **Kilkenny and Carlow**, Susan Gallagher, who works under the direction of Andrew R Robinson who is Superintendent of the Circuit.
8. **Waterford**, Sahr J Yambasu.
9. **Portlaoise**, \_\_\_\_\_. The Superintendent is Andrew J Dougherty.
10. **North Tipperary**, \_\_\_\_\_ (Steven G Foster shall act as Chaplain to Gurteen College) The Superintendent is Andrew J Dougherty.  
Retired Minister: Thomas M Kingston.
11. **Birr, Athlone and Tullamore**, Nigel E Gill (PT). The Superintendent is Andrew J Dougherty.
12. **Cork South and Kerry**, R Andrew Robinson, S Alison Gallagher, \_\_\_\_\_.  
Retired Minister: Geraldine H W Gracie, William D Mullally.
13. **West Cork**, Gregory J Alexander, Denis M Maguire.

14. **Limerick**, Christ Church, Stephen Hancock. The Superintendent is Andrew J Dougherty.  
Victoria M Lynch has permission to continue a course of study while serving for the present with the Church of Ireland in a part-time capacity.
15. **Adare and Ballingrane**, Ruth H Watt (PT).  
Steven G Foster has permission to be without pastoral charge.  
Philip R Meadows has permission to serve with Inspire and Asbury Theological Seminary.  
R Andrew Robinson is a minister of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.  
Tawanda Sungai is a minister of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe.  
Irene Morrow, a Supernumerary Minister of the Methodist Church in Britain, resides in the Birr, Athlone and Tullamore Circuit.  
Deacon Gordon Wallace, a Supernumerary Minister of the Methodist Church in Britain, resides in the West Cork Circuit.  
Neville Wilson, a Supernumerary Minister of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, resides in the Cork South and Kerry Circuit.

**NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT**  
**District Superintendent: Stephen F Skuce**

16. **Enniskillen**, Lorna A Dreaning, Robert E Thomas (PT).  
Retired Ministers: John J Wilson, Robin N McKibben, Maureen E Hassard.
17. **Springfield and Church Hill**, \_\_\_\_\_. The Superintendent is Jeremy Nicoll.
18. **Lisbellaw, Maguiresbridge and Tempo**, \_\_\_\_\_, The Superintendent is Richard D Rowe.
19. **Upper Erne**, Richard D Rowe.  
Retired Minister: George A Bowes.
20. **Fivemiletown**, Clodagh Yambasu (PT). The Superintendent of the Circuit is C Mark Liddicoat (PT).
21. **Pettigo and Irvinestown**, \_\_\_\_\_. The Superintendent of the Circuit is John S Beacom.  
Retired Minister: John S Corrie.
22. **Ballinamallard and Trillick**, John S Beacom.
23. **North Connacht and Longford**, Jeremy Nicoll, Christiaan Snell (Church of Ireland Minister) (PT).
24. **Londonderry, Inishowen, Limavady and Strabane Mission**, Peter K Morris, Marlene Skuce (Deacon) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. The Superintendent of the

Circuit is Stephen F Skuce.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT, Stephen F Skuce.  
Paul J Gallucci has permission to serve with The Big House (Ireland).  
Retired Minister: Noel A J C Fallows.

25. **Castledearg**, \_\_\_\_\_, The Superintendent is John R Montgomery.
26. **Omagh and Fintona**, Eleanor Hayden, Leah McKibben.
27. **Donegal, Ballintra and Inver**, John R Montgomery.  
Retired Minister: Ian D Henderson.
28. **Dunkineely and Ardara**, Desmond R Davis.  
Retired Minister: Brian D Griffin.
29. **Portadown**, Alan G Wardlow, Sharon Connor, Darrin J S Thompson.  
Retired Ministers: Shaun R F Cleland, Kenneth J Robinson, Clive D Webster.
30. **Newry** (including Bessbrook, Dundalk and Warrenpoint), \_\_\_\_\_.  
The Superintendent is Andrew Gibson.  
Retired Ministers: W Graham Hamilton, M Louise Donald.
31. **Charlemont and Cranagill**, \_\_\_\_\_. The Superintendent is Alan G Wardlow.
32. **Dungannon**, William J Newell.
33. **Cookstown and South Derry**, \_\_\_\_\_. The Superintendent is David G Clements.  
Retired Minister: Brian T Sweeney.
34. **Armagh**, C Mark Liddicoat (PT).
35. **Aughnacloy and Monaghan**, \_\_\_\_\_. The Superintendent is William J Newell.
36. **Lurgan**, Harold M Agnew, George Abbs.  
Retired Ministers: J A Maurice Laverty, Thomas C Stevenson.
37. **Glenavy and Moira**, Philip Gallagher.  
Retired Ministers: David Mullan.
38. **Maghaberry** (The Church on the Hill), Clare Kakuru (Church of Ireland Minister) (PT). The Superintendent is Harold M Agnew.  
Retired Minister: R Kenneth Lindsay.
39. **Tandragee and Richhill**, Nicholas D McKnight, \_\_\_\_\_.  
Retired Minister: Robert T Loney.
40. **Banbridge and Donacloney** (including Blackskull), Andrew Gibson.  
Retired Minister: W Kenneth Bradley.

The nascent Cavan society is under the superintendency of Rev Dr Stephen F Skuce.

Robin F Toner (NS) works under the direction of the District Superintendent.  
John W Purdy has permission to serve with the Methodist Church in Britain.  
Deacon Marlene Skuce is a minister of the Methodist Church in Britain.  
Robert E Thomas is a minister of the Methodist Church in Britain.  
W Gerald Beattie, a Supernumerary Minister of the Methodist Church in Britain, resides in the Banbridge and Donacloney Circuit.

**NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT**  
**District Superintendent: W Philip Agnew**

41. **Coleraine, Portrush, Portstewart and Ballymoney**, Samuel J Livingstone. The Superintendent is W David Rock (PT).  
W David Rock has permission to serve with The Big House (Ireland).  
Retired Ministers: J Brownlee Glenny, Mervyn H Kilpatrick, John M Sweeney, J Norman Cardwell.
42. **Newtownabbey Mission** (incorporating the North Belfast Mission), Karen J Spence, T H Samuel McGuffin, Pauline M Lorimer, Ruth E Patterson, Samuel R Campbell, \_\_\_\_\_ (University Chaplain).  
Retired Ministers: R Ivan McElhinney, Ellen Whalley, John R J Moore, Peter D Murray, Stephen Sheerin.
43. **Ballyclare**, Christopher B Skillen.  
Retired Ministers: M Elizabeth Hewitt, S Desmond Curran.
44. **Carrickfergus**, Stephen E Woods, Edem S Dzun, Philip WJ Patterson.  
Retired Ministers: Derek Russell, James A Lemon, Samuel F Clements, Andrew N Boucher, J Brett Barnhill, Frederick L Munce.
45. **Larne**, Julian I Hamilton (PT) (who has permission to serve with the 'Good Summit').  
Retired Minister: J Henry F Keys.
46. **Antrim**, Stephen Thompson.  
Retired Minister: Michael R Gregory.
47. **Ballymena**, David J Sweeney.
48. **Cullybackey**, David G Clements.  
Retired Ministers: W Brian Fletcher, Christopher C Fraser.
49. **Belfast North**, Alan W Lorimer, Alan Conly, Daphne Hanna.  
Retired Ministers: J Trevor Jamieson, Brenda W Weatherill.

50. **Belfast South and Central** (including Belfast Central Mission), David A Campton, Emily A Hyland (who shall act as Honorary Chaplain to Methodist College), E June Parke (PT).  
 QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY (Church of the Resurrection) \_\_\_\_\_.  
 GENERAL SECRETARY AND SECRETARY OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND, Heather M E Morris, who is Secretary of the Trustees of the Methodist Church in Ireland.  
 EDGEHILL COLLEGE, Janet M Unsworth Director of the Ministries Team (Principal of Edgehill Theological College ).  
 METHODIST COLLEGE, \_\_\_\_\_, Chaplain.  
 Andrew Irvine (NS) works as a Pioneer Mission Leader.  
 Retired Ministers: William L Alford, William J Lavery.
51. **Belfast** (Ballynafeigh, including Knockbreda, Belvoir and Cairnshill), John D Alderdice, Tanita Lee.  
 SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT, W Philip Agnew.  
 Retired Ministers: Peter C Mercer, Heather N Bell.
52. **Belfast East**, Brian B Anderson, Robin W D Waugh, Fiona R McCrea, Paul N W Maxwell, Kenneth Connor, Nigel Murphy, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Derek J Johnston has permission to serve with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust as a full time Chaplain.  
 Gary J Mason has permission to serve with 'Rethinking Conflict'.  
 John C Wonnacott has permission to serve with the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.  
 Retired Ministers: Paul Kingston (B), G Harold Good, Norman W Taggart, David J Kerr, Robert P Roddie, T David Cooper, W Winston Graham, W James Rea, Johnston McMaster, George J Campbell, G Leslie Spence, Edward I McDade.
53. **Belfast** (Finaghy and Seymour Hill), Colin D Gracie.  
 Retired Minister: Robert W Wallace.
54. **Bangor and Holywood**, (including Ballyholme, Carnalea, Hamilton Road, Primacy and Queen's Parade) Philip Corrigan, Amanda M Durrell (PT), Mark A E Durrell, \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Retired Ministers: Robert G Bagnall, Arthur Parker, E Carson Nicholson, Colin J Duncan, Edward Kirwan.
55. **Donaghadee**, E Louise McKee. The Superintendent is Philip Corrigan.  
 Retired Ministers: A Robert Montgomery, Aian W Ferguson, Thomas R McKnight.
56. **Newtownards, Movilla Abbey and Comber**, Colin Milligan, Michael Spence.  
 Retired Ministers: Duncan Alderdice, William T Buchanan, Alan Meara, Kenneth A Wilson, Robert Cooper, Daphne M Twinem, Mervyn G Ewing.
57. **Glastry and Portaferry**, Jordan Litchfield.  
 Retired Ministers: Heather Robb, Wesley Campbell.

58. **Lagan Valley and South Down Circuit** (including Ballynahinch, Broomhedge, Donard, Dromore, Magheragall, Priesthill, Seymour Street and Trinity), David L Turtle, Thomas Clarke (NS), Ross J Harte (PT), Alan Craig, R E Richard Wright (NS), John McNair.

Retired Ministers: Samuel Burch, J Winston Good, Edmund T I Mawhinney, James Williamson, S Kenneth Todd, Thomas R Deacon, William A Davison, Ruth Craig.

Gary D Millar has permission to be without pastoral charge.

Pauline Whan has permission to be without pastoral charge.

Cheryl Patterson has permission to be without pastoral charge.

Robert S Russell, Retired Minister, resides in England.

Donald P Ker, Retired Minister, resides in England.

Charles Harris, Retired Minister, resides in England.

Richard C Johnston a Retired Minister of the Uniting Church in Australia, resides in the Ballyclare Circuit.

Laurence H Churms, a Supernumerary Minister of the Methodist Church in Britain, resides in the Ballymena Circuit.

Richard Clarke, a Retired Minister of the United Church of Canada, resides in the Belfast South and Central Circuit.

Mervyn P Oliver, a Supernumerary Minister of the Methodist Church in Britain, resides in the Bangor and Holywood Circuit.

Stephen J Robinson, a Supernumerary Minister of the Methodist Church in Britain, resides in the Lagan Valley and South Down Circuit.

F Lawrence Wallace, a Supernumerary Minister of the Methodist Church in Britain, resides in the Newtownards, Movilla Abbey and Comber Circuit.

Seija M Wallace, a Supernumerary Minister of the Methodist Church in Britain, resides in the Newtownards, Movilla Abbey and Comber Circuit.

**Chaplains to H M Forces:** Colin M Weir  
John Mbayo

**Ministers with Partner Churches Overseas:**  
1. Germany  
Barry J Sloan

# Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee

1. Conference receives the report

## **2. CANDIDATES FOR THE ORDAINED MINISTRY**

Regulations regarding Candidacy for the Ordained Ministry can be found on the 'Ministries Resources' section of the Methodist Church in Ireland website.

## **3. FORMATION, PROBATION AND ORDINATION**

Regulations regarding Formation, Probation and Ordination, can be found on the 'Ministries Resources' section of the Methodist Church in Ireland website.

## **4. PROBATIONERS' STUDIES**

The Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee shall set courses of studies for Probationers. Requests from Probationers to study courses other than those determined by the Committee must be made through the Director of the Ministries Team, before 30th June.

## **5. ORDAINED MINISTRY FORMATION**

The Conference directs that Ordained Ministry Formation continue along the present lines with a university diploma in theology as the minimum academic standard.

## **6. PROBATIONERS AND THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The Conference directs that superintendents of circuits, who have probationers under their care, shall make arrangements for them to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at least quarterly.



# Retirement of Ministers

**George A Bowes**, who has travelled twelve years. He first worked as a car mechanic, during which time he was actively involved in the delivery of aid to Romania. He worked for a year as a Lay Evangelist on the Castlederg Circuit where he responded to the call to ordained ministry. He has served on three circuits where he has used his gifts to develop the work of God's Kingdom. His preaching of the Gospel has been well received and his passion to see the Gospel revealed in everyday life has been evident in his pastoral care. His ministry has been appreciated by those within the church and in the wider community.

**Colin J Duncan, BTh**, who has travelled nineteen years. After a career with HM Coastguard, he offered for ordained ministry. He has served on three Belfast circuits where his ministry has been characterised by a deep spirituality and commitment to proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. He served on several Connexional Committees, which included offices such as Treasurer of the Property Board and Sabbatical Officer. His compassionate care for people found expression in his role on the Ministry of Healing Committee. His colleagues and the people whom he served hold him in high regard and have deep respect for his integrity.

**Robert T Loney, BTh, MTh, MA, MPhil**, who has travelled thirty years. Following study in Emmanuel Bible College, Birkenhead, he served with the World Evangelism Crusade, in Indonesia for five years. In 1993, he was accepted for the ordained ministry in the Methodist Church in Ireland. He has exercised an effective ministry through pastoral care and preaching, motivated by a desire to see a deepening experience of God in all to whom he has ministered. He has sought to develop church buildings that facilitate worship and outreach. A deep sense of dependence on God through prayer has underpinned his ministry.

**Thomas C Stevenson, BTh**, who has travelled twenty-four years, serving on six circuits in rural and provincial town appointments. Where he has ministered, he is fondly remembered as a faithful preacher and effective pastor. His administrative ability was recognised when appointed Secretary of the North East District. He was an efficient Secretary of the Property Board, bringing to the role his technical knowledge. His ability to work well in local ecumenical relationships facilitated the establishment of Larne Foodbank where he was a founding Trustee. He is a valued colleague and is held in high esteem by those who have benefitted from his ministry.

Their colleagues and friends pray God's blessing on these ministers for their retirement.

# PASTORAL EFFICIENCY

1. The Conference directs:
  - (a) that the Pastoral Efficiency Session of 2023 be arranged by the Ministries Learning and Development Committee.
  - (b) that the theme and writer of the Pastoral Address be arranged by the Committee.
2. The Conference appoints the Convener of Pastoral Efficiency:  
Rev Dr Janet M Unsworth.

# MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS

## 1. THE BUREAU OF MEMBERSHIP

Annual Schedules of Receptions and Removals of members shall be sent to the Rev Denis M Maguire, who is re-appointed Secretary (see Manual of Laws, 2.17).

## 2. RETIREMENT TRIBUTES AND OBITUARIES

The following committee is appointed to revise obituaries of deceased ministers and entries in the Minutes concerning ministers who are retiring:

The President, the Secretary of the Conference and the Ex-President, Rev Ian D Henderson, Rev Dr Thomas R McKnight, Rev Dr Edmund T I Mawhinney, Rev Ruth E Patterson, Rev Robert P Roddie, Rev Aian W Ferguson, Rev Alan G Wardlow, Ms Elaine Barnett, Rev Colin Gracie (Convener).

Obituaries shall be sent by District Superintendents to Rev Colin Gracie before 1st March. Email: [colin.gracie@irishmethodist.org](mailto:colin.gracie@irishmethodist.org)

## 3. PERMISSION TO RETIRE

The Conference directs that ministers wishing to apply for permission to retire at the ensuing Conference shall submit an application in writing to the Superintendent of the District and to the Secretary of the Irish Methodist Ministers' Retirement Fund before 30th September.

## 4. THE PASTORAL CARE OF MINISTERS RESIDING OUTSIDE IRELAND

The Conference directs that:

As soon as possible, after deciding to reside outside Ireland, a minister shall inform the Secretary of the Conference, in writing, of the name and address of the person who will have pastoral care of her/him.

# The Representative Session

REV DAVID H NIXON, BTh, President of the Conference  
and President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

MR THOMAS G WILSON, BA, Lay Leader of the Conference.

REV HEATHER M E MORRIS, BSc, BD, PhD, Secretary of the Conference

REV ALAN G WARDLOW, BA, Senior Assistant Secretary

MS ELAINE M BARNETT, Editorial Secretary

REV RUTH E PATTERSON, BTh, Journal Secretary

REV KENNETH CONNOR, FdA, BA, Letter Writer

## *Representatives from the British Conference*

Rev Sonia Hicks, President of the British Conference

Ms Barbara Easton, Vice President of the British Conference

Mr Daud Irfan

Rev Conrad Hicks

## *Observers from the Church of Ireland*

Rev Peter Jones

Ms Paula McIlwaine

## *Observers from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland*

Rev Dr Charles McMullen

Mr Lindsay Conway

## *Observer from the Irish Catholic Church*

Bishop Michael Router

## *Observer from the Irish Council of Churches*

Mr Damian Jackson

# OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

1. Rev David H Nixon, BTh, is appointed President of the Conference and President of the Methodist Church in Ireland for the coming year.
2. Mr Thomas G Wilson, BA, is appointed Lay Leader of the Conference.
3. Rev Dr Heather M E Morris, is appointed Secretary of the Conference and General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland for the coming year.
4. Rev David L Turtle is designated President of the Conference and of the Methodist Church in Ireland for the Connexional year 2023-2024.
5. Mr Thomas G Wilson is designated Lay Leader of the Conference for the Connexional year 2023-2024.
6. Rev Dr Heather M E Morris is designated Secretary of the Conference and General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland for the Connexional year 2023-2024.
7. Ms Gillian Gilmore and Ms Helen Sweeney are elected as Lay Representatives to the British Conference of 2023.

**Thanks to the President of the Conference**

## **Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu**

The Methodist Conference, on behalf of the people of the Methodist Church in Ireland, expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu for his dedicated and thoughtful leadership of the Church during the past year; the third year of the Covid-19 pandemic. Throughout his time as President, Sahr has served the Connexion with humour and grace.

Sahr's theme for the year was "People first, under God." In his presidential address, he stressed that *all* people matter to God - even those whom others may find 'difficult'. Over the year, he brought encouragement and support to the Church through the sharing of stories and through personal example.

Sahr had the challenge of presiding over the implementation of a new governance system for Irish Methodism and met the challenge with humility and grace. In October he had the honour of preaching at the Service of Reflection and Hope, which marked the centenary of the partition of Ireland and the formation of Northern Ireland. His challenging sermon called upon his own experiences of a divided society in his native Sierra Leone. He described the service as an opportunity "to give thanks and, also, lament; to imagine what could be, and to choose the way forward that can be mutually beneficial". He has blessed the Church and the community through his character and his words.

Sahr was the first President to be married to another Irish Methodist minister. His wife, the Rev Clodagh, was a support for him from her station in Fivemiletown. The Conference and the Methodist people throughout Ireland wish Sahr God's richest blessing as he returns to circuit in Waterford.

## **Thanks to the Lay Leader of the Conference**

### **Ms Hazel Loney**

As Lay Leader, Hazel Loney has served the Methodist Church in Ireland with wisdom, commitment and a passion for sharing the riches of Christ. Whenever she opened the Scriptures, her gifts of teaching and preaching inspired worship and quickened the faith of her hearers. Her *Methodist Newsletter* columns and contributions to *Gospel Moments* blog on the Church's website have always been pertinent and encouraging.

Hazel stepped into office at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, forcing many of her interactions at Connexional level to take place on screen. Notwithstanding, both in public and behind the scenes, her calm insightful presence and understanding of mission have shone through to the benefit of colleagues and friends. In days of uncertainty, she has blessed us with her kindness of heart and steadfastness of spirit. We hold her in high regard and record our sincere thanks to her and also to her husband, Robert, who has supported her in every way.

# Faith and Order Committee

1. The Conference receives the report.
2. The Conference appoints the Committee:  
The President, the Lay Leader, the Ex-President, the Ex-Lay Leader, the President Designate, the General Secretary (Secretary of Conference),  
Mr Michael Briggs, Rev Philip Gallagher, Ms Gillian Kingston, Mr Andrew Mullen, Mr Andrew Nicoll, Rev Ruth E Patterson, Rev Dr Stephen F Skuce, Rev Michael Spence, Rev Dr Andrew Stobart, Rev Dr Janet Unsworth.  
Church of Ireland Observer: Rev Dr Stanley Gamble.
3. The Conference re-appoints Ms Gillian Kingston as Convener.
4. Dates of Meetings:  
Saturday, 8th October 2022  
Saturday, 11th February 2023

# Council on Social Responsibility

1. The Conference receives the report.
2. The following are the members of the Council for the ensuing year:  
The President, the Lay Leader, the General Secretary, the President Designate.

## **Southern Executive:**

Chair: Rev Steven Foster, Secretary: Ms Sharon Morrow, Mr Michael Briggs, Mr Geoffrey Corry, Rev Denis Maguire, Ms Sarah Montgomery, Ms Isolda O'Connor, Ms Elizabeth Parkin, Rev Andrew Robinson, Ms Sara Stephens, Mr Matty Tamen.

Eco-Congregation Ireland Representative: Mr Steven Johnston

## **Northern Executive:**

Chair: Rev Dr David Clements, Lay Secretary: Ms Hazel Baird, Rev Brian Anderson, Dr David Gallagher, Dr James Nelson, Mr William Parkinson, Rev Kenneth Robinson, Mr Alan Strong, Ms Jean Tubman, Rev Robert Wallace.

3. The Conference recommends that the following Sundays be observed in our churches:

Creation-tide	September/October
Social Responsibility Sunday	29th January 2023
Racial Justice Sunday	12th February 2023

## 4. **Additional Resolution on Poverty**

The Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland has observed with great concern the continuous and ever deepening cost of living crisis as it is all so apparent that many more individuals and families in the UK and in the Republic of Ireland are encountering real hardship as a result of increased energy costs, inflation, especially food price inflation, increase in National Insurance and public transport and general travel costs. The Methodist Church in Ireland is very exercised about the impact on poverty in all aspects for all people, but in particular the health and well-being of so many of those who are unemployed, homeless, disabled or in low-income families, especially those with children.

Whilst acknowledging recent well-thought-out and targeted pledges from the UK Exchequer and the previous NI Executive, it is our view that these interventions have been too slow, reactive and insufficient.

Conference calls for

- 1) All the political parties recently elected to the new NI Assembly to make the elimination of poverty the number one priority and to do everything in their power to get the Assembly and Executive functioning immediately so that measures can be put in place which will directly help the most affected by poverty in society.



- 2) The immediate implementation of those mitigations announced by the UK Exchequer which fall under its remit.
- 3) The implementation of the Anti-Poverty Strategy which was ready for Executive agreement prior to its collapse.

Conference also commends the partnership arrangement between the Council on Social Responsibility, Christians Against Poverty and the Trussell Trust as it seeks to encourage Methodists on the island of Ireland to Pray, Learn and Act with regard to poverty.

Furthermore, Conference directs the Council on Social Responsibility to gather information and reflect prayerfully on the nature of poverty on the island of Ireland and to report to Conference next year on a series of evidenced-based recommendations to local administrations - north and south - and to the Methodist people with regard to reducing poverty as well as encouraging practical actions to support those most in need.

# The Governance Board

1. The Conference receives the Report.
2. The Conference appoints Mr Tony O'Connor as Chair of the Governance Board.
3. The Conference appoints the Governance Board as follows:  
Chair: Mr Tony O'Connor  
Convener: General Secretary, Rev Dr Heather Morris  
President: Rev David Nixon  
Lay Leader: Mr Tom Wilson  
Ex-President: Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu;  
President-designate: Rev David L Turtle  
Chair of the Standing Committee of the Statutory Trustees: Mr Tom Millar  
  
Elected by Conference: Rev Harold Agnew, Mr David Best, Rev David Campton,  
Mr John Clarke, Mr Paul Cummings, Ms Laura Griffith, Ms Gillian Kingston,  
Rev Nigel G Mackey.

Secretary to the Governance Board: Ms Elaine Barnett

## **Permanent Board Committees**

The Terms of Reference of all these committees can be found on Teams at MCI Resources>Policies & Procedures>Governance Board. Each committee reports regularly to the Governance Board.

### The Audit Risk and Budget Committee (ARB)

The ARB is the principal vehicle through which the Governance Board seeks assurance on, and oversight of, all things financial and on the processes and procedures involved in the running of the Church. The ARB replaces and expands on the original Connexional Finance Committee.

Mr David Best (Chair), the General Secretary, Mr Paul Cummings and Mr John Clarke.

The ARB meets a minimum of three times per year. In order to spread the workload the business of the ARB is split between three sub-committees as follows:

#### The Audit and Assurance Sub-Committee (AAC)

The AAC's role is to support the Governance Board and the Senior Management team in their responsibilities relating to the content and audit of the Annual Report and Financial Statement.

Mr David Best (Chair), Rev Nigel Mackey, Mr Tom Millar and Mr Neil Payne.

#### The Finance and Budget Sub-Committee (FC)

The FC meets a minimum of five times per annum. The principal duties consist of the review of the following: -

- Regular financial reports from the Chief Financial Officer/Head of Finance
- The financial systems employed by the Church.
- The various budgets prepared by departments and other elements of the Church.

- Stipends, allowances and salaries.
- The annual Comprehensive Assessment.

Mr Paul Cummings (Chair), Rev Harold Agnew, Ms Laura Griffith, Mr Harold Baird and Mr Bruce Mullen.

The General Assurance Sub-Committee (GAC)

The GAC meets at least three times per annum and is tasked with providing assurance to the Governance Board on non-financial issues where it is perceived significant risk might arise should the appropriate controls and policies not be in place.

Mr John Clarke (Chair), Rev David Campton, Rev Andrew Irvine and Ms Gillian Kingston.

**4. Dates of Board meetings:**

2022: 15th September, 11th October, 10th November, 8th December

2023: 19th January, 13th February, 20th March, 20th April, 25th May

- 5. The Conference records its thanks to those who have stepped aside from Connexional roles or employment with the Methodist Church in Ireland.
- 6. The Conference designates Rev Dr Heather ME Morris as Secretary of Conference for 2023/2024.

**7. Resolution on online meetings**

The Conference permits online meetings at Society, Circuit, District and Conference levels, and directs that they be properly constituted as per the regulations for in-person meetings as set out in the Manual of Laws, and be recognised as having equal status.

**Connexional Team**

- 8. The Conference gives permission to the Governance Board to approve or otherwise any necessary changes to the membership of the Connexional Team which arise due to Review of the work of the Team, during the 2022/23 Connexional year.

**9. Authorisations**

The Conference grants authorisation to the following Local Preachers to preside at the Lord's Supper for the 2022-2023 Connexional year:

Mr Roy Dreaning on the Springfield and Church Hill Circuit

Mr Simon Kilpatrick in Urban Junction

Mr Norman Henry on the Castlederg Circuit

Mr John McConnell on the Lisbellaw, Tempo and Maguiresbridge Circuit.

- 10. The Conference, on the recommendation of the Stationing Sub-Group of the Connexional Team, grants dispensation to the following probationers to preside at the Lord's Supper:

Susan Gallagher

Tanita Lee (in the context of the Circuit's pioneer mission work)

Leah McKibben

Peter Morris

**11. The Conference notes the following changes to circuit boundaries from 1st July 2022**

- (I) the current two circuits of Woodvale, Shankill and Glencairn and North Belfast (Jennymount and Joanmount) are realigned into one circuit called 'Belfast North'.
- (II) The current 5 circuits that comprise the nine Societies of Sydenham, Knock, Dundonald, Braniel, Glenburn, Cregagh, Mountpottinger, Bloomfield and EBM (Newtownards Methodist Church) are realigned into one circuit called 'Belfast East'.

**12. Change to the process whereby changes can be made to the Manual of Laws:**

The Conference approves the following change to the Manual of Laws:

**7.35** Business shall be presented to the Conference in one of the following forms:

.....A Notice of Motion, which sets out, one year in advance, a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Church ~~or its Courts or its Connexional Committees~~, and is printed in the Conference Agenda.

**The Church Development Board**

13. The Conference expresses thanks for the work of the Church Development Board over the years and, while receiving the following Notice of Motion to the Conference of 2023, directs it ceases from 1st July 2022, and that pending the Conference discussion of the substantive motion in 2023 that any areas of the CDB's responsibility, not already encompassed by the Connexional Team be transferred to its oversight.

14. The Conference receives the following Notice of Motion to the Conference of 2023:

Ordinary Expenditure 15.09

District Superintendents shall inquire into the needs of those circuits applying for grants from the Department and shall recommend to the Department the amount considered needful in each case for the ensuing year. Such applications shall be examined by the ~~Church Development Board Connexional Team~~ and the applications and the recommendations or decisions of the ~~Church Development Board Connexional Team~~ shall be reported to the General Committee and included in the Minutes of the Committee.

15.15 Grants within the limit set by the Governance Board may be approved by the Treasurers of the Home Mission Department in consultation with the ~~Officers of the Church Development Board~~. Connexional Team.

15.37 Application for Mission Ireland grants shall be processed by the District Superintendents who shall carefully examine such applications for assistance and shall recommend to the Department the amount considered needful in each case for the ensuing Connexional year. Such applications shall be examined by the ~~Church Development Board Connexional Team~~ and the recommendations or decisions of the ~~Church Development Board Connexional Team~~ shall be reported to the Governance Board and included in the Minutes of the Meeting. Projects employing lay workers shall only be considered if operating under legislation of the Employment Advisory Group.

## Delete Chapter 16

~~27.03 The Property Board Development Account is provided and maintained to encourage and assist in the purchase, erection or rental of buildings in areas where facilities for worship and witness do not exist, or are deemed to be inadequate, due to growth.~~

~~(a) Applications for Church Development status shall be dealt with by the Church Council, the Circuit Executive and the Church Development Board.~~

~~(b) When the Church Development Board gives approval for Church Development status, the General Secretary of the Home Mission Department shall so inform the Secretary of the Property Board and the Superintendent of the Circuit through whom applications for grants and loans shall be submitted.~~

7.59 The Property Board Mission Development Account (formally the Property Board Development Account) is provided and maintained to encourage and assist in the purchase, erection or rental of buildings in areas where facilities for worship and witness do not exist, demand development due to missional potential or are deemed to be inadequate, due to growth. Applications to the Fund are assessed by the Connexional Team. Any application in excess of a level determined annually by the Governance Board shall be brought to the Governance Board prior to approval being granted. Applications should be made to the Connexional Team through the District Superintendent.

37.01 The Governance Board shall appoint a Prison and Healthcare Chaplaincy Committee, which shall report through the ~~Church Development Board~~ Connexional Team.

## Conference Membership

15. The Conference directs the Governance Board to review the membership of the Conference and bring proposals to the Conference of 2023.

In the interim

16. The Conference, having received a Notice of Motion from Conference 2021, hereby amends the Manual of Laws as follows, with such amendments taking effect from 1st July 2022.

### The Representative Session 7.03

As provided in the Constitution VI. (2) (b), "The Conference in its Representative Session consists of the President of the British Conference and the representatives appointed by that Conference, together with not less than 100, nor more than 150 ministers, and an equal number of lay members, elected or appointed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Conference."

7.04 The ministers shall consist of: ....

(d) Lay representatives nominated by Circuits Executives, as provided for in paragraph 7.07 8

(n) ~~The Secretary of the Ordained Ministry Committee, Chair of the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee'~~

(q) ~~The Precentor of the Conference, The Conference Director of Music,~~

7.05 The lay members shall consist of: ...

(e) Three Youth Representatives, who shall not exceed ~~twenty-five~~ twenty-eight years of age at the time of her/his selection, from each District, selected by the District Superintendent in consultation with the Irish Methodist Youth and Children's ~~Department.~~ Team.

(f) Lay Representatives to be elected by the Committees of the following Funds and Institutions from among their own members, ~~after the elections have taken place in the Synods,~~ one each by

World Mission Partnership

Irish Methodist Youth and Children's ~~Department~~ Team

Council on Social Responsibility

Stipends and Allowances Board

Statutory Trustees

Local Preachers' Committee

World Development and Relief

Wesley College, Dublin

Methodist College, Belfast

~~Edgehill College, Belfast~~ The Ministries Team

Gurteen College

two by

Methodist Women in Ireland

(j) Three representatives nominated by the Pioneer Mission Team

17. In the light of significant changes to circuit boundaries and the review of Conference membership, Conference directs that the allocation for Conference 2023 be made on the basis of the circuit boundaries in place for Conference 2022.

## **CHANGES TO THE MANUAL OF LAWS (being brought by Teams and Departments)**

### **1. The Ministries Team**

The Conference approves the changes to Chapter 6 in the Manual of Laws, as outlined in Appendix 4A.

### **2. Irish Methodist World Development and Relief**

The Conference approves the amendments to Chapter 19 in the Manual of Laws, as outlined in Appendix 4B.

### **3. World Mission Partnership**

The Conference approves the changes to para 17.06 of the Manual of Laws, as outlined in Appendix 4C.

#### 4. The Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy Belfast

The Conference approves the changes to Chapter 15 in the Manual of Laws, as outlined in Appendix 4D.

### NOTICES OF MOTION FROM CONFERENCE 2021

The Conference, having received Notices of Motion from the Conference of 2021, makes the following changes to the Manual of Laws:

1. Deletes Chapter 33 and directs that it be kept as an Appendix.

#### 2. The Connexional Team

**7.49** (a) The Connexional Team shall consist of the following members:

.....

~~The Director of Ministry~~ Ministries Team Leader ....

(b) The following subgroup of the Connexional Team shall have exclusive responsibility with regard to all matters concerning the stationing of ministers and probationers: The President of the Conference, the Lay Leader of the Conference, the Secretary of the Conference, the President-Designate of the Conference, the District Superintendents, ~~the Director of Ministry~~, the Ministries Team Leader, and, when in full-time, separated appointment, the General Secretary of the Home Mission Department.

**7.51** Early in ~~October~~ September each year the stationing subgroup of the Connexional Team will meet to consider:

(a) The appointment of ministers who ~~will have completed eight years and following Stationing Review~~, may be due for a change of appointment at the ensuing Conference.

(b) The appointment of ministers who have requested a change of appointment at the ensuing Conference, or whose Circuit Executives have requested a change.

(c) The appointment of ministers who are returning from service overseas or from service with an external organisation. (d) The appointment of ministers transferring from other Conferences or Churches.

(e) The appointment of students who will be ~~leaving Edgehill College~~ completing initial training at the ensuing Conference.

(f) The appointment of those ministers for whom the Committee may consider a change would be desirable in the best interests of the ministers concerned and of the work on the Circuits.

**7.54** ~~At~~ By the end of February each year a list of the appointments to be proposed to the ensuing Conference shall be sent to every minister and Circuit Steward. ...

### 3. CHAPTER 11 Circuit Organisation

#### Special Provisions for Small Societies

**11.24** In Societies with worshipping congregations of up to about thirty people, the congregation itself may be the Church Council.

(a) Such a congregational Church Council shall be subject to all provisions relating to Church Councils except as indicated below.

(b) Notice of congregational Council meetings shall normally be given at least one week in advance and may be by pulpit announcement.

(c) Congregational Council meetings may be held following Sunday worship, and all decisions must be minuted and the minutes confirmed and signed.

(d) The quorum required for a meeting of a congregational Church Council shall be all those present at a meeting for which proper notice has been given, provided at least four adults from the Society are present.

(e) The Council shall appoint three of its members to advise the Minister on the nomination of Church Officials.

(f) Church Officials may, where necessary, be Members of other Societies.

(g) The Council shall ratify the appointment of Church Officials upon the nomination of the Minister.

(h) The Church Officials (in consultation with the Minister), or the Council itself, may designate persons in the congregation to undertake specific tasks.

(i) The Church Officials, in consultation with the Minister, shall ensure that the congregational Church Council adopts and updates a Mission Statement, sets annual achievable goals, and discharges all responsibilities laid upon the Church Council.

## **WORKING PARTY ON THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT AND LAY LEADER**

1. The Conference receives the report and asks the Working Party:
  - a) to refine and develop its proposals in light of the Conference discussion.
  - b) to bring a revised Report, along with draft consequential changes to the Manual of Laws, to Conference in 2023.



# **RESOLUTIONS from the BOOK OF REPORTS**

The Resolutions which follow were received by the Governance Board at its meeting on 7th April 2022, and reported to the Conference.

## CONNEXIONAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. The Governance Board appointed Mr Lindsay Conway as Chair of the Connexional Safeguarding Board.
3. The Governance Board re-appointed Mr Nicholas A Blair as Connexional Safeguarding Officer.
4. The Governance Board appointed the Connexional Safeguarding Board as follows:  
Mr Lindsay Conway (Convenor & Chair); Ms Cathy Bell; Mr Nicholas Blair; Mr Chris Boucher; Ms Laura Ewing; Ms Gillian Gilmore; Mr Stephen Gray; Rev Stephen Hancock; Ms Corinne Kingston; Rev Paul Maxwell; Ms Grace McGurk; Ms Gail Mercer; Ms Kathryn Montgomery; Mr Sandy Mutch.  
Ex Officio Members: Rev Philip Agnew; Rev Andrew Dougherty; Rev Dr Stephen Skuce.
5. The Governance Board directed that everyone who works, with children, young people or vulnerable adults under the auspices of MCI, must be vetted within their respective jurisdiction through MCI, at least once every three years.
6. The Governance Board directed that everyone who works with children, young people or vulnerable adults under the auspices of MCI, must attend training provided by MCI, at least once every three years.
7. The Governance Board on behalf of the Conference acknowledges, with thanks, the contribution to Safeguarding that IMYC provides in lieu of administrative support.

## PROPERTY BOARD

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. **Thanks to Mr Keith Irvine**  
The Governance Board, on behalf of the Conference, recorded its thanks and deep appreciation to Mr Keith Irvine who has faithfully served the Connexional Property Board as Treasurer and then Chair for a total of six years. Keith has given generously of his time and experience. His ability to see the big picture while attending to the detail of any matter has contributed to the efficient working of the Property Board. Keith's input has been invaluable, and the Connexion is grateful.
3. **Thanks to Ms Elizabeth Curry**  
The Governance Board, on behalf of the Conference, recorded its thanks to Elizabeth Curry for her work as Secretary of the Visitations Committee. Elizabeth fulfilled her responsibilities in this role with grace and care. Her work was significant in ensuring that our property was well maintained, safe and fit for purpose. She offered this service 'as to the Lord' and we are grateful to her.
4. The Governance Board directed that the current practice of allocation of 15% of the income from the Property Board Loan Fund be allocated to the Chapel Fund and that 15% be allocated to the Church Development Fund ceases on the basis that it is only reallocating funds within the same accounts available for this work.
5. The Governance Board directed that the Property Board may only in exceptional circumstances consider provision of 'open-ended' bridging facilities to Societies due to the high risk associated with these arrangements.
6. The Governance Board directed that the Property Board may extend the loan term available from 5 years to 7 years and in exceptional circumstances for an amount in excess of £100k to 10 years subject to repayment capacity being demonstrated.
7. The Governance Board directed that Societies provide requested returns within the specified timeframes to ensure accuracy of information.
8. The Governance Board re-appointed the General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland as the holder of the Register of Deeds and Documents.
9. The Governance Board directed that the funds held by the Property Board are amalgamated into a single account and management of the funds are transferred to the Connexional Finance Team with the future requirement of one Treasurer for these funds on behalf of the Property Board.
10. The Governance Board once again expressed its thanks to the Trustees of the Joseph Rank Trust for their ongoing generous financial support for the work of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

11. The Governance Board appointed the Board as follows:

**Board Membership 2022-2023:**

The President, the Lay Leader, the General Secretary  
General Secretary of the Home Mission Department\*

Officers of The Property Board:

Rev Thomas Clarke, Chair\*

Rev Kenneth Connor, Secretary\*

Mr Paul Cummings, Lay Treasurer\*

Rev Andrew Kingston, Ministerial Treasurer\*

**District Representatives:**

Southern: Rev Greg Alexander, Mr Ross Hinds

North Western: Rev John Beacom, Mr Tony Foster

North Eastern: Rev Sam Campbell, Mr Clem McKee\*

**Property Board Plans Committee:**

Mr Clem McKee, Convener\*; Rev Kenneth Connor, Secretary;

Mr John Hutchinson, Rev Thomas Clarke and Mr Simon Kinghan

\*Denotes membership of the Property Board Executive Committee

12. Dates of Board Meetings:

22nd September 2022

23rd March 2023

13. Summary of Property Returns as at December 2021

No. of Churches	197
No. of Halls	156
No. of Manses	102
No. of Schools	3
No. of Other Buildings	57

*The following information is based on 84 responses, a 40% return ratio (42% in 2021).*

Period ended: 31st December 2021

Amount of Insurance Cover	(2020: £107.9m) (2020: €86.8m)	£115.9m €55.8m
Amount of Debt Reported	(2020: £492k) (2020: € Nil)	£253k € Nil
Amount Spent on Repairs/ Renovations/ New Building	(2020: £313.4k) (2020: €102.4k)	£244.3k €123.8k

The accuracy and integrity of the above information for both Conference and the Charity Commission is reliant on returns being submitted. There appears to be a number of discrepancies in the detail when compared against Property Board Applications received during 2020.

14. Property Sales:

Cavehill (Church)	£460,000
Strathfoyle (Land)	*£100,000
Ballynarry (Church)	£ 16,000
Lisnaskea (Manse)	£105,000
Dublin North (Manse)	€452,000

\*total selling price £200k (subject to planning with £20k deposit paid to date) and funds being split 50/50 with the Church of Ireland as joint owners.

15. No property was acquired during the year.

## STATUTORY TRUSTEES

1. The Governance Board adopted the report.
2. The Governance Board re-appointed Rev Dr Heather M E Morris as the Secretary of the Trustees and Registrar of Deeds and Documents.
3. The Governance Board re-appointed Mr Thomas H Millar as Chair of the Standing Committee of the Trustees.
4. The Governance Board appointed Ms Joan Doherty, Ms Catherine McIlroy, Mr Steve Taylor, Rev Brian B Anderson, Rev Robin W D Waugh and Rev Dr Sahr J Yambasu as Trustees.
5. The following are the Trustees:  
Rev John D Alderdice, Rev Brian B Anderson, Rev Desmond C Bain, Rev Ruth Craig, Rev Aian W Ferguson, Rev Mark S Forsyth, Rev Dr Laurence A M Graham, Rev T H Samuel McGuffin, Rev Dr Thomas R McKnight, Rev Dr Heather M E Morris, Rev Jeremy Nicoll, Rev Ruth E Patterson, Rev Dr Stephen F Skuce, Rev S Kenneth Todd, Rev David L Turtle, Rev Robin W D Waugh, Rev Dr Sahr J Yambasu, Ms Hazel Baird, Mr Joseph Bockarie, Mr John G Clarke, Ms Irene Dickson, Ms Joan Doherty, Mr Douglas Edmondson, Ms Eileen French, Ms Gillian Gilmore, Mr David J Hopley, Mr Hal I Hosford, Ms Catherine McIlroy, Mr Thomas H Millar, Mr Ivor Moffitt, Mr Rory O’Ferrall, Mr Charles Payne, Mr Neil H Payne and Mr Steve Taylor.
6. The following are the members of the Standing Committee for the year 2022-2023:  
Rev John D Alderdice, Rev T H Samuel McGuffin, Rev Dr Thomas R McKnight, Rev Dr Heather M E Morris, Rev Jeremy Nicoll, Rev Ruth E Patterson, Rev Dr Stephen F Skuce, Ms Hazel Baird, Ms Irene Dickson, Mr John Clarke, Mr Douglas Edmondson, Mr Hal Hosford, Mr David Hopley, Mr Ivor Moffitt, Mr Thomas H Millar and Mr Rory O’Ferrall.  
(The Secretary of the Trustees is ex-officio Secretary of any committee)
7. The Governance Board directed that the income from the Foundation of the Ministers’ Sons’ Fund for the coming year be paid to the Ministers’ Children’s Fund, designated for payment to Wesley College Dublin for Boarder Foundationalers.
8. The Governance Board commends the scheme for Gift Aid donations in Northern Ireland and the Scheme for Tax Relief for donations to eligible charities in the Republic of Ireland to those of our people who are in a position to make such donations.
9. The Governance Board adopted the following additions and amendments to Appendix 4 of the Manual of Laws:

### **Duties of the Treasurers**

**18.** ~~The Treasurer or Treasurers~~ of The Trustees shall receive all monies payable to the Trustees and shall cause the capital monies so received to be lodged in such bank or banks as may be determined by the Trustees.

All cheques on the bank accounts of the Trustees shall be signed by ~~the Treasurer and/or such other~~ nominated person or Trustee or Trustees as the Standing Committee of the Trustees may from time to time determine.

### **Contracts Not Under Seal**

20. Pursuant to Section 17 of the Act, ~~the Treasurer or Treasurers of the~~ a Trustee nominated by the Standing Committee and the Secretary (if a Trustee) or any one of them are hereby appointed to make, on behalf of the Trustees any contract which may be made under the Act, otherwise than under Seal.

### **10. Memorial**

The Conference refers to the Statutory Trustees the Memorial on Investments, calling on the managers of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Fund and the Governance Board to immediately review and divest from all companies and businesses that are associated with, or benefit from, illegal occupations contrary to international law.

The Conference also encourages Methodist delegates to the 2022 Assembly of the World Council of Churches to raise this concern in the proceedings of the Assembly.

## COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

1. The following amounts shall be contributed by the Circuits in the year 2023

Circuit	2023 Euro	2023 Stg
Dublin South City	25,145	
Dublin Central Mission	18,607	
Dublin North	10,237	
Dublin South	24,327	
Dublin Sandymount	7,860	
South East Leinster	41,088	
Kilkenny & Carlow	10,554	
Waterford	8,266	
Portlaoise	10,398	
North Tipperary	10,419	
Birr, Athlone & Tullamore	4,361	
Cork & South Kerry	32,946	
West Cork	27,340	
Limerick	3,438	
Adare & Ballingrane	9,267	
Enniskillen		27,448
Springfield & Church Hill		9,717
Lisbellaw, Maguiresbridge & Tempo		10,734
Upper Erne		17,010
Fivemiletown		12,694
Pettigo & Irvinestown		11,377
Ballinamallard & Trillick		21,278
North Connacht & Longford	23,634	
North West Methodist Mission		28,665
Castlederg		8,302
Omagh & Fintona		30,349
Donegal, Ballintra & Inver	12,423	
Dunkineely & Ardara	9,080	
Portadown		55,997
Newry		12,268
Charlemont & Cranagill		8,241
Dungannon		20,131
Cookstown & South Derry		12,471
Armagh		11,658
Aughnacloy & Monaghan		9,254
Lurgan		40,358
Glenavy & Moira		17,944
Maghaberry		3,742
Tandragee & Richhill		29,814
Banbridge & Donaghcloney		15,674



Coleraine, Portrush, Portstewart & Ballymoney	24,365
Newtownabbey Mission	56,987
Ballyclare	20,795
Carrickfergus	45,373
Larne	22,091
Antrim	12,487
Ballymena	14,234
Cullybackey	20,407
North Belfast	24,770
Belfast South & Central	23,977
Greater Shankill	17,142
Ballynafeigh, Knockbreda, Belvoir & Cairnshill	34,959
Mountpottinger & Bloomfield	19,058
Cregagh & Glenburn	30,500
East Belfast Mission	5,670
Sydenham	16,898
Knock	50,248
Finaghy & Seymour Hill	24,116
Bangor & Holywood	64,835
Donaghadee	13,250
Newtownards, Movilla Abbey & Comber	40,000
Glastry & Portaferry	13,292
Lagan Valley & South Down	
Ballynahinch	10,580
Donard	7,156
Lisburn & Dromore	73,347

The Assessment for Methodist College, Belfast, the Queen's University Chaplaincy, Belfast, Wesley College, Dublin and the Dublin Student Chaplaincy is £400 each.

Additional amounts shall be paid by the authorities concerned towards the pensions of each of the chaplains.

Please note: Circuit boundaries in place prior to the Conference of 2022 have been retained on this list. This is to ease the transition for the new Circuits.

## MINISTERIAL STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES (1)

Given that the work of the Working Party on Stipends, Allowances and Salaries is ongoing, the Stipends and Allowances for 2022 are recorded below for ease of reference.

### MINISTERS, INCLUDING PROBATIONERS

	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland
<b>Point 1</b>		
Up to 10 years travelling	£27,397	€35,725
<b>Point 2</b>		
11 years travelling onwards	£28,767	€37,131
<b>Probationer Rate</b>	£24,907	€32,672

The Conference directs that the scale of allowances as set out below be paid with effect from 1st January 2022, as outlined:

### NORTHERN IRELAND

- (a) **Circuit and Connexional Mileage**  
HM Revenue and Customs Rates
  - First 10,000 business miles 45.0p per mile
  - Over 10,000 business miles 25.0p per mile
- Motorcycle**  
All business miles 24.0p per mile
- Bicycle**  
All business miles 20.0p per mile
- (b) **Non-Stipendiary Ministers** As above
- (c) **Connexional and Conference travel (Lay)** 25.0p per mile
- (d) **Retired Ministers - Allowances for Services of Worship**  
£40 minimum per service, plus travel at 45p per mile
- (e) **Light, Heat and Telephone (Landline, Mobile & Broadband)**  
See note 3 below

### REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

- (a) **Fixed Car Allowance** €1854 per annum
- (b) **Circuit and Connexional Mileage**
  - Up to 25,000 km 27.55 cent per km
  - Over 25,000 km 21.36 cent per km
- Motorcycle**  
All business miles 18 cent per km
- Bicycle**  
All business miles 15 cent per km

- (c) **Non-Stipendiary Ministers** As above
- (d) **Connexional and Conference travel (Lay)** 20 cent per km
- (e) **Retired Ministers - Allowances for Services of Worship**  
€50 minimum per service, plus travel at 31.69 cent per km
- (f) **Light, Heat and Telephone (Landline, Mobile & Broadband)**  
75% of Light, Heat, Landline, Broadband and Sim-only Mobile plans. Circuits should contribute towards the cost of a mobile handset, by local agreement.

The minister should declare, for tax purposes, any of the above payments that he or she considers to be over and above business use. For Light and Heat, business use should not exceed 25% of actual costs. It is the minister's responsibility to justify the percentage/amount declared as business use.

### **MANSE HEAT AND LIGHT (NORTHERN IRELAND)**

- (a) the minister is responsible for paying all the heat and light bills for the manse
- (b) from 1 July 2022, for one year the TMEA is increased as follows: the circuit / society pays the minister a Taxable Manse Expense Allowance (TMEA) equivalent to 9% of Top Stipend i.e., 7% towards light and heat; and 2% towards telephone. For manses with above-average heating costs, a higher TMEA may be appropriate, by local arrangement.
- (c) the minister can (where appropriate) claim a deductible expense in making her/his annual tax return of up to 25% of actual costs for light and heat and an appropriate share of the telephone costs for business use. To support the claim, it is the minister's responsibility to justify the percentage / amount claimed for business use.
- (d) the circuit / society no longer pay the minister a non-taxable amount in respect of business use of the manse or telephone costs.

The Human Resources Manager to adjust annually the TMEA in line with the movement in Top Stipend.

### **VOCATIONAL LAY EMPLOYEES: SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES (2)**

The scales that the Stipend and Allowances Board set down are the minimum for the post. Two levels have been established - for those with no qualifications and those who have qualifications for their post.

**Minimum Salary from 1st January 2022 (based on a 36-hour week)**

	<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>Republic of Ireland</b>
Level 1 (unqualified)	£22,607	€29,590
Level 2 (qualified)	£23,738	€31,069

**It is stressed that these are minimum payments and that churches are free to pay above the minimum if they so desire.**

## **Circuit or Departmental employees, Vocational Lay Workers or non-vocational employees facilitated through the Central Payroll Bureau**

Circuits, departments, etc. who employ Vocational Lay Workers who are paid through the Trustees Office are reminded that it is their responsibility to inform [payroll@irishmethodist.org](mailto:payroll@irishmethodist.org) when there is any change to the amount being paid to their employee.

### **1. Mileage Allowance**

Mileage should be paid at the same rates as for Ministers, outlined above.

### **2. Other Allowances**

Circuits may wish to take other allowances into account for their Vocational Lay Employee. Examples of those which should be considered include: office expenses; telephone; out of pocket expenses; hospitality; training courses; resources. These should be paid in line with the expenses policy (which is available at [methodistchurchinireland.sharepoint.com](http://methodistchurchinireland.sharepoint.com) or by contacting Nicola Robinson (Head of Finance)).

It is important to consider how these extra expenses will be met, and how the employee will have access to them. The payment of expenses can create tension, although it should be straightforward to set up a structure. Advice should be sought from Human Resources: [hr@irishmethodist.org](mailto:hr@irishmethodist.org)

## **CONNEXIONAL COMMITTEE EXPENSES**

The Connexional Expenses and Allowances Policy can be found on Teams, under MCI Resources, Policies and Procedures

# IRISH METHODIST MINISTERS' RETIREMENT FUND

1. The Governance Board received the report and approved the scale of allowances.
2. The Governance Board re-appointed Rev Jeremy Nicoll as Ministerial Treasurer and Secretary and Mr Desmond Mitchell as Lay Treasurer.

## 3. ALLOWANCES

The scale of allowances from 1st April 2022 is as follows:

### 1. Ministers

- (a) The allowance for retired ministers shall be £6,588 in Northern Ireland and €7,831 in the Republic of Ireland.
- (b) A supplementary allowance shall be paid to those who by reason of insufficient contributions are not eligible for the full Northern Ireland State Pension. This allowance shall be equal to the difference between the State Pension (Northern Ireland or the Republic) actually received and the pre-2016 Northern Ireland basic pension.

### 2. Ministers' widows / widowers

- (a) The allowance for ministers' widows/widowers shall be £5,940 in Northern Ireland and €7,083 in the Republic of Ireland.
- (b) A supplementary allowance shall be paid to those who by reason of insufficient contributions are not qualified for a full Northern Ireland State Pension. This allowance shall be equal to the amount of the difference between the State Pension (Northern Ireland or the Republic) actually received and the pre-2016 Northern Ireland basic pension for a single person.
- (c) Increased State Pensions are payable to qualifying widows/widowers for a period after their spouse's death provided this is applied for promptly. Increased allowances at the same rate shall be paid by the fund to widows/ widowers who do not qualify for the increased State Pension.

### 3. Other applications

Those who previously served as Circuit Ministers when the Irish Methodist Ministers' Retirement Fund was in operation and who reach the age of 65, may apply for an allowance from the Fund. The categories of Ministers who are eligible, and the rules for calculating the amount to be paid, are set out in the Minutes of Conference, 2000, pages 46-48.

## Methodist Church in Ireland Retirement Benefits Scheme (1984)

1. The Governance Board received the report of the Retirement Benefits Scheme.
2. Up to five trustees shall be member-nominated and the remainder shall be nominated by the Conference.
3. The following are the trustees: Mr Desmond Mitchell, Mr Harold Baird, Mr Stephen Knox, Rev Jeremy Nicoll, Member Nominated Trustees: Rev Andrew Boucher, Rev Shaun Cleland, Rev Kenneth Lindsay, Rev Dr Thomas McKnight.
4. Those nominated by the Conference are Mr Desmond Mitchell, Mr Harold Baird and Mr Stephen Knox, together with the Ministerial Secretary and Treasurer of the Irish Methodist Ministers Retirement Fund.
5. The Secretary of the Conference and Chief Financial Officer shall be invited to attend trustee meetings.
6. **Provisions of the Scheme**
  - (1) *Normal Retirement Date*

For members who joined before 1st July 2020:  
1st July following the member's 65th birthday.

For members who joined on or after 1st July 2020:  
1st July following the member's 67th birthday.
  - (2) *Normal Retirement Pension*
    - (a) Members who joined the Scheme on 1st July 1984 (Scheme commencement date): 1% of final stipend x pensionable service, subject to a minimum of 38% of final stipend.
    - (b) Members who joined the Scheme after 1st July 1984: 1% of final stipend x pensionable service.
    - (c) Pension accrued on or after 1st July 1992 increases at the rate of 5% per annum or the annual increase in the Consumer Prices Index if less.
    - (d) Pension accrued on or after 1st July 2010 increases at the rate of 2.5% per annum or the annual increase in the Consumer Prices Index if less.
  - (3) *Cash lump sum*
    - (a) Members who joined the Scheme on 1st July 1984: 1.67% of final stipend x pensionable service subject to a minimum of two-thirds of final stipend.
    - (b) Members who joined the Scheme after 1st July 1984: 1.67% of final stipend x pensionable service.
    - (c) Lump sum accrued on or after 1st July 2010: 2% of final stipend x pensionable service.
  - (4) *Death in Service*
    - (a) A lump sum of 2 times of Top Stipend.

- (b) Members under age 55: An additional lump sum of 6 times top stipend.  
Members over age 55: A Spouse's Pension payable on death equal to the Member's Pension calculated using current Top Stipend and Potential Service to Normal Retirement Date.
- (c) A refund of the member's contribution.
- (5) *Spouse's Benefit*
  - (a) A pension of two-thirds of the ministerial pension.
  - (b) If a minister dies within 5 years of his/her retirement, a lump sum equal to the discounted value of the remainder of the 5 years' instalments of pension will also be paid.
- 7. The IMMRF pays a discretionary Supplementary Pension to those pensioners whose RBS pension has fallen below the IMMRF.
- 8. Contributions are currently as follows:
  - (a) The Circuit contribution is currently 20.3% of stipend (since January 2020). The Republic of Ireland Circuit contribution is based on this but changes depending on exchange rate fluctuations.
  - (b) The members' contribution is currently 7.5% of stipend (since January 2020). The Republic of Ireland members' contribution is based on this but changes depending on exchange rate fluctuations.
- 9. The Conference indemnifies the trustees of the Retirement Benefits Scheme against any claims which may arise in the discharge of their responsibilities.
- 10. Scheme Consultants:  
Deloitte Total Reward and Benefits Limited (who acquired Kerr Henderson (Consultants and Actuaries) Ltd on 31 October 2020), Lincoln Building, 27-45 Great Victoria Street Belfast, BT2 7SL.

## Ministers' Disability Fund

1. The Governance Board received the report of the Minister's Disability Fund.
2. The Fund was set up in 1995 and enhanced in 1998 to provide defined financial support when a minister is unable, through sickness or disability, to perform the duties of the ministry. Details of benefits etc., are contained in the Minutes of Conference 1998, pages 43-44, paragraph 11. Additional changes noted below
3. In recognition of the different patterns of sickness and disability that have emerged in recent years, and to be more consistent with current practices in the workplace in general, the Conference agrees the following changes as to how we deal with Sickness and Disability:
  - a. In the event of disability or sickness, Ministers will be paid full stipend plus allowances by the Circuit to which they have been appointed for up to a total of thirteen weeks in any four-year period.
  - b. After this initial thirteen-week total has been reached, Ministers will be paid full stipend plus allowances from the Ministers' Disability Fund for up to a total of an additional thirteen weeks in any four-year period.
  - c. After both of these thirteen-week totals have been reached, Ministers will be paid fifty percent of stipend and fifty percent of allowances from the Ministers' Disability Fund for an additional twenty-six weeks in any four-year period.
  - d. Employee pension contributions are to be paid by the Minister.
  - e. All periods of disability or sickness are cumulative over a four-year period across any circuit or any jurisdiction.
  - f. Any additional periods of disability or sickness will be paid at Statutory Sick Pay rates, or equivalent.
  - g. All short term and long-term periods of sickness must be reported to the Human Resources Manager.
  - h. The Ministers' Disability Fund will continue to consider applications for Ill Health Retirement benefits in the event of diagnosis of a critical or terminal illness.
  - i. Ministers appointed to Departments of the Church will be treated in the same manner, with the Department fulfilling the obligations of a Circuit



## Methodist Ministers' Retirement Income Augmentation Fund

1. The Governance Board approved the levels of minimum income in relation to the Augmentation Fund.

The Fund was set up in 2003 and ensures that ministers and widows/widowers should have a minimum income from all sources as set down by the Conference from year to year. The minimum income levels recommended as from 1 April 2022 are as follows: -

	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland
Married couple	£20,868	€22,649
Widow/Widower	£17,591	€19.093

2. Eligibility and other criteria are detailed in the Minutes of Conference 2011, page 71.
3. Potential applicants should make contact with either of the two independent administrators:  
Ms Dorothy Cranston      Tel: (028) 4482 8347  
Ms Marion Smith      Mobile: 087 419 1602
4. In cases of need, the independent administrators can use their discretion to increase the benefits (consulting with the Audit, Risk and Budget Committee if necessary). In particular, this applies where an applicant's accommodation costs are higher than the minimum rent charged by the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society (25% of the IMMRF allowance).
5. The Conference refers to the Finance and Budget Sub-committee the determining of any question relating to special allowances.

### Relationship of Ministers to the State Pension Schemes

All ministers and probationers serving in Northern Ireland are members of the state pension scheme. The Conference directs that circuits and ministers/ probationers pay the employer's and employee's contributions respectively.

Ministers serving in the Republic of Ireland entered PRSI Class S as from April 1994.

# METHODIST MINISTERS' CHILDREN'S FUND

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. The Governance Board re-appointed Rev Colin Milligan as Secretary and Ministerial Treasurer.
3. The Governance Board re-appointed Mr Stephen Knox as Lay Treasurer.

## 4. MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES

The Governance Board approved the level of allowances for the maintenance of eligible children for the Connexional year beginning 1 July 2022 as follows:

Northern Ireland	Secondary	£1,650
Northern Ireland	Primary & Preschool	£1,200
Republic of Ireland	Secondary	€2,650
Republic of Ireland	Primary & Preschool	€1,925

## 5. EDUCATION ALLOWANCES

- (1) Allowances for school fees and books are available for children whose parents are stationed in the Republic of Ireland.
- (2) Education Allowances may be paid for school fees over €250 for any child attending second-level education at a school approved by the officers of the Fund. Support toward the cost of boarding education is only available where there is no suitable school within a reasonable distance as determined by the officers of the Fund.
- (3) The state grant must be applied for. The allowances for maintenance and/or education shall be subject to revision by the officers of the Fund depending upon the amount of aid received from the state grant.
- (4) A grant towards the cost of books, for any child not receiving free books in the Republic of Ireland, will be paid as follows:
  - attending National School €100
  - attending Secondary School €300
- (5) Applications for educational allowances must be made within the year to which they apply.
- (6) The Conference directs that in cases of educational necessity the maintenance allowance and, where applicable, the education allowance, be continued to ministers' children over 18 years of age receiving second level education.

## 6. EXTENDED BENEFITS TO THE CHILDREN OF MINISTERS WHO ARE ATTENDING UNIVERSITY OR SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS

The Governance Board approved the following scheme for the ensuing year:

- (1) **Extended Benefit Scheme**  
The Extended Benefit Scheme shall apply in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It will consist of the following:

- (a) **Travel Grant**  
A travel grant of £590 or €684 shall be paid to those attending University/College outside Ireland.
  - (b) **Subsistence Grant**  
A subsistence grant towards living expenses will be paid of £540 or €624 per academic year.
- (2) **Application for Extended Benefit Grant**
- (a) Parents shall make application to the Secretary on a prepared form not later than 30th September. These grants will be paid in October.
  - (b) Courses for which assistance is given shall be those leading to an initial degree and/or a diploma in a University or College of Further Education.
  - (e) The continued payment of allowances shall depend on the satisfactory progress of the student.

## METHODIST MINISTERS' MEDICAL FUND

1. The Governance Board received the report
2. The Governance Board re-appointed the Rev Harold M Agnew as Secretary and Ministerial Treasurer.
3. The Governance Board re-appointed Mr David McCartney as Lay Treasurer of the Ministers' Medical Fund.

### 4. Benefits of the Fund

The Methodist Ministers' Medical fund shall provide grants in respect of:

- (a) Medical, dental and optical expenses of a minister, a dependent member of a minister's family, or a minister's widow/widower.
- (b) Funeral expenses on the death of a minister, a dependent member of a minister's family, or a minister's spouse.
- (c) Ministers 'without pastoral charge' in Ireland (other than those on Disability), and those 'permitted to serve' elsewhere, shall be considered to be outside the scope of the fund both in regard to contributions and benefits. A minister who has been given leave of absence for not more than four years may apply to have her/his case considered.
- (d) All ministers and ministers' widows/widowers are entitled to apply for a grant towards extraordinary expenditure. Applications should be made on the official application form available from the treasurers.
- (e) Any minister or minister's widow/widower anticipating an expenditure of over £500 (€1,000 in the Republic of Ireland) for any single treatment should consult with the officers beforehand if a grant is to be considered.

### 5. Grants from the Medical Fund

All applicants are reminded that an application form is required for each individual claim and are available from the Ministerial Treasurer either by post or e-mail. All completed forms including relevant receipts should then be returned to the Rev Harold Agnew so that the grant can be authorised. If some heavy expenditure is envisaged it is advised that the Ministerial Treasurer be contacted before treatment begins, if help is being sought from the fund.

The following regulations shall be operative regarding grants from the fund:

#### (a) Optical Grants

- (i) Glasses: That a maximum of £155 and €245 be paid towards any single prescription. Normally a minimum period of two years must elapse between prescriptions unless otherwise medically directed. The cost of an eye test (if you have to pay for one) is also covered.
- (ii) Contact lenses: Grants towards contact lenses instead of glasses will be paid up to the maximum amounts outlined above for each prescription.
- (iii) Disposable contact lenses: Grants will be paid at 50% of cost up to the maximum amounts outlined above for each prescription in any two-year period.

**(b) Funeral Grants**

The Funeral Grant shall be £1,000 in Northern Ireland and €1,700 in the Republic of Ireland

**(c) Dental Grants**

- (i) The fund will pay 75% of dental claims up to £500 in Northern Ireland, and 70% of claims up to €1,000 in the Republic of Ireland for any course of treatment. Claims for proposed higher expenditure shall be treated as under 4 (e) above.
- (ii) Ministers living in Northern Ireland shall always seek dental treatment from an NHS dentist. If no NHS dentist can be found in the home area, grants will be considered towards the cost of treatment provided using a basic private dental plan. Officers of the fund must be consulted before signing up for any private dental plan.
- (iii) Grants towards orthodontic work will be considered for reasons recommended by a dentist, other than for solely cosmetic purposes. Grants will be considered on the same basis as under (c) (i) above.
- (iv) Grants towards cosmetic dentistry are not allowed.

**(d) Medical Fees and Prescriptions**

- (i) The fund will pay 75% of claims for medical fees and prescription charges up to €1,500 in the Republic of Ireland in any calendar year. Any proposed higher expenditure shall be treated as under 4 (e) above.
- (ii) Those in the Republic of Ireland who need regular prescription expenditure should apply through the Drug Refund Scheme.
- (iii) In Northern Ireland grants for up to 75% of medical fee expenditure will be considered in any calendar year. Currently in Northern Ireland all prescription charges are free.
- (iv) All applications for grants toward medical fees for courses of physiotherapy or other therapies will be considered only when such courses of treatment are prescribed by a doctor. The basis for such a grant will be 50% of expenditure incurred for a course of treatment in any calendar year.

**(e) Extra Expenses incurred during illness**

Claims from ministers for extra expenses incurred because of illness shall be made to the Fund in the usual way.

**(f) Hospital Treatment/Private Health Schemes or Treatment**

- (i) Ministers who have entered hospital shall avail themselves of the benefits provided by the health service in our respective jurisdictions, and any grant given or expenses allowed, shall be made on this basis.
- (ii) The fund does not support any private health schemes. In exceptional circumstances a grant may be considered towards expenditure for a private initial consultation. Grants cannot be given towards any subsequent private treatment.

## COVENANT COUNCIL

1. The Governance Board received the Report of the Covenant Council
2. The Governance Board re-appointed the Rev Dr Heather Morris as Co-Chair of the Covenant Council.
3. The Governance Board appointed its representatives to the Covenant Council for the coming year as follows:
  - Rev Dr Heather Morris (Co-Chair)
  - Rev Andrew Dougherty
  - Ms Gillian Kingston
  - Rev Dr Janet Unsworth

## INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. The Governance Board appointed the following as representatives:
  - Churches Together in Britain and Ireland -Four Nations Forum:
    - The General Secretary.
  - Irish Council of Churches:
    - To be appointed by the General Secretary in consultation with the Convenor.
  - Irish Inter-Church Meeting:
    - The General Secretary
  - Representative to the World Council of Churches
    - Michael Briggs
3. The Governance Board on behalf of the Conference recorded its thanks to Dr Nicola Brady for her creative and inspired work as General Secretary of the Irish Council of Churches and General Secretary of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting. It wishes her every blessing in her new position as General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

## MINISTRY OF HEALING

1. The Governance Board re-appointed Rev Mark Durrell as Chair.
2. The Governance Board re-appointed Rev Mark Durrell as its representative on the Churches' Council for Health and Healing in Ireland.
3. The Governance Board re-appointed Dr Chris Mathison as Secretary to the Committee.
4. The Governance Board designates Sunday 5th February 2023 as Ministry of Healing Sunday.
5. The Governance Board appointed the following members of the Ministry of Healing Committee for the ensuing year:  
The President, the Lay Leader, Secretary of Conference, Rev Mark Durrell (Chair), Dr Chris Mathison (Secretary), Mr Tom Kerr, Mr Neilson Wylie, Ms Hazel Baird, Ms Patricia Lindsay, Rev Alan Conly, Rev Colin Duncan and Rev Mark Forsyth.  
Entitled to attend; The ex-President, the President Designate, the Lay Leader Designate.
6. The Governance Board received "Framework for Practice of the Ministry of Healing in MCI" (Appendix 5A)
7. The Governance Board received "The Christian Healing Ministry" and requests that its guidance be followed as Circuits exercise a healing ministry. (Appendix 5B)

## PRISON & HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. The Governance Board on behalf of the Conference affirms the valuable contribution made by all chaplains, paid and voluntary, especially through the ongoing challenges of Covid-19. In particular, we acknowledge and record the long service of Rev Dr Lee Glenny and Rev Leslie Spence who retired in 2021 and 2022 respectively having served as NI prison chaplains and as Committee members for many years.
3. The Governance Board on behalf of the Conference expresses continued gratitude to the Joseph Rank Trust, Donegall Square Trust, MWI, Victoria Homes Trust and other donors for their generous financial support.
4. The Governance Board appointed the Committee as follows:  
Rev Kenneth Connor, Rev Derek J Johnston (Secretary), Rev Peter K Morris, Rev John C Wonnacott, Mr Kevin Devlin, Ms Brenda Duncan, Ms Joan Parkinson, Mr Philip Larragy, Mr John Warren (Chair)

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. The Governance Board appointed the Board for the 2022-2023 Connexional year as follows:  
The President, the Lay Leader, the Secretary of Conference, the President Designate,  
The Officers of the Board,  
General Secretary and Convenor of the Northern Executive:  
    Dr Anita Gracie  
Ministerial Treasurer and Convenor of the Southern Executive:  
    Rev Nigel D Mackey  
Lay Treasurer: Mr J Kenneth Twyble  
The General Secretary of the Irish Methodist Youth and Children's Team:  
    Ms Gillian Gilmore  
Together with: Rev Andrew Dougherty, Ms Linda Magowan, Mr Stephen Orr, Mr Charles Payne, Ms S Rosemary Rainey, Rev Michael Spence, Dr Ian Taylor, Rev Alan G Wardlow and Ms Daphne Wood
3. The Governance Board endorsed the following appointments as representatives to the Transferor Representatives' Council: Dr Anita Gracie, Ms S Rosemary Rainey, Mr J Kenneth Twyble.
4. The Governance Board re-appointed Ms S Rosemary Rainey to the Education Authority (NI).
5. The Governance Board re-appointed Mr J Kenneth Twyble to the Controlled Schools' Support Council.
6. Nominations: The Governance Board directed the Board of Education to nominate representatives of the Methodist Church in Ireland on the Boards of Governors/Management of Schools or any succeeding bodies. The appointment of Transferor Representatives shall continue to be made as heretofore.
7. Ulster Royal Schools: The Governance Board re-appointed the following representatives of the Methodist Church on the Protestant Local Boards for the coming year:  
    Local Board of Armagh: Mr Henry McMullan  
    Local Board of Tyrone: Ms Susan McQueen  
    Local Board of Fermanagh: Mr Peter M.C. Little.
8. The Governance Board re-appointed Ms Daphne Wood as Methodist Observer on the Church of Ireland Board of Education.
9. The Governance Board appointed Mr Stuart Blytheman and Mr David Lee as the Representatives of the Methodist Church on the Secondary Education Committee for Protestant Schools in the Republic of Ireland.



10. The Governance Board strongly recommends that each Society observes an Education Sunday annually. It is suggested that the 11th September 2022 or an appropriate Sunday be observed as Education Sunday. Full resources can be found at: [cte.org.uk/education-sunday](http://cte.org.uk/education-sunday)
11. The Governance Board support the movement of schools in certain areas, where it is the desire of the parents, governors and the school leadership, towards seeking integrated status as Controlled Integrated or Jointly Managed Church Schools.
12. The Governance Board acknowledges the dedication and commitment of the teaching workforce in schools and colleges throughout Ireland and asks churches to pray regularly for the staff and leadership teams in their local schools.
13. The Governance Board acknowledges and thanks the dedicated service of Methodist School Governors.

# CITY MISSIONS

## Dublin Central Mission

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. The Governance Board appointed the Board of Directors of Dublin Central Mission DAC, incorporating the Mission Committee:

Rev Dr Laurence A M Graham (Superintendent of the Mission and Chairman of the Board) (7), Ms Geraldine Coffey (Company Secretary) (6), Mr Varghese Arangathuparambil (13), Mr Perry Chitombo (6), Mr Stuart Ferguson (0), Mr Trevor Holmes (4), Mr Ian Johnston (0), Mr John Kingston (0), Ms Anne-Marie O'Grady (0), Mr John Parsons (9), and Mr Robert Wolfe (4), with power to co-opt within the terms of the Articles of Association.

Ms Suzanne Corcoran is the Chief Executive Officer Dublin Central Mission DAC and Ms Karena O'Sullivan is the Finance Director.

## North West Methodist Mission

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. The Governance Board noted the Membership of the NWMM Board as follows:

Rev Dr Stephen Skuce (NW District Superintendent and Superintendent of the NWMM), Ms Tracy Hegarty (Vice Chair), Ms Joan Doherty (Secretary), Mr Mark Johnston (Treasurer), Mr John Gibson, Ms Jane Given, Ms Marion Hamilton, Dr Peter Leeson, Mr Joe Lusby, Ms Janice McCandless, Ms Lena Wray and Ms Maureen Young.

## Newtownabbey Methodist Mission

1. The Governance Board received the report
2. The Governance Board appointed the Mission Council as follows:

Superintendent of the Mission: Rev Karen Spence, Ms Pat Jamison & Ms Pauline Stewart (Society Stewards), Ms Alison Wilson (Treasurer), Ms Catherine McFerran (Council Secretary), Mr James Blair (Property Steward),

Elected members: Ms Carmen Bailie, Ms Anna Blair, Mr Ray Cahoon, Ms Marie King, Ms Phyllis McElhinney, Ms Grace McGurk, Mr Sandy Mutch, Mr David Smyth and Ms Bethany Stephens

Retired Minister assisting: Rev Ivan McElhinney

## **Belfast Central Mission**

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. The Governance Board noted that the members of Belfast Central Mission Ltd are as follows:

Rev David Campton (Superintendent), Ms Margaret Adams, Mr Rowan Black, Mr Alan Cavan, Rev Barry Forde, Dr David Gallagher, Mr David Gault, Rev Emily Hyland, Rev Andrew Irvine, Ms Eileen Jamison, Mr Glenn Massey, Ms Helen McHugh, Rev June Parke, Dr Ian Taylor, Ms Maureen Swinton and Ms Maureen Weir.

The following have been appointed by the Members, according to the Articles of Association of Belfast Central Mission to be Directors:

Mr Rowan Black (Chair), Rev David Campton (Superintendent), Mr Paul Clarke, Ms Margaret Copeland, Ms Jo Dwyer, Mr Doug Edmondson (Treasurer), Mr David Ferguson, Dr David Gallagher (Minutes Secretary), Mr Bill Halliday, Ms Shelagh McCaughan, Mr Gordon Robinson and Rev Stephen Sheerin.

## **East Belfast Mission**

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. The following are nominated as Directors for appointment according to the Articles of Association of East Belfast Mission:

Rev Brian B Anderson (Superintendent of the Mission), Mr Iain Colville, Mr Stephen Curragh, Ms Naomi Hardon, Ms Linda Hopley, Mr Daniel Jackson, Mr Brian Maxwell, Ms Gail Mercer, Mr Jamie Watson and Mr Derek Wylie.

## CONNEXIONAL TEAM

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. The Governance Board appointed Rev John Alderdice as Convenor of the Connexional Team.
3. The Governance Board appointed the Officers, Boards, Committees and Teams as detailed in the resolutions from IMYC, Home Mission, MWI, CDB, WDR, WMP and the Ministries Team.
4. The Connexional Team reports the appointment of Ms Pat Jamison as District Lay Leader.
5. The Conference grants authorisation to the following Local Preachers to preside at the Lord's Supper for the 2022-2023 Connexional year:
  - Mr Roy Dreaning on the Springfield and Church Hill Circuit
  - Mr Simon Kilpatrick in Urban Junction
  - Mr Norman Henry on the Castleberg Circuit
  - Mr John McConnell on the Lisbellaw, Tempo and Maguiresbridge Circuit.
6. The Conference, on the recommendation of the Stationing Sub-Group of the Connexional Team grants dispensation to the following probationers to preside at the Lord's Supper:
  - Susan Gallagher
  - Tanita Lee (in the context of the Circuit's pioneer mission work)
  - Leah McKibben
  - Peter Morris

## CHURCH DEVELOPMENT BOARD

1. The Connexional Team received the report

## IRISH METHODIST YOUTH & CHILDREN

1. The Connexional Team received the report.
2. The Governance Board endorsed continued involvement in Youth Link. The following are to act as representatives: Ms Gillian Gilmore, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Governance Board re-appointed Ms Gillian Gilmore as General Secretary.
4. The Governance Board re-appointed Rev Fiona McCrea as Chair of the Connexional Youth & Children's Advisory Group.
5. The Governance Board directed that all circuits/churches consult with IMYC and MCI Human Resources when considering employing a youth worker, children's worker or family worker.
6. Safeguarding  
The Connexional Team noted the Governance Board's direction that:
  - a) everyone who works, with children, young people or vulnerable adults under the auspices of MCI, must be vetted within their respective jurisdiction through MCI, at least once every three years.
  - b) everyone who works with children, young people or vulnerable adults under the auspices of MCI, must attend training provided by MCI, at least once every three years.
7. Training and Development  
The Governance Board strongly recommends to Circuits that all those who work with children or young people undertake a comprehensive programme of training. Current training opportunities are made available through IMYC's social media and emailed to all those on their database. Anyone wishing to be included in these emails can fill in the form at <https://irishmethodist.org/imyc>  
Training is also available on request by contacting IMYC at [imyc@irishmethodist.org](mailto:imyc@irishmethodist.org)
8. The Governance Board on behalf of The Conference recorded its thanks to two members of staff who are moving to new roles.

### **Amy Anderson**

Communications Officer, Amy Anderson, was instrumental in developing and shaping IMYC's communications over the three years she was with the Department, particularly during the pandemic months when digital communication became so vital.

Her willingness to be responsive, her creativity, eye for detail and love for God were so evident in all she did. She played a strategic role in the development of the IMYC pages on the new MCI website, and used Instagram to create an active discipleship community among young people. She loved to communicate with others the important role that social media can play in sharing faith and enabled the whole staff team to think strategically about what is communicate and for what purpose.

## **Leanne Hill**

Leanne was the Training and Development Officer and, in later years, also took on responsibility for resourcing Children's and Family ministry.

Her heart for young people and children to know Jesus and discover their place in God's Mission, will have a lasting impact, and her strategic thinking resourced and trained leaders throughout the Connexion. She was constantly developing, responding and dreaming. She took a lead in developing the 'Wholehearted' Membership resource, which will be used for many years to come. She ably represented the Methodist Church in Ireland through wider networks and committees.

Leanne will be missed for all she contributed to the team in terms of friendship, faith and challenge, as well as all she contributed to the life of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

The whole Connexion will pray God's blessing on Amy and Leanne as they take up their new roles.

# METHODIST CHILD CARE SOCIETY

## Criteria for support

The criteria used to assess applications are as follows:

1. The maximum age limit is normally 18 years.
2. Families whose sole means of income are state benefits qualify automatically for financial support from the Society, as this is taken as an indicator of need.
3. All other cases are considered on the basis of individual circumstances.

The Society welcomes applications for financial support. Application forms can be obtained from Rev David J Sweeney, Ministerial Treasurer/Secretary or Mrs Margaret Copeland, Lay Treasurer, or from the IMYC page on the Irish Methodist website ([www.irishmethodist.org](http://www.irishmethodist.org)).

## Grants and bonus payments

The current annual grant for families is £800 (NI) or €1200 (RoI).

In addition, along with the June and December grants, a maximum bonus payment of £150 (NI) or €210 (RoI) may be paid for each child on the Roll.

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. The Governance Board re-appointed Rev David Sweeney as Ministerial Treasurer/Secretary of the Methodist Child Care Society.
3. The Governance Board re-appointed Ms Margaret Copeland as Lay Treasurer of the Methodist Child Care Society.
4. The Governance Board directed that a copy of the Rules of the Society shall accompany the first payment to beneficiaries.
5. The Governance Board directed that an annual review shall be made concerning the circumstances of every family receiving benefit and the completed forms be returned to the Lay Treasurer as soon as possible after receipt.
6. The Governance Board directed that Circuits shall have an annual collection for the funds of the Society and that the monies collected shall be sent to the Lay Treasurer not later than 15th January.
7. The Governance Board directed that Circuits shall give serious consideration to the Gift Aid Scheme in Northern Ireland and the Tax Relief Scheme in the Republic of Ireland for their financial contributions.

Envelopes enabling Circuits to fully utilise the Gift Aid and Tax Relief schemes are available from the Society Officers and the IMYCD office. Donations to the Society by Standing Order (using the form at the back of the information leaflet) are encouraged.

## METHODIST HOME MISSION

1. The Connexional Team received the report.
2. The Governance Board wholeheartedly supports the Connexional Team's encouragement to members to prioritise prayer by developing rhythms of prayer for their local church, as well as promoting and attending District and Connexional prayer gatherings throughout the year.
3. The Governance Board, on the advice of the Connexional Team expresses thanks:
  - to all those who have made special donations and bequests to the Department.
  - to members of congregations who have made contributions though Gift Aid and Income Tax rebates.
  - to all those who voluntarily engage in and support Mission projects around Ireland.
  - the Joseph Rank Trust for their generous support to the Irish Methodist Church
4. The Governance Board on behalf of the Conference recorded its thanks to Rev Barry Forde and directed that the tributes be included in the record of the Conference.
5. The Connexional Team resolves that in cases of vacancies in Stations and rearrangement of Circuits, the Officers of the Fund shall have authority to adjust the grants to the Circuits concerned.
6. The Connexional Team directs that in all cases where major repairs and/or improvements are contemplated in respect of Trust property, application be made for such grants as may be available from the Local Authority.
7. **Home Mission Collections, Accounts and Applications for Grants**

The Governance Board, on the advice of the Connexional Team, directs:

  - that all collections and subscriptions for the Fund shall, **immediately on their receipt** by the Circuit Treasurer or Superintendent, be forwarded to Methodist Home Mission, Edgehill House, 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast BT9 5BY and that cheques should be made payable to 'Methodist Home Mission Fund'. Online payment options can be provided by emailing [mhm@irishmethodist.org](mailto:mhm@irishmethodist.org).
  - that Sunday 20th November 2022 be observed as Home Mission Sunday and that as far as possible the Home Mission resources prepared for that Sunday be made known and available to Societies at least one week in advance.
  - that all Circuits arrange Home Mission services with speakers from another Circuit or even a different District if possible.
  - that Circuit Accounts for Home Missions be closed by the 13th January 2023 and that Schedules and remittances be forwarded to: Methodist Home Mission, Edgehill House, 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast BT9 5BY.
  - that all applications for grants for the year 2023 be sent to the relevant District Superintendent not later than 5th September 2022.



- that applications follow the guidelines provided by the Department and are accompanied by a full set of Circuit accounts and a detailed budget for 2023, showing how any grant will be used.
8. The Connexional Team directed that the Church Development Board Executive audits the Home Mission Accounts on behalf of the Church.
  9. The Governance Board re-appointed:  
Rev Mark Forsyth as General Secretary and Ministerial Treasurer of the Home Mission Department
  10. The Governance Board re-appointed:  
Mr Simon Kilpatrick as Lay Treasurer of the Home Mission Department.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONNEXIONAL TEAM**

The Governance Board approved that from 1st July 2022 the current two circuits of Woodvale, Shankill and Glencairn, and North Belfast (Jennymount and Joanmount) be realigned into one circuit called, 'Belfast North'.

The Governance Board approved that from 1st July 2022 the current 5 circuits that comprise the nine societies of Sydenham, EBM, Knock, Dundonald, Braniel, Glenburn, Cregagh, Mountpottinger and Bloomfield be realigned into one circuit called 'Belfast East'.

The Governance Board noted, and recorded, the amalgamation of the Lisburn and Dromore Circuit with the Donard Circuit, now known as the **Lagan Valley and South Down Circuit** (including Ballynahinch, Broomhedge, Donard, Dromore, Magheragall, Priesthill, Seymour Street and Trinity).

### **ALTERNATING MINISTRY SCHEME**

Sadly, the Alternating Ministry Scheme between the Presbyterian Church and MCI has ended. While the Scheme has finished, the Mission Partnership Forum, which is the body who oversaw the AMS, will continue to meet in the next Connexional year to discern its purpose and how the two denominations can confer well on matters of mutual interest related to mission.

## MINISTRIES TEAM

1. The Connexional Team received the report.
2. The Governance Board re-appointed Rev Dr Janet Unsworth as the Director of the Ministries Team (Principal of Edgehill Theological College).
3. The Connexional Team noted that until the Northern Ireland Charity Commission confirms the merger of the Edgehill Theological College Charity into the Trustees of the Methodist Church in Ireland Charity for purposes of the legal requirements of the Methodist College Act (Northern Ireland) 1928, the Governance Board of the Methodist Church in Ireland will constitute the Board of Governors of Edgehill College.
4. The Governance Board agreed the reviewed and /or revised Ministries Policies and Procedures listed below. These will be available on the MCI Teams Application. (Appendix 6)
  - Local Preachers Nomination, Appointment and Review Policy
  - Ordained Ministers Applications to Serve and Transfer
  - Ordained Ministry Context Based Formation Protocols
  - Ordained Ministers Retirement Policy
  - Ordained Ministers Sabbaticals Policy
5. The Governance Board agreed the necessary editorial modifications due to changes in structures and nomenclature in the Ministries Policies and Procedures listed below. These will be reported to Conference, and published on the MCI Teams Application.
  - Authorisations to Preside Policy
  - Continuing Ministry Development Policy
  - Ministry Development and Further Study Policy
  - Ordained Ministry Agreed Expectations
  - Ordained Ministry Candidating Procedure
  - Ordained Ministers Death Policy
  - Ordained Ministers Disciplinary Policy
  - Ordained Ministry by Married Couples
  - Ordained Ministers Parental Leave Policy
  - Ordained Ministers Resignation and Reinstatement Policy
  - Ordained Ministers Separated Appointments
  - Ordained Ministers Serving as Mission Partners
  - Ordained Ministers Special Applications Policy
  - Ordained Ministry Time Wisdom
  - Revision of Guidance for Ministers from Overseas
6. The Governance Board adopted the revised version of Chapter 6 of the Manual of Laws, as set out in Appendix 4A.
7. The Governance Board appointed Ms Laura Griffith as Connexional Co-ordinator for Local Preachers and expressed its thanks to Rev Mervyn Ewing for his period of service.

**8. Thanks to Rev Mervyn Ewing**

The Governance Board, on behalf of the Conference, places on record its thanks and deep appreciation to Rev Mervyn Ewing who has faithfully served the Connexion as Ministerial Secretary of the Local Preachers Committee for 12 years. During this time, Mervyn has been a constant advocate for the recognition and development of the ministry of Local Preachers. He has provided strategic leadership in guiding the Local Preachers Committee through a number of important developments, including the transition to the new MCI District structure. His wisdom in terms of progression regarding training and development of local preachers, has been invaluable. The Connexion is grateful to him for his wise counsel and faithful leadership.

**9. The Governance Board appointed the Connexional Local Preachers Committee as follows: The Lay Leader of the Conference, The Connexional Local Preachers' Co-ordinator, A member of staff of the Ministries Team and The District Local Preachers' Co-ordinators.**

**10. The Governance Board appointed the Ministries Learning and Development Committee for the Connexional Year 2022-23:**

Chairperson: Mr Mike Anderson

The Director of the Ministries Team: Rev Dr Janet Unsworth

The Learning and Development Officer: Ms Grace McGurk

The Connexional Local Preachers' Co-ordinator: Ms Laura Griffith

The Vice-chairperson of the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee:

\_\_\_\_\_

Up to six other members:

Dr Ian Taylor

Ms Shirley Alexander

Ms Norma Gallagher

Rev Alison Gallagher

Rev Jordan Litchfield

**11. The Governance Board appointed the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee for the Connexional Year 2022-23:**

Chairperson: Rev Robin Waugh

Vice-chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

The Director of the Ministries Team: Rev Dr Janet Unsworth

The General Secretary: Rev Dr Heather Morris

The Ministerial Psychological Assessor: Rev Alan Lorimer

The Connexional Local Preachers' Co-ordinator: Ms Laura Griffith

A District Superintendent: Rev Philip Agnew

Up to four other members:

Ms Norma Gallagher

Rev Alison Gallagher

Mr Stephen Alford

Rev Alan Wardlow

## METHODIST WOMEN IN IRELAND

1. The Connexional Team received the report.
2. The Governance Board appointed the Central Forum as follows:

### General Executive:

MWI President: Ms Olive Rowe  
Past President: Ms Joan Strong  
General Secretary: Ms Moira McMurray  
General Treasurer: Ms Barbara Fennell  
Treasurer Designate: \_\_\_\_\_  
World Mission Secretary: Ms Elizabeth McWatters  
World Federation Area Officer: Ms Wanda Hogan  
Helen Kim Memorial Scholar: Ms Heidi Hogan  
Southern District Vice-President: Ms Wanda Hogan  
North Western Vice-President: Ms Maeve Wilson  
North Eastern Vice-President: Ms Alexa Brown

### Together with:

District Secretaries: Ms Barbara Fennell, Ms Carmel Irwin and Ms Pam Dzunu.  
District Treasurers: Ms Barbara Bryan, Ms Heather Gandola, Ms Maureen Young and Ms Janice Walker.  
District Mission Secretaries/World Federation Representatives: Ms Heidi Hogan, Ms Ruth Wilson, \_\_\_\_\_.  
World Federation Unit Correspondent: Ms Moira McMurray  
Representative to Women's Link: Ms Elizabeth McWatters  
Representative to Women in Faith: Ms Liz Carville  
Representative to Women's Forum: \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative to National Women's Council Ireland: Ms Sue Maxwell  
Representatives to other Committees/Bodies outside the Methodist Church in Ireland \_\_\_\_\_.

## IRISH METHODIST WORLD DEVELOPMENT & RELIEF

1. The Connexional Team received the report.
2. The Governance Board, on the advice of the Connexional Team, reminds all Methodists of the directive to share at least 1% of post-tax income for the work of Word Development & Relief.
3. The Governance Board, on the advice of the Connexional Team, encourages Methodists to use the Gift Aid scheme in Northern Ireland and the Charities Tax Relief scheme in the Republic of Ireland.
4. The Governance Board, on the advice of the Connexional Team, recommends that each congregation hold a special Sunday service, using the prepared WDR service material in conjunction with their 1% Appeal.

5. The Governance Board approved the following amendments to the Manual of Laws:

**19.01** The Governance Board, on the advice of the Connexional Team shall annually appoint a Committee on World Development and Relief, ~~to promote throughout the Church the study of the problem of world poverty.~~ to support the Church in learning about, understanding and responding effectively to world poverty and injustice for the transformation of the world.

**19.03** The Committee shall administer a fund for World Development & Relief. It shall receive such a percentage of the annual Connexional Comprehensive Assessment as may from time to time be determined by the Governance Board. It shall work ~~through and in closest consultation with World Mission Partnership and the Methodist Relief and Development Fund,~~ and shall report to the Governance Board each year on its allocations of all sums received.

**19.04** ~~A Secretary for World Development and Relief shall be appointed in each Circuit or Society.~~

6. The Governance Board, on the advice of the Connexional Team, directed that a proportion of income, determined by the committee is allocated to Christian Aid Ireland and All We Can.
7. The Governance Board appointed the Committee as follows:

Convener: Rev. Paul Maxwell

Treasurers: MCI Finance

Members: Mrs Beth Hand (recording secretary), Rev. Andrew Robinson, Mr Patrick Mercer, Rev. Edem Dzunū, Ms Pat Jamison, Mrs Lynne Barr, Mr Anton Scheele,

---

Ex officio: Rev. Laurence Graham (World Mission Partnership)

Advisors: Ms Sheila Donaghy, Mrs Laura Kerr (World Development Communications), Mr Tim Dunwoody (World Development Officer)

## WORLD MISSION PARTNERSHIP

1. The Connexional Team received the report.
2. The Governance Board, on the advice of the Connexional Team, approved the dates for Mission Advocacy as being 12th -19th February 2023.
3. The Governance Board on the advice of the Connexional Team requests Circuits to make plans for special services and advocacy at least once per year.
4. The Governance Board, on behalf of the Conference, recorded its appreciation of:
  - a) The Global Relationships team, London
  - b) The committees appointed by WMP
  - c) The Circuit World Mission Secretaries and District World Mission Champions
  - d) The Ministerial and Lay Treasurers
  - e) The World Mission and Development Office staff.
5. The Governance Board requests that greetings be sent to those serving from Ireland as Mission Partners and Associates with the World Church: Barry and Gillian Sloan and family, Melissa Newell, Stephen McCann and James and Hazel Farmer and family.
6. The Governance Board recorded its appreciation of the work of MWI and JMA for their contributions to the General Fund and commends these funds for support.
7. The Governance Board requests Circuits to submit their financial contributions and schedules to WMP not later than 1st December each year.
8. The Governance Board re-appointed Rev Laurence A.M. Graham as General Secretary of Irish Methodist World Mission Partnership.
9. The Governance Board re-appointed Rev Dr Sahr J Yambasu as Ministerial Treasurer of Irish Methodist World Mission Partnership.
10. The Governance Board re-appointed Mr Ian Patterson as Lay Treasurer of Irish Methodist World Mission Partnership.
11. The Governance Board re-appointed Rev Laurence A M Graham and Rev Dr Sahr J Yambasu as representatives to Global Relationships, London.
12. The Governance Board approved the following amendments to the Manual of Laws:

**17.06** The Governance Board, on the advice of the Connexional Team shall appoint annually a World Mission Partnership Committee, consisting of the World Mission Partnership officers, the World Mission Secretary of Methodist Women in Ireland, a representative appointed by the World Development and Relief Committee together with one additional minister and ~~three~~ four additional laypersons, of whom at least two shall be women. World Mission Partnership staff shall also attend, as required.

## **RESOLUTIONS from ASSOCIATED BODIES**

These bodies are not part of the charity which is the Methodist Church in Ireland, but are entities for whom MCI has a reporting or appointing responsibility.

The Resolutions which follow were received by the Governance Board at its meeting on 7th April 2022, and reported to the Conference.

## **WESLEY COLLEGE**

1. The Governance Board received the report of the Governors.
2. The Governance Board re-appointed Rev Nigel Mackey as Chaplain of the College.
3. The Governance Board appointed Mr Jonathan Lew as Honorary Treasurer.
4. The Governance Board appointed Grant Thornton as auditors.
5. The Governance Board appointed as Governors of the College the following:  
The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, The Principal of the College Mr Christopher Woods, Rev Paul Maxwell, Rev Jeremy Nicoll, Rev Stephen Taylor, Rev Alan Wardlow, Mr Jason Campbell, Mr Rob Corbet, Ms Jean Delaney, Mr David English, Mr Simon Grier, Ms Gillian Kingston, Mr Jonathan Lew, Mr Alwin McAdoo, Ms Amanda McConnell, Ms Jennifer Moulton, Mr Clive Moutray, Mr Roy Parker, Mr Jonathan Parkes, Ms Joy Winterbotham.

## **METHODIST COLLEGE, BELFAST**

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. The Governance Board re-appointed Rev Emily Hyland as Honorary Chaplain to the College.
3. The Governance Board appointed the following as a new Trustee Governor:  
Ms Edith Shaw.
4. The Governance Board re-appointed the following as Trustee Governors who retire by rotation but are eligible for re-election: Dr Gillian Luney; Mr Mark McElhinney and Rev Dr Janet Unsworth.

## **GURTEEN COLLEGE**

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. The Governance Board appointed Mr Robert Armitage as Treasurer of the College
3. The Governance Board noted the appointment of IFAC as Auditors
4. The Governance Board appointed as Governors of the College the following:  
Mr Robert Armitage, Ms Margaret Berry, Mr Denis Duggan, Mr Jim Dwyer, Rev Steven Foster, Mr Clifford Guest, Mr Joe Healy, Mr Roy Kingston (Chair), Ms Bridget Lynch, Dr Finola McCoy, Rev Paul Maxwell, Ms Caitriona Murphy, Mr Alan Ralph and Ms Julie Roche
5. The following are Trustees: Mr John Armitage, Ms Lucy Bateman, Mr James Bennett (Chairperson), Mr Robert Davis, Rev Laurence Graham, Rev Andrew Kingston, Mr Alan McCormack, Rev Denis Maguire, Mr Billy Nicholson, Mr Gordon Nicholson, Rev John Parkin, Mr Douglas Rowe, Mr Robin Smyth,



## EASTWELL RESIDENTIAL HOME

1. The Governance Board received the report of the Governors.
2. The Governance Board noted that the Governing Body of the Eastwell Residential Home has appointed the Committee as follows:

Chairman: Mr David Lee

Hon. Secretary: Ms Roisin Whiting

Treasurer: Mr Charles Richards

Chairperson of the Ladies Committee: Ms Yvonne Seville

Representing the Annual General Meeting: Rev Andrew Kingston, Ms Iris Beatty

Representing the Dublin Societies:

Centenary, Leeson Park: Ms Gillian Hinds

Rathgar: Ms Wendy Moore

Dun Laoghaire: Ms Joan Harris

Sandymount: Mr Steven ffearry-Smyrl

Clontarf: Ms Yvonne Seville

Dublin Central Mission: Ms Margaret Boles

Dundrum: Ms Margaret Payne

Sutton: Ms Margaret Thornes

Blackrock and Bray: Ms Heather Gandola

3. The Governance Board appointed the following to serve on the Governing Body:  
Rev Andrew Dougherty, Rev Stephen Taylor

## METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

1. The Governance Board received the report.
2. The Governance Board noted that the Methodist Historical Society Ireland has appointed the Committee for the ensuing year as follows:  
Rev Ian D Henderson, President; Dr Fergus O'Ferrall, Vice-President; Ms Jennifer Stutt, Secretary and Associate Archivist; Rev Robin P Roddie, Archivist; Mr Derek Reid, Ms Trudy Reid, Treasurers; Rev Dr Stephen F Skuce, Editor; Rev John D Alderdice; Rev Colin D Gracie; Rev Brian D Griffin; Rev Dr E T I Mawhinney; Rev S Kenneth Todd; Ms Margaret Clarke; Mr Steven C Smyrl; Dr Brian Turner; Dr Shelagh B Waddington; Ms Maureen Weir and Mr J R Wesley Weir.
3. The Governance Board noted with appreciation the work of the Society and recommends that every Society contribute to the funds of the Methodist Historical Society of Ireland.
4. The Governance Board encourages Methodists to join the Society.
5. The Governance Board directed that all documents no longer in current use, including printouts from electronic records, be lodged with a competent authority for safekeeping and future reference. For this purpose, it recommends the archives of the Methodist Historical Society of Ireland.

# Miscellaneous Resolutions

## 1. DIRECTOR OF MUSIC OF THE CONFERENCE

The Conference re-appoints Rev Ross Harte as Director of Music.

## 2. PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Conference appoints the President's Advisory Committee for the ensuing year: The President, the Lay Leader, the General Secretary, Rev Brian Anderson, Mr John Clarke, Ms Gillian Kingston and Rev David Turtle.

## 3. MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

1. The Conference appoints the Memorials Committee as follows:

The President, the Lay Leader, the General Secretary (Secretary of Conference), the Ex-President, the President Designate, Rev Dr Janet Unsworth, Rev John Montgomery, Dr Ian Taylor, Ms Gillian Kingston.

Convener: Rev John Montgomery.

To this Committee shall be added the District Superintendent of any District from where a resolution is to be considered by the Committee. If unable to attend the District Superintendent shall nominate a substitute.

## 4. THANKS OF THE CONFERENCE TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE LAY LEADER

The warmest thanks of the Conference are expressed to the President and the Lay Leader for their valuable services rendered in all the Sessions and Services of the Conference.

## 5. THANKS OF THE CONFERENCE TO OTHERS

The Conference expresses cordial thanks to the following:

The Secretary, Assistant Secretaries, the Letter Writer, Scrutineers, Attesters, the Director of Music, the Organist, Stewards, those who provided flowers, the Conference Arrangements Committee, secretarial staff from Edgehill House, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and particularly the staff of the Assembly Buildings

## 6. INSURANCE OF TRUST PROPERTY

1. The Conference cordially thanks Methodist Insurance and Benefact Trust for the continued support for the Connexion.
2. The attention of Trustees is drawn to the desirability of, where possible, insuring all Trust Property with this company, especially in view of the fact that the Connexion benefits each year from a grant from the company's profits.

3. The Conference directs the attention of Trustees to the fact that all the liability, which Trustees ordinarily have in cases of accident at any of our meetings, still applies in cases where our property is used by other bodies.
4. The Methodist Insurance Company's contact telephone number is 0345 6061 331.

## The Conference of 2023

1. The Conference of 2023 shall be held on the North Eastern District, commencing on Thursday 8th June: the Ministerial Session at 10.00am, and the Representative Session at 7.30pm.

2. **Conference Allocation**

The Allocation for Conference 2023 will be made on the basis of the circuit boundaries in place for Conference 2022 (res.17, p.29).

The Conference Allocation is the responsibility of the Conference Secretariat, and will be brought to the Governance Board in October 2022.

### 3. THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE ADOPTED

1. The Service of Installation of the President of the Conference will be held on Thursday 8th June 2023.
2. The Ordination Service will be held on Sunday, 11th June 2023.

DAVID H NIXON, President  
HEATHER M E MORRIS, Secretary  
June 2022

# APPENDICES

<b>1: Connexional Calendar</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>2: Bureau of Membership</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>3: List of Societies</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>4: Changes to the Manual of Laws</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>5: Ministry of Healing Committee</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>6: Ministries Team</b>	<b>143</b>

## APPENDIX 1

# Connexional Calendar 2022-2023

## 2022

### September

8	Stationing Sub-group (10.30am)
11	Education Sunday
15	Governance Board (10.00am)
19	Stationing Sub-group (10.30am)
22	Property Board (7.30pm)
26	Connexional Team (9.30am)

### October

1	Installation of MWI President (Enniskillen)
8	Faith and Order Committee (10.30am)
11	Governance Board (10.00am)
12	Board of Education, Northern Executive (4.00pm)
15	MWI General Executive Meeting
25	Connexional Team (9.30am)
28-30	Autumn Soul

### November

10	Governance Board (10.00am)
20	Home Mission Sunday
21	Trustees Standing Committee
22	Connexional Team (9.30am)
28	Trustees General Meeting

### December

8	Governance Board (10.00am)
---	----------------------------

## 2023

### January

1	Covenant Sunday
19	Governance Board (10.00am)
18-25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
21	MWI General Executive Meeting
26	Connexional Team (9.30am)
29	Social Responsibility Sunday

### February

5	Ministry of Healing Sunday
10	Faith & Order Committee (10.30am)
10-12	'Overflow' Young Leaders' Weekend
12	Racial Justice Sunday
12-19	World Mission Advocacy Week
13	Governance Board (10.00am)
22	Board of Education, Northern Executive (4.00pm)

### March

3	World Day of Prayer
4	MWI Central Forum
tbc	Soul Mates
14	Tributes & Obituaries Committee
20	Governance Board (10.00am)
21	Nominations Committee (2.00pm)
23	Trustees AGM (12.00noon)
23	Property Board (7.00pm)

### April

20	Governance Board (10.00am)
----	----------------------------

### May

6	MWI General Executive Meeting
14-20	Christian Aid Week
25	Governance Board (10.00am)

### June

8	Conference opens
11	Conference Sunday

## APPENDIX 2 Bureau of Membership for year ending 31 December 2021

Methodist Church in Ireland	Dec.20	New	Rec.	Rem.	Emi.	Dth.	Csd.	Dec.21	+/-	Jun.	+/-	Cong. Reg.	+/-	Total	+/-
<b>Districts</b>															
1. Southern	2309	34	3	2	6	19	34	2284	-25	1035	33	1360	-35	4679	-27
2. North Western	4955	62	4	5	1	113	222	4680	-275	1968	-74	3204	-152	9952	-501
3. North Eastern	5866	303	7	16	1	182	108	5869	3	2809	-69	11979	-723	20657	-789
<b>December 2021</b>	<b>13130</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>12833</b>	<b>-297</b>	<b>5812</b>	<b>-110</b>	<b>16643</b>	<b>-910</b>	<b>35288</b>	<b>-1317</b>
<b>Comparative Table 2019 - 21</b>															
<b>December 2019</b>	14427	283	26	27	22	322	534	13831	-596	6682	-372	19229	-1325	39742	-2310
<b>December 2020</b>	13831	216	51	7	9	308	644	13130	-701	5922	-760	17553	-1676	36605	-9137
<b>December 2021</b>	<b>13130</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>12833</b>	<b>-297</b>	<b>5812</b>	<b>-110</b>	<b>16643</b>	<b>-910</b>	<b>35288</b>	<b>-1317</b>
<b>Southern District</b>															
1. Dublin South City	192	6	0	0	2	2	19	175	-17	79	19	129	-15	383	-13
2. Dublin Central Mission	248	5	3	0	1	1	4	250	2	134	6	170	-1	554	+7
3. Dublin North	123	0	0	0	0	0	0	123	0	98	0	124	0	345	0
4. Dublin South (Dundrum)	187	7	0	0	0	3	2	189	2	98	2	138	-1	425	+3
5. Dublin Sandymount	54	3	0	2	1	1	0	52	-2	17	0	43	0	112	-2
6. South East Leinster	251	1	0	0	0	6	5	241	-10	119	-7	204	-3	564	-20
7. Kilkenny & Carlow	76	0	0	0	0	0	1	75	-1	34	-1	82	-3	191	-5
8. Waterford	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	0	55	0	58	0	193	0
9. Portlaoise	88	6	0	0	0	1	0	93	5	44	-6	42	0	179	-1
10. North Tipperary	161	0	0	0	2	1	2	156	-5	45	9	50	+7	251	+11
11. Galway & Ballinasloe	91	6	0	0	0	0	0	97	6	60	7	29	-16	186	-3
12. Birr, Athlone & Tipperal	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	0	20	0	24	0	109	0
13. Cork South & Kerry	292	0	0	0	0	0	0	292	0	81	0	101	0	474	0
14. West Cork	226	0	0	0	0	4	1	221	-5	70	4	65	-3	356	-4
15. Limerick	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	55	0	38	0	183	0
16. Adare & Ballingrane	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	0	26	0	63	0	174	0
<b>December 2021</b>	<b>2309</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2284</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>1035</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1360</b>	<b>-35</b>	<b>4679</b>	<b>-27</b>
<b>Net Decrease in Membership</b>															
<b>Net Decrease in Total Methodist Comm</b>															

<b>North Western District</b>																	
17. Enniskillen	433	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	433	0	80	0	126	0	639	0
18. Springfield and Churchil	116	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	118	2	38	8	40	0	196	+10
19. Isbellaw, Magresbridge & Ten	235	3	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	232	-3	125	9	114	-2	471	+8
20. Upper Erne	199	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	197	-2	48	-7	72	1	317	-8	
21. Fivemiletown	90	0	1	0	2	9	78	-12	37	-3	62	-6	177	-21			
22. Pettigo & Irvestown	109	0	0	0	0	0	109	0	41	0	140	0	290	0	394	2	
23. Ballinamallard & Trillick	177	4	0	0	4	10	167	-10	67	3	160	9	394	2			
24. North Comnacht & Longfor	135	0	0	0	2	0	133	-2	112	0	123	0	368	-2			
25. Londonderry, Inishowen, Limavady	298	11	3	2	1	12	285	-13	200	-19	419	10	904	-22			
26. Castlederg	259	0	0	0	0	4	0	255	-4	69	-1	80	0	404	-5		
27. Omagh & Fintona	304	11	0	0	0	10	0	305	1	46	0	70	0	421	+1		
28. Donegal, Ballintra & Iny	183	0	0	0	0	2	4	177	-6	43	-3	16	0	236	-9		
29. Dunkineely & Ardara	133	2	0	0	0	2	0	133	0	38	0	64	1	235	1		
30. Portadown	482	4	0	0	0	27	53	406	-76	332	0	640	-94	1378	-170		
31. Newry	114	0	0	0	0	4	28	82	-32	14	-55	18	-79	114	-166		
32. Charlemont & Cranagill	98	0	0	0	0	3	0	95	-3	60	0	178	0	333	-3		
33. Dungannon	186	0	0	0	0	6	0	180	-6	68	-13	99	-5	347	-24		
34. Cookstown & South Der	134	3	0	2	0	6	0	129	-5	31	-3	71	-2	231	-10		
35. Armagh	83	0	0	0	0	3	3	77	-6	21	0	60	-7	158	+1		
36. Aughnacloy & Monaghan	75	0	0	0	0	1	0	74	-1	18	1	8	+1	100	+1		
37. Lurgan	282	6	0	0	0	9	0	279	-3	85	3	204	0	568	0		
38. Glenavy & Moira	192	0	0	0	0	4	0	188	-4	101	0	96	-2	385	-2		
39. Maghaberry	275	16	0	0	0	3	0	288	13	112	6	0	0	400	19		
40. Tandragee & Richhill	214	0	0	0	0	0	100	114	-100	78	0	218	0	410	-100		
41. Banbridge & Donadone	149	0	1	0	0	3	1	146	-3	104	0	226	+1	476	-2		
<b>Dec-21</b>	<b>4955</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>4680</b>	<b>-275</b>	<b>1968</b>	<b>-74</b>	<b>3304</b>	<b>-152</b>	<b>9952</b>	<b>-501</b>		
<b>Net Decrease in Membership</b>														<b>-275</b>			
<b>Net decrease in total Methodist Comm</b>														<b>-501</b>			



<b>North Eastern District</b>															
42. Coleraine, Portrush, Portstewart	194	0	0	0	6	3	185	-9	39	0	148	-6	372	-3	
43. Newtownabbey Mission	646	0	0	0	27	0	619	-27	716	0	2200	-45	3535	-72	
44. Ballyclare	145	0	0	0	3	0	142	-3	90	0	547	-3	779	-6	
45. Carrickfergus	273	220	2	0	14	0	481	208	141	8	1109	87	1731	303	
46. Larne	210	7	0	0	3	8	206	-4	187	1	571	-6	964	-9	
47. Antrim	64	16	0	0	3	1	76	12	12	0	0	-110	88	-98	
48. Ballymena	98	3	0	0	4	0	97	-1	29	-7	210	-50	336	-58	
49. Cullybackey	160	0	0	0	4	0	156	-4	116	1	291	0	563	-3	
50. North Belfast	220	10	1	9	0	10	3	209	-11	94	21	600	-21	903	-11
51. Belfast South & Central	238	5	0	0	7	1	235	-3	26	9	115	-40	376	-34	
52. Belfast (Greater Shankill)	127	0	0	0	3	0	124	-3	113	0	632	0	869	-3	
53. Belfast (Ballynafeigh)	239	0	2	0	11	44	186	-53	32	-70	199	-282	417	-405	
54. Belfast (Mountpottinge)	139	3	0	0	9	4	129	-10	67	-14	473	-15	669	-39	
55. Belfast (Cregagh & Glen)	175	0	0	1	3	2	169	-6	88	-2	567	-33	824	-41	
56. East Belfast Mission	68	0	0	0	0	0	68	0	32	0	314	+2	414	+2	
57. Belfast (Sydenham)	171	5	0	0	7	0	169	-2	41	1	304	0	514	-1	
58. Belfast (Knock)	547	3	0	0	23	0	527	-20	142	16	448	-72	1117	-76	
59. Belfast (Finaghy & Seyrn)	187	2	0	0	8	3	178	-9	71	-1	409	-4	658	-14	
60. Bangor & Holywood	612	14	0	3	1	16	603	-9	247	-22	1040	-2	1890	-33	
61. Donaghadee	81	0	0	0	4	2	75	-6	9	-2	102	0	186	-8	
62. Newtownards, Movilla & Rathfriland	349	7	2	3	0	5	350	1	153	-5	518	-9	1021	-13	
63. Glasry & Portaferry	106	4	0	0	3	9	98	-8	32	4	80	17	210	13	
64. Lagan Valley & Sth Dow	817	4	0	0	9	25	787	-30	332	-7	1102	-143	2221	-180	
<b>Dec-21</b>	<b>5866</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>5869</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2809</b>	<b>-69</b>	<b>11979</b>	<b>-723</b>	<b>20657</b>	<b>-789</b>
Net Increase in Membership															
Net Decrease in Total Methodist Comm															

## APPENDIX 3

# Names of Societies with District and Circuit Numbers

Abbey Street, Dublin	1/2	Battlehill	2/29
Adare	1/15	Belfast South	3/50
Antrim	3/46	Belvoir	3/51
Ardara	2/28	Bessbrook	2/30
Arklow	1/6	Birr	1/11
Armagh	2/34	Blacklion	2/16
Athlone	1/11	Blackrock [Urban Junction]	1/6
Athy	1/9	Blackskull	2/40
Aughnacloy	2/35	Blanchardstown	1/2
		Bloomfield	3/52
Ballina	2/23	Bluestone	2/36
Ballinacorr	2/36	Borrisokane	1/10
Ballinamallard	2/22	Branial	3/52
Ballineen	1/13	Bray	1/6
Ballingrane	1/15	Broomhedge	3/58
Ballintra	2/27	Brookeborough	2/19
Ballyclare	3/43		
Ballyholme	3/54	Cairnshill	3/51
Ballymena	3/47	Carlisle Road, L'Derry	2/24
Ballymoney	3/41	Carlow	1/7
Ballynafeigh	3/51	Carnalea	3/54
Ballynahinch	3/58	Carnlough	3/45
Ballynanny	2/35	Carrickfergus	3/44
Ballynure	3/43	Castlecaulfield	2/32
Banbridge	2/40	Castlederg	2/25
Bandon	1/13	Cavandoragh	2/25

Centenary (Leeson Park)	1/1	Drumquin	2/26
Church Hill	2/17	Drumshanbo	2/23
Clabby	2/20	Dublin Korean Church	1/1
Clonakilty	1/13	Dun Laoghaire	1/6
Clontarf	1/3	Dundonald	3/52
Clooney Hall, L'Derry	2/24	Dundrum, Dublin	1/4
Cloughjordan	1/10	Dungannon	2/32
Coleraine	3/41	Dunkineely	2/28
Collooney	2/23		
Comber	3/56	Edenderry	2/29
Cookstown	2/33	Enniskillen	2/16
Cork	1/12	Epworth	2/29
Corlespratten	2/19		
Craigmore	2/37	Finaghy	3/53
Craigyhill	3/45	Fintona	2/26
Cranagill	2/31	Fivemiletown	2/20
Creagh	2/20	Florencecourt	2/16
Cregagh	3/52		
Cullybackey	3/48	Glacknadrummond	2/24
		Glastry	3/57
Derryanville	2/29	Glenavy	2/37
Derrygonnelly	2/17	Glenburn	3/52
Doagh	3/43	Glencairn (Jt C of I)	3/49
Donacloney	2/40	Glengormley	3/42
Donaghadee	3/55	Gorey	1/6
Donard	3/58	Greencastle	3/42
Donegal	2/27	Greenisland	3/44
Donegall Road	3/50	Grosvenor Hall	3/50
Drimoleague	1/13		
Dromore	3/58	Hamilton Road, Bangor	3/54
Drumady	2/19	Holywood	3/54

Inver	2/27	Maghaberry (The Church on the Hill) (Jt C of I)	2/38
Irvinestown	2/21	Magherafelt	2/33
Islandmagee	3/44	Magheragall	3/58
Jennymount	3/49	Maguiresbridge	2/18
Joanmount	3/49	Mahon	2/29
Kenmare	1/12	Manorhamilton	2/23
Kilkee	1/14	Markethill	2/39
Kilkenny	1/7	Mayne	2/26
Killarney	1/12	Millstreet	1/12
Killylea	2/34	Moirea	2/37
Killymaddy	2/34	Monaghan	2/35
Kinsale	1/12	Monkstown, Church of the Good Shepherd (Jt C of I)	3/42
Knock	3/52	Mossley	3/42
Knockbreda	3/51	Mountmellick	1/9
Knockninny		Mountpottinger	3/52
Laghey	2/32	Movilla Abbey (Jt C of I)	3/56
Larne	3/45	Moville	2/24
Letterbreen	2/16	Moy	2/32
Limavady	2/24	Newbuildings	2/24
Limerick	1/14	Newtownards (Regent Street)	3/56
Lisbellaw	2/18	Newtownards Road	3/52
Lisburn (Seymour Street)	3/58	Newtownbutler	2/19
Lisleen	2/25	Newtownkelly	2/32
Lisnaskea	2/19	Newtownstewart	2/26
Longford	2/23	Newry	2/30
Lucan	1/2	Omagh	2/26
Lurgan (High Street)	2/36		
Lurgan (Queen Street)	2/36		

Pettigo	2/21	Tallaght	1/1
Portlaoise	1/9	Tandragee	2/39
Portadown (Thomas Street)	2/29	Tempo	2/18
Portaferry	3/57	Togherdoo	2/26
Portrush	3/41	Trillick	2/22
Portstewart	3/41	Trinity, Lisburn	3/58
Priesthill (Zion)	3/58	Tullamore	1/11
Primacy (Jt C of I)	3/54	Tullyroan	2/31
		Warrenpoint	2/30
Queen's Parade, Bangor	3/54	Waterford	1/8
Church of the Resurrection, Queen's University, Belfast	3/50	Whiteabbey	3/42
		Whitecastle	2/24
		Whitehead	3/44
Rathcoole	3/42	Wicklow	1/6
Rathgar (Brighton Road)	1/1	Woodvale	3/49
Richhill	2/39		
Roscrea	1/10	Youghal	1/12
Sandy Row	3/50		
Sandymount	1/5		
Seymour Hill	3/53		
Shankill	3/49		
Shinrone	1/10		
Skerries	1/3		
Skibbereen	1/13		
Sligo	2/23		
Springfield	2/17		
Strabane	2/24		
Sutton	1/3		
Sydenham	3/52		

## APPENDIX 4: Changes to the Manual of Laws

brought by the Governance Board on behalf of Teams and Departments,  
and approved by Conference

### APPENDIX 4A

#### Manual of Laws, Chapter 6

##### Revised version of Chapter 6 of the Manual of Laws

##### CHAPTER 6

##### LOCAL PREACHERS

##### 6A Local Preachers

**6A.01** A Local Preacher is a member of the Church, recognised as qualified and called to preach the Gospel, though not “separated” from her/his ordinary business.

**6A.02** A Committee shall be appointed annually by the Governance Board. It shall ensure that proper processes and procedures are followed in relation to training, accreditation and development of Local Preachers.

It shall be constituted as follows:

The Lay Leader of the Conference,

~~The Ministerial and Lay Secretaries of the Committee,~~

The Connexional Local Preachers’ Co-ordinator.

A member of the staff of the Ministries Team

The District Secretaries Co-ordinators for Local Preachers.

**6A.03** Each District shall have a forum open to all Local Preachers, both accredited and in training. The purpose of the forum is to facilitate prayer and support for this ministry, organise training and development opportunities, and to gather information to feed back to the Connexional Committee and to ~~Board of Ministry~~ the Ministries Learning and Development Committee.

**6A.04** Regulations regarding nomination, ~~and appointment and review~~ of Local Preachers are set out in protocols prepared by the ~~Connexional Local Preachers Committee~~ Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee in consultation with the Connexional Local Preachers’ Committee, approved by the Governance Board and reported to Conference. Any amendments to the protocols shall be approved by the Governance Board and reported to Conference.

**6A.05** Each Local Preacher is required to:

(a) attend frequently fellowship meetings of the Church and the Lord’s Supper.

(b) affirm annually that he/she continues to believe and preach our doctrines and to observe the discipline of the Church.

At the District Ministerial Synod, Circuit Superintendents shall be asked to confirm that the Local Preachers on their Circuits have affirmed that they continue to believe and preach our doctrines and observe the discipline of the Methodist Church in Ireland and that this has been noted by the March Circuit Executive.

- 6A.06** Each Local Preacher who has not retired is required to:
- (a) commit to 15 hours of further learning or training per year.
  - (b) ~~undergo a Review every 10 years.~~ take part in the annual and ten-yearly review process.
- 6A.07** If the Local Preacher is unwilling to make the affirmation required by paragraph 6A.05 above her/his name will be removed from the Circuit Preaching Plan and the Connexional list of Local Preachers. In a case where the Local Preacher makes the affirmation but the Circuit Executive has reason to doubt her/him, the matter shall be reported to the District Superintendent who shall then arrange to convene a District Disciplinary Committee.
- 6A.08** If a Local Preacher behaves in a manner considered by the Circuit Executive to be inappropriate or a charge is made against a Local Preacher, he/she will be subject to the Disciplinary Procedures set out below in section 6C.
- 6A.09** When a Local Preacher has resigned because he/she has been unable to subscribe to Methodist doctrine and discipline and seeks to be reinstated as a Local Preacher he/she shall:
- (a) make application through the Superintendent Minister to the Circuit Executive. Such application shall not be made until two years have elapsed from her/his re-admission to membership of the Methodist Church, or if membership has not ceased, until two years from the date of her/his resignation.
  - (b) be examined at the Circuit Executive. Re-instatement shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting in favour of the application.
- 6A.10** When a Local Preacher has been asked to resign, or been removed, due to behaviour thought to be inappropriate for anyone called to be a preacher of the Gospel, and seeks to be re-instated he/she shall:
- (a) make application through the Superintendent Minister to the Circuit Executive. Such application shall not be made until five years have elapsed from her/his re-admission to Membership of the Methodist Church, or if membership has not ceased, until five years from the date of her/his resignation or removal.
  - (b) have her/his application for re-instatement referred to the District Disciplinary Committee, the report from which shall be considered before the application proceeds to the Circuit Executive.
  - (c) be examined at the Circuit Executive. Re-instatement shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting in favour of the application.
- 6A.11** No person who has been suspended or expelled from the Ministry shall be employed as a Local Preacher without the consent of the Conference.
- 6A.12** A Local Preacher removing from one Circuit to another shall, on production of her/his Certificate of Accreditation as a Local Preacher, together with a letter from the Superintendent Minister stating that he/she is in good standing, be placed on the plan of the latter Circuit.
- 6A.13** Circuit and Society Treasurers shall be responsible for the payment of travelling expenses to all Local Preachers who conduct services on their Circuits, as outlined in the Minutes of Conference.

## ~~District Secretaries~~ District Local Preachers' Co-ordinators

- 6A.14** The District Superintendent, in consultation with the District Advisory Committee, shall appoint a Local Preacher as ~~District Secretary~~ District Local Preachers' Co-ordinator, who shall collect information concerning the work of Local Preachers on the District. ~~District Secretaries~~ District Co-ordinators for Local Preachers shall keep a list of all Local Preachers on their Districts. ~~They shall be responsible for arranging the appointments on the District for Local Preachers' Sunday.~~
- 6A.15** ~~District Local Preachers' Secretaries~~ District Local Preachers' Co-ordinators shall forward their reports to the ~~Lay Secretary of the Local Preachers' Committee~~ Connexional Local Preachers' Co-ordinator.
- 6A.16** The statistical returns shall show as active Local Preachers all those who are able and willing to take appointments.
- 6A.17** The third Sunday in September shall be recognised as the Sunday designated for Celebration and Affirmation of the ministry of Local Preachers. A Circuit service of Celebration and Affirmation shall be arranged on each Circuit. The order and form of this service should follow the guidance provided by the Connexional Committee. Local Preachers' Sunday, on which as far as possible worship shall be led by Local Preachers.
- 6A.18** The District Superintendent shall facilitate the 10-year Review Process for all Local Preachers, as defined in the 'Policy and Procedures relating to the Nomination, Appointment and Review of Local Preachers' ~~'Regulations and Guidelines for Local Preachers'~~ published annually in the Minutes of Conference published on the MCI Teams Application. The role of the District Superintendent is to facilitate the process of Review by providing support and guidance to Local Preachers and, in conjunction with the District Local Preachers' Secretary Co-ordinator, to ensure that reviews are undertaken and completed within the required timeframe.

## **Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee**

- 6A.19** The Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee as set out in Chapter 4 of the Manual of Laws is responsible for the drafting of new and reviewing of existing policies relating to Local Preachers. Each policy sets out key features and responsibilities. Amendments shall be agreed by the Governance Board of the Methodist Church in Ireland and reported to the Conference. The following policy ~~and procedures~~ is currently in operation:
- Nomination, ~~and~~ Appointment and Review of Local Preachers ~~including the course of training.~~
  - ~~Local Preachers Annual Review Policy~~



## APPENDIX 4B

### Manual of Laws, Chapter 19

#### Amendments to Chapter 19 of the Manual of Laws

##### Irish Methodist World Development and Relief

**19.01** The Governance Board, on the advice of the Connexional Team shall annually appoint a Committee on World Development and Relief, ~~to promote throughout the Church the study of the problem of world poverty.~~ to support the Church in learning about, understanding and responding effectively to world poverty and injustice for the transformation of the world.

**19.03** The Committee shall administer a fund for World Development & Relief. It shall receive such a percentage of the annual Connexional Comprehensive Assessment as may from time to time be determined by the Governance Board. It shall work ~~through and in closest~~ consultation with World Mission Partnership ~~and the Methodist Relief and Development Fund,~~ and shall report to the Governance Board each year on its allocations of all sums received.

**19.04** ~~A Secretary for World Development and Relief shall be appointed in each Circuit or Society.~~

## APPENDIX 4C

### Manual of Laws, para. 17.06

#### Amendments to para. 17.06 of the Manual of Laws

##### World Mission Partnership

**17.06** The Governance Board, on the advice of the Connexional Team shall appoint annually a World Mission Partnership Committee, consisting of the World Mission Partnership officers, the World Mission Secretary of Methodist Women in Ireland, a representative appointed by the World Development and Relief Committee together with one additional minister and ~~three~~ four additional laypersons, of whom at least two shall be women. World Mission Partnership staff shall also attend, as required.

## APPENDIX 4D

### Manual of Laws, chapter 15

#### Amendments to chapter 15 of the Manual of Laws

##### **The Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy Belfast**

Delete existing 15.31- 15.35 and replace with:

**15.31** The Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy Belfast is a charitable limited company, registered with both Companies House NI (June 2021) and the Charities Commission NI (Jan 2022).

**15.32** The charitable company seeks to advance the Christian faith amongst third level education University and College campuses in Belfast in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland.

**15.33** The charity is established to take over the responsibilities of the Belfast University Chaplaincy Committee (and all such committees and structures as designated by the Church of Ireland). As such the charity is eligible to apply for any necessary Home Mission grants to fund its work.

**15.34** The two denominations are the Member Organisations, with each denomination having absolute discretion to appoint three Authorised Representatives to attend the Annual General Meeting on behalf of the Member Organisation. Ordinarily this will be the Secretary of Conference, the North Eastern District Superintendent, and the Superintendent of the adjacent Circuit. If one of these cannot attend the Secretary of Conference may approve a suitable alternative.

**15.35** A Board of Directors / Charity Trustees is comprised as follows:

- a) Up to 3 Charity Trustees appointed by the Methodist Church
- b) up to 3 Charity Trustees appointed by the Church of Ireland
- c) The denominational chaplains appointed by the denominations in Belfast (ordinarily the chaplains at Queen's University & Stranmillis College, and Ulster University)
- d) Up to 6 Charity Trustees who are worshipping members attending a chaplaincy community
- e) Up to 2 external Charity Trustees (appointed by virtue of experience, skill or expertise)

The total number of Charity Trustees of (d) and (e) shall not exceed a total number that is more than one less than the total number of trustees of (a), (b) and (c)

**15.36** Persons appointed for work amongst students shall be nominated each year by the Conference to the various institutions.

**15.37** The Board of Trustees shall meet regularly with a General Meeting at least once a year with subsequent report to the Connexional Team.

# APPENDIX 5: Ministry of Healing Committee

## APPENDIX 5A

### A Framework for Practice of the Ministry of Healing in the Methodist Church in Ireland

#### INTRODUCTION

Healing was central to the earthly ministry of Jesus. It was a sign of God's kingdom, bringing renewal and wholeness of life to those who turned to God in their need. Jesus sent out his disciples with the commission to "proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal" (Luke 9.2).

Jesus' commission to heal was not just for His immediate followers but for succeeding generations of Christians. The apostle Paul writes of "gifts of healing" being available to Christians (1 Corinthians 12:28). James says that those who are sick should call for the elders of the church to pray over them for healing (James 5:14).

A ministry of healing should be an integral part of the mission of every Methodist circuit in Ireland. This ministry will often take place within the wider context of a prayer ministry.

The Ministry of Healing Committee has developed this framework in consultation with the Ministries Team, to support and guide ministers and Circuit Executives in the development of a healing ministry to their members and community.

#### DEVELOPING A HEALING MINISTRY - WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED?

Those who are likely to offer or respond to a request to lead a healing ministry should:

- already be actively engaged in the prayer life of the church.
- feel a passion for this aspect of Jesus' ministry.
- have a gifting or feel called in this area.
- their ministry should be fully supported by the Church Council and Circuit Executive.
- be appropriately prepared, trained and supported.

This is Jesus' ministry:

- those involved in the ministry of healing are not "super Christians".
- it is through His power that healing takes place.
- the one who exercises the ministry is simply a conduit of Jesus' healing love.

The development of any ministry on a Circuit requires local leadership.

The circuit minister with their Circuit Executive should always have oversight of the ministry of healing, in order to fulfil their duty of care to those engaged in the ministry and those receiving it.

#### MODELS OF HEALING MINISTRY

Healing Ministry can be offered in many differing ways, at different levels of engagement and in different settings.

MCI does not espouse any one particular model for the ministry of healing. The way the ministry is exercised will be influenced by:

- the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- the gifting/experience of those involved.
- the church/community context.

### **INDIRECT MINISTRY**

Indirect Ministry is exercised on occasions where corporate prayer is made in response to requests for healing, but where there is no face-to-face ministry with the person e.g.:

- intercessory prayer meetings
- prayer groups
- prayer cells
- prayer chains
- church services.

Everyone participating in Indirect Healing Ministry should read the MCI guidelines on the ministry of healing. No specific training is required.

### **PERSONAL MINISTRY**

- involves face-to-face contact with the individual seeking prayer for healing
- may involve the laying on of hands and/or anointing with oil
- most often takes place in a worship service when people are invited to come forward for healing ministry.

In some of the Methodist mission churches a regular service for healing and wholeness is open to the whole community and people of all faiths and none.

### **SPECIAL GIFTING**

Special gifting may include a calling to deliverance ministry. This ministry, however, is not necessarily a part of a special gifting in healing. Deliverance Ministry is a particular calling and ministry and not all can claim this. Such spiritual gifting requires experience, training and evidence of the gifting. Still, when the people providing the ministry realise that they are out of their depth, they should refer the individual to an appropriate source of exorcism ministry. We recommend the MCI Ministry of Healing Committee as the first point of contact (see Note on Special Gifting below for further information).

### **POINTS TO NOTE**

Prayer cover and leadership oversight are particularly important for all aspects of healing ministry, but especially for those exercising a deliverance ministry.

Those receiving healing ministry often need inner healing. People may be deeply wounded in ways that are not obvious. In such situations the Evil one can distort the individual's perception of themselves or of God. Ministry here is often to speak Truth into the situation; Jesus says, "you will know the truth and truth will set you free". In any healing ministry involving face to face contact, it is important to listen carefully to the recipient as well as the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

### **TRAINING**

MCI expects that everyone involved in the ministry of healing should have training and practice appropriate to the level at which they are ministering. All those involved in Personal Ministry should have training:

- During ministerial formation; all students in training should be prepared for the ministry of healing or its oversight.
- It is the responsibility of the Ministries Team to provide appropriate training.
- The Ministries Team provides a one-day training programme for lay persons within a rolling programme of learning and development.
- The Ministry of Healing Committee can signpost those interested to other training courses and online training programmes.

## **PARTNERSHIPS TO DELIVER THE FRAMEWORK**

The Ministry of Healing Committee will be a resource for developing healing ministries within the Connexion. However, the committee recognises that it will need to expand its membership and address training needs within the committee.

The Ministries Team is central to ensuring that foundational training in the ministry of healing is included in the formation for ordination so that an appropriate level of oversight can be provided at circuit level and that training is available for everyone called to this ministry.

External training providers are currently being used, mostly by lay members, to develop their competence in the ministry of healing.

District Superintendents have a role in promoting mission in their Districts; their support and encouragement will help to make the ministry of healing more widely available.

Circuits are, of course, key to making the ministry of healing available to all; it is at circuit level that Christ is proclaimed to a needy world. There is need for an effective communication exercise with circuit ministers and leaders.

## **ACTION PLAN**

1. Create a web-site page listing circuits which offer healing ministry within a regular worship service or holds a regular healing service.
2. Liaise with Ministries Team re the formation for ordination, and other learning and development training.
3. Review the capacity and capability of the MoH Committee.
4. Identify development needs of Committee members.
5. Liaise with potential partners for training input and practice experience.
6. Seek approval of Framework at Conference.
7. Offer district-based information seminar(s) for lay and ministerial colleagues who wish to develop their healing ministry.
8. Refresh “The Christian Healing Ministry” document.

## **Note on Special Gifting**

A small number of people across the broad spectrum of healing ministries have a specific, God-given, spiritual gift of healing (e.g., 1 Cor. 12:8). Like any spiritual gifting, it is not to be used for personal gain or aggrandisement but rather for the ‘common good’ (1 Cor. 12:7). The need for deliverance ministry, however, can be present at any time in any personal healing ministry. Anyone with special gifting in this area should exercise it with humility and openness to the prompting of the Holy Spirit on the recipient's needs. Engaging in deliverance ministry where it is not appropriate can greatly distress the recipient.

Furthermore, it is essential to recognise that some people presenting for healing ministry with medical or emotional symptoms may have underlying spiritual issues that

can cause or exacerbate the physical and mental. For instance, people engaging in some aspect of demonic practice, perhaps out of curiosity or in earnest, are at risk of demonic influence. Examples of such influence include séance, Ouija boards, consulting mediums, tarot cards, practising body/table lifting, using cocaine, LSD, hallucinogenic drugs etc.

## **APPENDIX 5B**

### **The Christian Healing Ministry**

#### **INTRODUCTION - THE BIBLE AND HEALING**

The Church's involvement in the ministry of healing has a theological framework. It springs from what we believe about God and God's will and purposes for humankind. Christians believe that God's will for His human creation is wholeness in body, mind and spirit. It follows that healing, however generated, is a positive experience that frees us from anything that interferes with wholeness. The human body has marvellous self-healing properties, resistance, resilience and immunity. When these fail, intervention is necessary.

Human pain and suffering are a reality of the world in which we live - a result of human sin, and not the will of the God who declared creation to be good. (Genesis 1 vs. 31)

Healing was central to the ministry of Jesus when He was on earth:

- A large percentage of His miracles involved healing.
- He commissioned His disciples to proclaim the Kingdom of God, and to heal. (Luke 9 vs. 2)

Jesus' commission was for succeeding generations of Christians:

- Paul writes of "gifts of healing". (1 Corinthians 12 vs. 28)
- James writes that the sick should call for the elders of the church to pray over them for healing. (James 5 vs. 14)

#### **HEALING AND THE CHURCH**

During the first three centuries of the Christian era physical healings by miraculous means were not uncommon. They were acknowledged by contemporary church leaders:

- Seen as evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church.
- The Church was young.
- Personal and corporate faith were strong - stimulated by the ever-present threat of persecution and martyrdom.

Towards the end of this period the expectation of divine intervention in healing diminished:

- Christian belief and practice became established and respectable.
- Faith weakened
- Emerging medical science was seen as God's new way of healing and the Church became involved in this.
-

However, reports of miraculous healings continued:

- Where individual and corporate faith were strong.
- Where there was an expectation that God could and did heal.
- Where there was a conviction that Christ's call to His followers to heal the sick was still in force.

Throughout much of the twentieth century up to the present day, there has been a resurgence of interest in the spiritual dimension of healing. Many denominations and congregations now exercise a healing ministry. We believe that the healing of diseases and the pursuit of wholeness is God's will for humankind.

In the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Psychological and Spiritual Healing Committee was established in 1938 - which evolved into the Ministry of Healing Committee in 1977.

The Churches' Council for Health and Healing in Ireland is an inter-church group that provides encouragement, support and guidance. The Methodist Church in Ireland is represented on the Council by some members of the Ministry of Healing Committee.

### **THE HEALING MINISTRY AND MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE TODAY**

The majority of Christians who are rediscovering this spiritual dimension of healing see it as complementary to, rather than an alternative to the work of the medical professionals. We encourage those with health concerns to seek the guidance of medical professionals. At times there seems to have been an uneasy relationship between the church and the emerging scientific developments in medicine, though the church has had a major input into the establishing of hospitals and other caring institutions.

We acknowledge that all healing is of God - a conviction we share with many in the medical world. What we have been discovering as the twentieth century progressed is that Christians and Christian communities have a spiritual resource, largely unused for centuries, with which to combat disease and promote wholeness of body and mind as well as of spirit. We have come to recognise that Christ's call to His followers to preach, teach and heal has never been withdrawn. Therefore, we can make a contribution, where appropriate, alongside the work of the medical practitioners.

Involvement in the ministry of healing requires that we be aware of, and avoid two extremes:

1. Whilst we acknowledge that most illnesses are cured by medical intervention we need to avoid saying, or believing, that it alone can bring about healing. That would place limits on God - and there is much credible evidence to suggest that people have been cured miraculously.
2. We must avoid encouraging total reliance on the ministry of healing when medical treatment can be of help.

### **THE BASIS FOR A HEALING MINISTRY TODAY**

We must acknowledge that there are many unanswered questions in respect of illness and recovery from it, or not, as the case may be. One reservation often expressed is the fear of disappointment for those to whom they minister. Mental stress and

spiritual questioning may result if a cure does not happen. A proper understanding of the healing ministry is important:

- Its purpose is not to cure but bring healing - although, by God's grace, a cure may sometimes happen.
- Its purpose is to bring wholeness through restoration and healing of our relationship with God, with others and within ourselves.
- Many testify that although God did not cure them, He did heal by blessing them with composure, peace and resilience in the face of continuing illness.
- Bearing illness with dignity, by God's grace and through the ministry of healing, can be a witness to others in society.
- The fruit of the Spirit often grows when facing the testing winds of difficulty, including illness.
- The fruit of the Spirit may also grow in persons exercising a healing ministry.

It is important to stress the fact that **it is Christ** who is the healer.

- The healing ministry is best exercised by a congregation in Christ's name.
- The prayers of God's people create an environment in which they can be answered.
- Those who minister are instruments in the hands of Christ.
- They are not professionals but should feel a calling to the ministry of healing and receive training.
- They should be commissioned by the local church.
- As with all gifts, those with the gift of healing should exercise it with wisdom, love and humility.

### **PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH**

Ideally, the healing ministry should be offered within the context of the normal worship and pastoral life of each congregation according to what best suits the local situation:

- In Sunday Worship services.
- By Prayer Teams before or after a service.
- Mid-week meetings.
- Designated Healing Services.
- In hospitals, nursing, residential and private homes.
- The Church Council or Circuit Executive should oversee the ministry.
- Clear information and explanation should be given on each occasion to avoid uncertainty or embarrassment to the congregation and those seeking ministry.

In public worship, the ministry of healing may be exercised in a number of ways; they are not necessarily mutually exclusive:

- Names may be placed in a prayer book or box and then used in prayer - that these persons may know God's blessing and healing in their lives.
- Use of names in a public setting should always be at the person's request or with their permission. This should also apply where members of the congregation may request prayer for someone by name.
- Invitation for individuals to receive ministry at the communion rail or prayer stations which should be set up to be visible.
- Individuals should have the opportunity to share their prayer need to the team member(s) and be encouraged to do so.



- Prayer may be received on behalf of someone else as well as personally.
- Prayer ministry is not intended to offer counselling. If this is needed, then other arrangements should be made.
- Ministry may include the laying on of hands, e.g., on the head or shoulders, or anointing with oil on the forehead - both scriptural means of grace. Individuals seeking ministry should be asked for permission before proceeding.

Where ministry is exercised outside of the church context:

- Permission to conduct prayer ministry should be obtained from the relevant authorities.
- Should be conducted sensitively where it cannot be done in private.
- Two persons, at least, should be involved.
- Should be ministering with the knowledge of, and prayerful support of the local church.

### **SAFEGUARDING**

Appropriate measures should be in place to protect both those seeking ministry and those exercising it.

- Ideally, two persons should minister to each person. An appropriate gender balance should be observed.
- Information shared is confidential, except where it relates to the abuse of children or a vulnerable adult, which must be reported to the relevant person or authorities. If the ministry team are concerned about an individual's immediate safety, advice should be sought from the relevant authorities over an appropriate course of action. The utmost discretion should always be exercised.
- Prayer teams should meet for prayer before and after ministry.

### **BECOMING INVOLVED**

If you would like to become involved in prayer ministry or organise a healing service and would like help or advice, please contact the Ministry of Healing Committee.

Jesus said:

I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

There are no hard and fast rules as how to conduct a healing service, but the Ministry of Healing Committee recommends:

1. "An Order of Service for Healing and Wholeness" (2011)
2. "An Order of Service for Healing and Wholeness" (Methodist Worship 1999)
3. "Healing the Hurts" (2005)

# APPENDIX 6: Ministries Team

## Policies and Procedures

### Methodist Church in Ireland Policy and Procedures relating to the Nomination, Appointment and Review of Local Preachers - April 2022

#### 1. Introduction, Purpose and Scope

This policy outlines the procedure to be followed for the nomination, appointment and review of Local Preachers.

This policy replaced the legislation set out in Chapter 6 of the Manual of Laws of the Methodist Church in Ireland (2019).

The key features of this policy and the procedures involved are set out below. All supplementary materials referenced are available on the MCI website -

<https://irishmethodist.org/ministries-local-preachers> .

#### 2. Responsibility

This policy is managed by the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

#### 3. Nomination and appointment

- 3.1 When an individual believes that God is calling her/him to become a local preacher and wants to test this call he/she will first have a conversation with her/his local minister.
- 3.2 The local minister will then speak with the Superintendent minister, who will work together with the local minister, other ministers and local preachers on the circuit, as far as possible, to assist and support the individual in preparing for this important role in the Methodist Church in Ireland.
- 3.3 The Superintendent minister is responsible for presenting the local preacher applicants to the Local Preachers' Meeting or the Circuit Executive, persons who:
  - a. are able to give an account of their journey of faith and call to preach;
  - b. can give account of genuine faithfulness;
  - c. have the ability to express themselves with sufficient readiness and clarity;
  - d. are committed to completing the training required by Conference in the time allocated.
- 3.4 The Local Preachers' Meeting or Circuit Executive will observe the applicant using the pro-forma questions - see <https://irishmethodist.org/ministries-local-preachers>. If satisfied that the applicant is suitable and is able to fulfil the MCI expectations for applicants to become a Local Preacher in Training, it shall recommend that the applicant be received as such.
- 3.5 The Superintendent should inform the Connexional Local Preachers' Co-ordinator of the applicant's name and should also email the Ministries Team

Office at [ministries@irishmethodist.org](mailto:ministries@irishmethodist.org) for the link to the electronic application form. A reference copy of the Application Form, as well as details of the Methodist Local Preachers' Course is available on the MCI website - <https://irishmethodist.org/ministries-local-preachers>.

- 3.6 Once the Circuit Executive has agreed to support the applicant in their training to be a Local Preacher, the applicant should complete the Application Form online and arrange to submit the supporting documentation detailed within the Application Form to the Ministries Team office. This application and documentation will then be shared with the Connexional Local Preachers' Co-ordinator.
- 3.7 The Connexional Local Preachers' Co-ordinator in consultation with the Ministries Team shall:
  - a. examine the application form and confirm, or not, the recommendation of the Circuit Executive.
  - b. assess any application for accreditation of prior learning.
  - c. assess any application for experience in the leading of worship and preaching.
  - d. decide on the training pathway for individuals, considering b) and c).
- 3.8 Local Preachers in Training are required to undertake the Methodist Local Preachers' Course as agreed by the Governance Board and reported to the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland.
- 3.9 The period in training shall normally be not less than one year and not more than four years. During this time the Circuit Superintendent should ensure that there are opportunities for the Local Preacher in Training to gain practical experience and that their training pathway is being fulfilled. The Circuit Superintendent should also liaise with the Connexional Local Preachers' Co-ordinator, the District Local Preachers' Co-ordinator and the Ministries Team throughout this period of training.
- 3.10 When all elements of the training pathway are completed, the Connexional Local Preachers' Co-ordinator will inform the Circuit Superintendent. If the Circuit Superintendent has not previously heard the Local Preacher in Training lead worship and preach, she / he should arrange to do so on at least one occasion and should also ask the local minister to provide a report to the Local Preachers' Meeting or Circuit Executive. The Superintendent Minister will then arrange an interview for the Local Preacher in Training at the Local Preachers' Meeting and / or the Circuit Executive. The interview will be conducted by the Superintendent Minister, or under her/his direction, using the pro-forma set of questions relating to the following:
  - a. Training journey
  - b. Call to preach
  - c. Willingness to serve God with the Methodist Church.
  - d. Willingness to submit to the discipline of the Methodist Church.
- 3.11 The Local Preachers' Meeting or Circuit Executive will observe the applicant using the pro-forma questions. If satisfied, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, that the applicant has completed their training satisfactorily and is able to fulfil the MCI Expectations for those becoming Fully Accredited Preachers, the Circuit Executive shall recommend to the Connexional Local Preachers' Committee that the candidate be received as a 'fully accredited'

Local Preacher. The Superintendent Minister shall then forward to the Connexional Local Preachers' Co-ordinator the outcome of the Circuit Executive's vote.

- 3.12 The Connexional Local Preachers' Committee shall examine all the documentation and, if satisfied, shall issue a Certificate of Accreditation, to be presented at a service locally.
- 3.13 The names of 'fully accredited' Local Preachers accepted during that Connexional year shall be recorded in the ensuing Minutes of Conference.
- 3.14 If an applicant has not completed their training pathway by the end of the four-year period, he/she may apply through the Local Preacher's Meeting to the Circuit Executive to extend their training period. If there is no Local Preachers' meeting, the request should come to the Circuit Executive directly. The Local Preacher in Training should explain why the requirements of training have not been met. The extension will be on the recommendation of the Circuit Local Preachers' Meeting and / or approved by the Circuit Executive. Only in exceptional circumstances, and with the consent of the Connexional Local Preachers' Committee, shall the total period in training exceed 8 years. If after this extended period requirements are still not completed, he/she shall no longer be regarded as a Local Preacher in Training.

#### **4. Yearly Review**

- 4.1 The local ordained minister should hear individual local preachers conduct a service of worship on at least one occasion within the previous twelve months and be content with the outcomes.
- 4.2 The local minister should conduct an informal interview with the local preacher. If necessary, the informal interview can be conducted by another ordained minister. A list of suggested questions is available on the MCI website and can be downloaded - <https://irishmethodist.org/ministries-local-preachers> .
- 4.3 Having been satisfied with the interview, the conduct of the service and the requirements set out in the Manual of Laws 6A.05, the local minister will make a verbal report to the March Circuit Executive stating that the fully accredited Local Preacher has successfully completed the review. The Circuit Executive Secretary will then inform the District Local Preachers' Co-ordinators and the Connexional Local Preachers' Co-ordinator.

#### **5. Ten Yearly Review**

The District Superintendent shall facilitate a 10-year Review Process for all fully accredited local preachers. The role of the District Superintendent is to facilitate the process of Review by providing support and guidance to Local Preachers and, in conjunction with the District Local Preachers' Co-ordinator, to ensure that reviews are undertaken and completed within the required timeframe. A proforma which includes suggested questions is available on the MCI website <https://irishmethodist.org/ministries-local-preachers> .

#### **6. Policy Review**

This Policy was first adopted in July 2021 and revised in April 2022. It is intended to further review and update this Policy by July 2024. Revised versions of the Policy shall

be agreed by the Governance Board, reported to Conference, and published on the MCI Teams Application.

## **Related Policies**

# **Methodist Church in Ireland Applications to serve with, or transfer to, the Ordained Ministry of the Methodist Church in Ireland - April 2022**

## **1. Introduction, Purpose and Scope**

The Methodist Church in Ireland welcomes applications from ordained ministers of other Methodist Churches and other Christian denominations to serve with or transfer into the ordained ministry of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

This policy replaces the legislation set out in 5D.15-17 in the Manual of Laws of the Methodist Church in Ireland (2019).

The key features of this policy and the procedures involved are set out below.

## **2. Responsibility**

This policy is managed by the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee (MPPC).

## **3. Key Features of this Policy**

- 3.1.** An applicant who is accepted by Conference shall be recognised and regarded as being in Full Connexion with the Methodist Church in Ireland. This means they share fully in the privileges and responsibilities of Ordained Ministry in the Methodist Church in Ireland and they are subject to the disciplines of the church as set out by Conference. Additionally, they are fully accountable to Conference regarding their conduct and general vocation.
- 3.2.** Ordained Ministers of the Methodist Church in Britain are automatically recognised and regarded as being in Full Connexion with the Methodist Church in Ireland and so there is no restriction on their length of service with the Methodist Church in Ireland. However, they still need to follow the application and discernment procedure as set out below.
- 3.3.** For Ordained Ministers of other churches, temporary recognition is granted for a maximum of five years, after which an application must be made to transfer to the Methodist Church in Ireland. Such applications can only be granted when an applicant has been granted permanent residency by the appropriate authorities in either the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland.
- 3.4.** Ordained ministers of other churches seeking to permanently transfer to the Methodist Church in Ireland shall normally first apply for temporary recognition as set out below. If, for stated reasons, the applicant is seeking immediate transfer to MCI the following additional regulation shall apply:
  - 3.4.1.** An ordained minister seeking permanent transfer to MCI who has not previously been recognised on a temporary basis, if accepted by Conference, shall be regarded as being on probation for a period of two years prior to

being received into Full Connexion. Paragraph 3.3 also continues to apply, meaning that a minister must remain on probation until they have permanent residence.

- 3.5. At Conference each year those being received into Full Connexion with the Methodist Church in Ireland will publicly declare their commitment to serve Christ through the Methodist Church in Ireland, and the Conference members will pray for them.
- 3.6. The Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee has the flexibility to amend this procedure when considering individual applications. The reasons for deviating from the normal process must form part of the report on an application that is brought to Conference.

#### **4. Application and Discernment Procedure**

Ordained ministers of other churches seeking temporary recognition (up to five years) as ministers of the Methodist Church in Ireland or those wishing to transfer to the Methodist Church in Ireland shall make their application to the Conference through the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee Chair. The Chair shall refer the application to the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee.

The Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee shall consider an application on its individual merits and shall normally deploy the following procedure:

- An applicant shall notify the chair of the MPPC or the General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland and have an initial conversation about their intention to serve with or transfer to the ordained ministry of the MCI.
- The Chair/ Vice-Chair of the MPPC will set up a small group of 3 people, normally involving Chair/ Vice-Chair of the MPPC, a member of the MPPC and a District Superintendent in order to meet with the applicant and assess the suitability of the application. The panel will advise as to whether they think it suitable for the applicant to continue with the process. If, for stated reasons, they do not think it would be suitable for them to continue, they will still be welcome to proceed through the next steps if they wish to.
- The applicant will complete the appropriate application form.
  - An applicant shall notify the appropriate authority or official(s) of her/his Church of her/his intention and action and shall produce acceptable evidence that this has been done.
  - The General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland shall make enquiries from the appropriate authority or official(s) in the Church concerning the ordination and good standing of the applicant. Further enquiries shall include the work, witness, qualifications, suitability, and any other issues as may be considered appropriate.
  - The applicant shall attend a Ministerial Selection Panel (MSP) meeting, in person, where they shall participate in:
    - an interview conducted by the Ministerial Psychological Assessor.
    - an interview conducted by two members of the MSP focussing on call, spirituality and theological understanding.
    - an interview conducted by two members of the MSP focussing on gifts, graces and suitability for ordained ministry in MCI.
    - an interview before the entire MSP.

The outcome and recommendation of the Ministerial Selection Panel shall be reported to the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee.

The Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee shall report on the recommendation to Conference. If accepted, the applicant is eligible for stationing in the following Connexional year.

## **5. Policy Review**

This Policy was first adopted in July 2020, then reviewed and updated in April 2022. It is intended to further review and update as necessary by July 2024. Revised versions of the Policy shall be agreed by the Governance Board, reported to Conference, and published on the MCI Teams Application.

## **6. Related Policies**

OM Guidelines and Funding Arrangements for Ministers of other Conferences and Churches coming to work in Ireland

# **Methodist Church in Ireland Policy and Procedures relating to Context-based Formation for Ordained Ministry - April 2022**

## **1. Introduction, Purpose and Scope**

This policy outlines the procedure to be followed for the context-based formation for those accepted as candidates for ordained ministry.

The key features of this policy and the procedures involved are set out below. All supplementary materials referenced are available on the MCI website -

<https://irishmethodist.org/ministries-ordained-ministry>

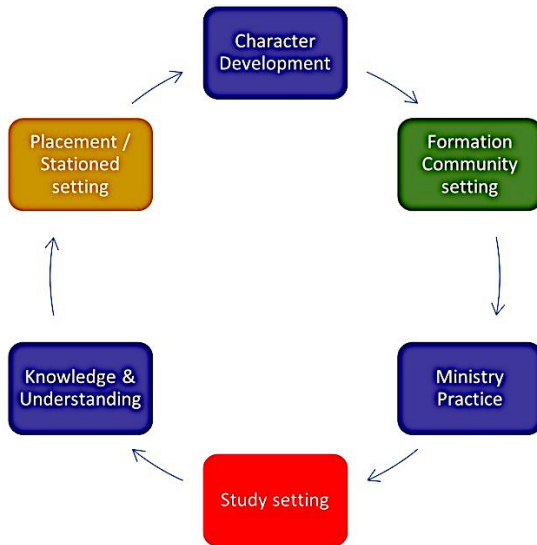
## **2. Responsibility**

This policy is managed by the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

## **3. The Model**

Context-based Formation is the model of preparation for ordained ministry which has been adopted by the Methodist Church in Ireland. With the *Agreed Expectations for Ordinands* in the Methodist Church in Ireland as its core, the programme is designed to enable those offering for ordained ministry a unique opportunity to combine theology with practice, and with formation for the role to which God is calling them. They will learn 'on the job' in placement settings (a local church or mission context), as well as in study, tutorials or lectures within the formation community setting (college), thinking all the time about how to integrate their experiences.

The aim is that ordained ministers in training will develop in their character, knowledge and ministry practice in the context or setting of the formation community, placement and study. Although there may be more emphasis on a particular "stream" at particular points in training, each of these three must be reflected in the three settings.



#### 4. What elements are there in the Formation Process?

During Context-based Formation, the Ordained Minister in Training will normally:

- a) Be involved in the Formation Community Programme;
- b) Be engaged in Ministry Practice:
  - In Years 1 and 2 of Formation, the Ministry practice setting will normally take place in 2 Placement contexts:
    - Placement 1 - normally a church setting over two years
    - Placement 2 - normally a short-term (4-6 week) complementary placement undertaken in other environments to develop experience of ministry in a range of settings.
  - In Years 3 and 4 of Formation, the Ministry practice setting will normally be a Stationed context
- c) Undertake a Study Programme in one of the three possible Study Pathways;
- d) Undertake a compulsory two years Post-Ordination training programme (Years 5 and 6).
- e) Participate in other conferences and training events at different points throughout the year.

#### 5. What do Years 1 and 2 look like?

During teaching blocks, those training on a full-time basis should normally expect to spend:

- two to three days a week in practical ministry
  - Two days a week in study, including the formation community programme as organised by the Ministries Team
  - one to two days of private study, preparation and assignment-writing.
- They will also:
- participate in residential formation and teaching blocks / weekends



- participate in other conferences and training events.

The ministry practice component of formation varies according to the setting. However, it will normally involve participation in helping to lead Sunday worship, and a focussed role in the life of the church context, overseen by an experienced supervisor who will be supported in this role by the Ministries Team.

Each Ordained Minister in Training has their own study pathway which will consist of courses and opportunities for study appropriate to their own needs and prior learning. All students will undertake a range of courses which will include developing understanding and practice in worship and preaching, theological reflection, ministry and leadership, teamwork and self-understanding, listening skills, Biblical interpretation, pastoral skills, mission and evangelism. Those new to theological study will work towards a validated qualification with an appropriate collaborative partner institution. Theology Graduates may study for a higher degree. Validation depends on the programme of study followed.

Outside of teaching blocks, and aside from holidays, Ordained Ministers in Training will focus on their ministry practice setting on a full-time basis, with one day for private study per week. While there will be an opportunity for further experience in their Placement 1 setting, there will also be at least one complementary placement in another environment to develop experience of a range of ministry settings (Placement 2). During Year 2 the Ordained Minister in Training would normally be part of the stationing cycle. This assessment is made at the end of Year 1.

## **6. What do Years 3 and 4 look like?**

This phase of the formation process takes place in a stationed setting as Probationary Ministers. Probationers work under the authority of their Circuit Superintendent, supported by the District Superintendent. The Circuit Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of the Ministries Team, is responsible for ensuring that they fulfil their formation and circuit responsibilities.

In addition to their circuit work those engaged in the full-time formation stream will need to:

- participate in formation days as required (this will not be more than 12 days per year)
- give at least one day per week of private study, preparation and assignment-writing
- participate in other conferences and training events as required.

The stipend level set by Conference reflects the fact that probationers are not giving all their time to circuit ministry.

The ministry practice component of formation will vary according to the stationed setting. However, it will normally involve a ministry leadership role, overseen by an experienced supervisor who will be supported by the Ministries Team.

Each Ordained Minister in Training will continue to undertake courses appropriate to their pathway. During Year 4 an assessment is made with a Diploma level student as to whether they should advance to Degree level.

Ordination will normally take place at the end of Year 4 of the Context-based Formation Process. In order to be ordained, an Ordained Minister in Training should normally have reached at least a Diploma level of Theological Education, (or equivalent).

During each year of probation, the ordained ministers in training shall be formally assessed on their conduct of worship by the District Superintendent. On at least one

occasion, this assessment should be conducted by at least five other ordained ministers or accredited local preachers.

Annual reports on the circuit work of a probationer and a report on the conduct of worship shall be submitted by the Circuit Superintendent to the District Superintendent for consideration by the District Advisory Committee. These reports shall be forwarded to the Director of the Ministries Team for consideration by for the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee who will report to the Ministerial Session of Conference.

On the grounds of deprivation, a circuit may apply for a probationer to be given dispensation to preside at services of Holy Communion within their own circuit. Such an application should be fully considered by the Circuit Executive in conjunction with the District Superintendent. The application is made in writing to the Stationing Committee via the District Superintendent. Circuit Superintendents should preside at services of Holy Communion assisted by the probationer at least twice in each Connexional year.

## **7. Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination**

Normally during the fourth year of the formation process an ordained minister in training shall be prepared for reception into Full Connexion and Ordination:

- a) as noted above, they shall be formally assessed on their conduct of worship by the District Superintendent. On at least one occasion, this assessment should be conducted by at least five other ordained ministers or accredited local preachers.
- b) shall be interviewed by a group comprising of at least five members District Advisory Committee, including the District Superintendent. The interview shall explore the probationer's knowledge of Methodist theology (as reflected in Wesley's Sermons and Notes on the New Testament) and the practice of ordained ministry and application of Christian faith to the contemporary world. If the performance is deemed to be satisfactory the District Advisory Committee shall recommend the probationer for admission into Full Connexion. (No mark shall be recorded.)
- c) shall attend an Ordinands' retreat organised by the Director of the Ministries Team
- d) during the period of Conference, shall participate in a reflective conversation about the formation process and call to ordained ministry in the presence of the President of the Conference and a selected number of senior ministers.
- e) shall be required to avow before the Ministerial and Representative Sessions of Conference her/his belief in Methodist doctrine and discipline.
- f) if all reports are satisfactory, shall be received into Full Connexion during the Representative Session and, in the Ordination Service, be set apart to the work of the ordained ministry by the imposition of hands and by receiving a copy of the Holy Scriptures.
- g) shall have her/his name entered in the Journal (and Minutes of Conference) and the date of the beginning of ministry recorded as determined by Conference.

## **8. Post Ordination Years 5 and 6**

For a period of two years after ordination, ministers shall be required to participate in a development programme as set out by the Ministries Team. The focus of this programme shall be on support for ministry, pastoral supervision, the development of further skills, and personal management.

## **9. Procedures relating to progress of students and probationers in the Formation Process**

### ***Oversight of Formation Progress***

The Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee has formal responsibility to monitor the progress of each formation student and probationer with the following remit:

- To receive reports on students and probationers and, where necessary, recommend a course of action.
  - To formally address, where necessary, serious disciplinary issues regarding students and probationers.
  - To recommend, based on the Church's agreed expectations, continuance or discontinuance in formation or probation.

A formal record of the progress of each student and probationer will be ratified by the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee and included in its recommendations to the Ministerial Session of Conference.

### ***Leave from the Formation Process***

- a) An ordained minister in training who can satisfy the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee of her/his intention to complete their formation training and in due course enter full work, may, on compassionate or compelling domestic grounds, apply for exemption from or deferment or suspension of stationing for probation to the Conference, which may grant or refuse the application. An ordained minister in training shall not during any deferment or suspension of probation be at any cost to the Connexion except as provided in clause (b) below.
- b) The names of probationers granted exemption, deferment or suspension shall, in the list of stations, be printed in the Circuit in which they reside as "without pastoral charge" and they shall be expected to give such help to the Circuit as they are able and in appropriate cases shall be entitled to remuneration by decision of the Circuit Executive.
- c) Students who fail to complete their training and ministerial probation shall withdraw from training for the ordained ministry. If subsequently they apply for reinstatement by the Conference, the training received, and the years of probation travelled when they withdrew shall be taken into account. Any subsequent application to the Conference for reinstatement will be discerned and assessed by the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee

## **10. Financial Arrangements for Context Based Formation**

If undertaking the Context-based Formation Process full-time, the Ordained Minister in Training receives a taxable living allowance in Years 1 and 2. They will also receive reasonable expenses related to their placement as per the Placement Handbook.

When stationed as a probationary stipendiary minister in Years 3 and 4, the Ordained Minister in Training receives a Probationer Stipend and other ministerial allowances. The rates of stipends and allowances are set down by the Stipends and Allowances Board of the Methodist Church in Ireland and approved by Conference. University fees for accredited courses undertaken by those in the formation process will be covered by the Ministerial Training Fund.

## 11. What does a Part-Time Training Route look like?

If a candidate wishes to follow a part-time route for their Context-based Formation, this will be discussed as part of the Selection Process and agreed by the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee. Part-time Context-based Formation will be possible and will be facilitated. It is likely that this route will take longer than the usual full-time “four years to ordination” route.

If a candidate is already employed as a lay-worker in a local circuit and wishes to continue in that employment during Context-based Formation, a suitable pathway will be discussed with the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee.

The minimum requirement for Stationing will normally be the completion of a Study Programme at Certificate level and appropriate engagement with the Ministry Formation Programme and Placement experience.

## Overview of Context-based Formation Pathways

YEAR	FORMATION COMMUNITY SETTING	MINISTRY PRACTICE SETTING	STUDY SETTING		
			<i>Pathway 1</i>	<i>Pathway 2</i>	<i>Pathway 3</i>
1	Formation Programme	Year-round Placement	Certificate programme	Master’s level programme	Bespoke programme
2	Formation Programme	Year-round Placement	Certificate programme	Master’s level programme	Bespoke programme
3	Formation Programme	Stationed setting	Diploma programme	Master’s level programme	Bespoke programme
4	Formation Programme	Stationed setting	Diploma programme	Bespoke programme	Bespoke programme
5	Formation Programme	Stationed setting	Bespoke programme	Bespoke programme	Bespoke programme
6	Formation Programme	Stationed setting	Bespoke programme	Bespoke programme	Bespoke programme

## 12. Policy Review

Context-based Formation was first adopted by the Methodist Conference in 2019. This Policy was updated in April 2022. It is intended to further review and update this Policy by July 2024. Revised versions of the Policy shall be agreed by the Governance Board, reported to Conference, and published on the MCI Teams Application.

### Related Policies

- OM Agreed Expectations for Ordinands within the Methodist Church in Ireland
- OM Policy and Procedures relating to Candidature for Ordained Ministry
- OM Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures for Formation Students within the Methodist Church in Ireland (in preparation)

# Methodist Church in Ireland Ordained Ministers Retirement Policy - April 2022

## 1. Introduction, Purpose and Scope

This policy outlines the procedure to be followed when a minister is giving notice of their intention to retire.

This policy replaces the legislation set out in 5K in the Manual of Laws of the Methodist Church in Ireland (2019).

The key features of this policy and the procedures involved are set out below.

## 2. Responsibility

This policy is managed by the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee.

## 3. Retirement and Continued Service in Retirement

- 3.1 Ordained ministers seeking permission to retire at the ensuing Conference shall submit their application in writing to the Superintendent of the District and to the Secretary of the Irish Methodist Ministers Retirement Fund before 30<sup>th</sup> September. If in the interval between this date and the Conference an ordained minister is compelled to seek permission to retire, he/she shall convey her/his request immediately, in writing, to the Superintendent of the District.
- 3.2 The minimum age for retirement shall normally be as determined by the terms of the church's pension scheme. The Conference may permit an ordained minister below the retirement age for special reasons. An ordained minister shall not normally be stationed after the age of seventy.
- 3.3 A resolution for each minister retiring will be prepared and printed in the Conference Agenda and, after approval, inserted in the Minutes of Conference.
- 3.4 Retired ministers with their consent, and by arrangement with the Circuit Executives of the Circuits concerned, may take charge of stations where the work is suitable. They shall act under the direction of the Superintendent of the Circuit. All such arrangements shall be subject to the control of the Conference.
- 3.5 When ordained ministers retire and undertake work on dependent Circuits, the Officers of the Home Mission Department, with the sanction of the connexional Team, may make a grant towards the removal expenses from the Circuits in which they were last stationed to those in which they have undertaken work. Retired ministers not so employed shall be at liberty to choose their own places of residence.
- 3.6 When retired ministers are requested to conduct services, they shall be remunerated according to the directions of the Conference as determined from time to time.
- 3.7 Retired ministers continue to be subject to the discipline of the Conference and shall report annually to their District Superintendent concerning their belief in our doctrines, and satisfactorily answer the usual questions regarding character.
- 3.8 Retired ministers connected with the Irish Conference, residing in Great Britain, shall report to the Synods of the Districts in which they reside. The British Conference has arranged that retired ministers connected with that Conference,

residing in Ireland, shall report to the Superintendent of the District in which they reside.

- 3.9** Retired ministers residing outside the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland are required to furnish annually to the Superintendents of Districts under which their names are printed in the Minutes of Conference, the usual statements respecting solvency, and belief in Methodist doctrines, also a certificate of good standing, from the ministers of the circuits with which they are connected.

#### **4. Policy Review**

This Policy was first adopted in July 2021. The policy was reviewed in April 2022. It is intended to update and review further this Policy by July 2023. Revised versions of the Policy shall be agreed by the Governance Board, reported to Conference, and published on the MCI Teams Application.

#### **5. Related Policies**

- Retired Benefits Scheme

## **Methodist Church in Ireland Policy and Procedures relating to the Sabbaticals for Ordained Ministers - April 2022**

### **1. Introduction, Purpose and Scope**

The Methodist Church in Ireland is committed to the ongoing development of its ordained ministers. One mechanism for ongoing development is the provision of Sabbaticals for ordained ministers, whether Full-time Stipendiary, Part-time Stipendiary or Non-Stipendiary.

The key outcomes of a Sabbatical could be:

- The renewal or clarification of sense of call.
- The development of an aspect of ministry.
- An opportunity to visit and learn from another church context.
- An opportunity to carry out a piece of research.

In addition, sabbaticals are opportunities for ordained ministers to focus on their wellbeing and invest time in hobbies, travel, family time and family visits.

This policy replaces the legislation set out in 5H.1-11 in the Manual of Laws of the Methodist Church in Ireland (2019).

The key features of this policy and the procedures involved are set out below.

### **2. Responsibility**

This policy is managed by the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

### **3. Key Features of this Policy**

The length of the Sabbatical shall be three months, which may normally be taken on completion of the tenth and each seventh year of travel following.

The Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee may for good reason approve the taking of Sabbaticals one year earlier or later. Sabbaticals may not be taken in the

first year of a new appointment and special permission shall be required for any greater departure from the normal dates.

It is the responsibility of the ordained minister making an application for a sabbatical to ensure the correct procedure is followed and that all necessary arrangements are in place.

During a sabbatical the ordained minister remains stationed in their current appointment and continues to receive their stipend and taxable allowances.

No travel/mileage claims relating to the sabbatical shall be made. A grant based on 2.4% of the upper stipend is available to assist with sabbatical expenses. The minister must notify the Ministries Team office one month prior to the start date of the sabbatical, in order for the payment to be authorised.

A further grant of up to £500 is available from the World Mission Partnership for ministers planning to spend time on sabbatical with a partner church. For more details WMP should be contacted directly.

When an ordained minister is planning a sabbatical, their Circuit shall set up a support group who shall:

- ensure arrangements are in place to cover the work of the circuit;
- to provide support in the preparation and execution of the programme; and
- to ensure that the fruits of the programme are properly shared.

It shall include representatives of the Circuit (or other body responsible for the payment of stipend), and where relevant the participant's partner. The participant shall be a member but shall not chair it. The participant's Circuit Executive shall appoint the chairperson and convener. In the case of separated appointments, the chairperson and convener shall be appointed by the relevant Church Department. The Sabbatical Support Group will report to the relevant Circuit Executive or appropriate Church Department.

Ministries Team staff are also available to discuss sabbatical plans with ordained ministers.

#### **4. Application Procedure**

Prior to applying for sabbatical leave the ordained minister should consult with their District Superintendent and Circuit Executive.

An application should normally be made one year in advance of proposed dates. The link for the electronic application form is available from the Ministries Team Office at [ministries@irishmethodist.org](mailto:ministries@irishmethodist.org).

The application form will require the following information:

- a. the dates of release and return,
- b. the programme (see 'Further Resources' below),
- c. arrangements for covering the absence agreed with the District Superintendent and Circuit Executive.
- d. arrangements for the pastoral support of the participant's partner and dependants.

On approval of the application by the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee, the Ministries will advise the applicant, the District Superintendent and the Circuit steward that the sabbatical can proceed.

If for any reason arrangements for the sabbatical should change the applicant is responsible for informing the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee, the District Superintendent and Circuit Executive of the proposed changes.

On completion of the sabbatical the ordained minister must submit a one to two A4 page report on their sabbatical experiences and the key outcomes for their ministry to the Ministries Policies and Procedures Committee and to the District Superintendent.

## **5. Policy Review**

This Policy was first adopted in July 2020 and updated in April 2022. It is intended to further review and update this Policy by July 2024. Revised versions of the Policy shall be agreed by the Governance Board, reported to Conference, and published on the MCI Teams Application.

## **6. Related Policies**

- Ministry Development and Further Study Grants Policy

## **7. Other Resources**

It is up to the ordained minister to decide the content of the Sabbatical. However, the clear objective is continued development in ministry, the content is expected to reflect this.

### **Useful web sites:**

- <https://www.soulshepherding.org/sabbatical-guide-pastors/>
- <https://ministryadvice.com/pastoral-sabbatical/>
- <https://alban.org/archive/the-need-for-clergy-renewal/>
- <https://faithandleadership.com/clergy-renewal-experiment>

Material on the website of the Methodist Church in Britain may also be useful background reading:

- [www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/ministry/sabbaticals/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/ministry/sabbaticals/)



# METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND

## Directory 2022

<b>A: Mission Partners</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>B: Hospital Chaplains</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>C: University Chaplains</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>D: Ordained Ministers and Probationers</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>E: Ministers' Widows and Widowers</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>F: Circuit Lay Workers</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>G: Local Preachers</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>H: Lay Officers of Boards etc</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>I: Church Departments and Officers (Edgehill House)</b>	<b>160</b>

## Directory: A

### Irish Methodist Mission Partners

- 1997 Rev Dr Barry and Mrs Gillian Sloan  
Zoellner Str. 19,  
09111 Chemnitz, Germany.  
Tel. (0049) 170 8227084  
Email: barry.sloan@emk.de
- 2022 Ms Melissa Newell  
Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas,  
Ecuador  
Email: melissa.newell@irishmethodist.org

### Irish Methodist Mission Associate

- 2016 Mr Stephen McCann  
24-7 Ibiza General Prim 1  
San Antonio  
Ibiza, 07820  
Spain  
Email: Stephen@24-7ibiza.com

# Directory: B

## Chaplains to Hospitals and Institutions

### SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Rev Andrew G Kingston	Clonskeagh Hospital National Maternity Hospital Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital Royal Hospital, Donnybrook Royal City of Dublin Hospital, Baggot Street
Rev Dr Laurence A M Graham	Children's Hospital, Temple Street Coombe Hospital Rotunda Hospital Arbour Hill Prison
Rev Tawanda Sungai	St Mary's Orthopaedic Hospital James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown Stewart's Hospital, Palmerstown Cherry Orchard Hospital St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown St Edmondsbury Nursing Home, Lucan St Mary's Orthopaedic Hospital Cloverhill Prison Wheatfield Prison
Rev Ivor N Owens	Mater Misericordiae Hospital Mountjoy Prison Orthopaedic Hospital of Ireland Bon Secours Hospital St Joseph's Hospital Beaumont Hospital St Ita's Hospital, Portrane Dochas Centre (Women's Prison)
Rev Yongnam Park	St Luke's Hospital Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin
Rev Stephen R Taylor	St Patrick's Hospital St James' Hospital Central Mental Hospital
Rev Mark Proctor (Presbyterian Minister)	Adelaide and Meath Hospital, incorporating the National Children's Hospital, Dublin

Rev Mark S Forsyth

St Michael's Hospital.  
St Vincent's Hospital.  
The Blackrock Clinic.  
National Medical Rehabilitation Centre.  
St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown.  
Newcastle Hospital.  
St John of God, Stillorgan

---

*If a chaplain's visit is required, please  
contact the District Superintendent,  
Rev Andrew Dougherty, for information.*

Portlaoise Prison.  
The Midlands Prison

Rev R Andrew Robinson

Cork University Hospital  
Bon Secours Hospital  
Mercy University Hospital  
St Finbar's Hospital  
South Infirmary Victoria Hospital Ltd

Rev S Alison Gallagher

University Hospital Kerry

Rev Greg Alexander

Bantry Hospital

Rev Stephen Hancock

Limerick Regional Hospital  
Limerick Prison

#### **NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT**

Rev Lorna Dreading

South West Acute Hospital

Rev Jeremy Nicoll

Sligo General Hospital  
St John's Geriatric Hospital  
St Columba's Hospital

Deacon Marlene Skuce

Altnagelvin Hospital  
Gransha Hospital. Stradreagh Hospital  
Waterside Hospital  
Lifford Hospital  
Foyle Hospice

---

Rev Eleanor Hayden

Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital  
Tyrone County Hospital

Rev John R Montgomery

Donegal Community Hospital.  
Shiel Hospital, Ballyshannon.

Rev Desmond R Davis

Letterkenny Hospital  
Killybegs Community Hospital

Rev Kenneth J Robinson

---

Rev William J Newell

Rev Terence Scott  
(Church of Ireland)  
Mobile: 07731 976231

Rev William J Newell

Rev Harold M Agnew

Rev Harold M Agnew

Rev Paul Redfern (Church of Ireland)  
Tel: (028) 9334 0225

Craigavon Area Hospital

Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry

South Tyrone Hospital, Dungannon

Mid-Ulster Hospital

Monaghan County Hospital

Lurgan Hospital

HMP Maghaberry

Muckamore Abbey Hospital

#### **NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT**

Andrew Sweeney  
(Church of Ireland)  
Mobile: 07917 633082

Rev David Ferguson  
(Church of Ireland)  
Mobile: 07773 051603

---

Rev David Lockhart  
(Church of Ireland)  
(028) 2827 2788

Rev Julian I Hamilton

Rev John R J Moore

Rev John W Wonnacott  
c/o Macmillan Unit: (028) 9442 4394

Ms Vivienne Manley  
Mobile: 07971 334527  
Email:

Vivienne.Manley@setrust.hscni.net

Causeway Hospital, Coleraine

Dalriada Hospital, Ballycastle

Robinson Memorial Hospital

Whiteabbey Hospital  
Moyle Hospital

Larne House Short-term Immigration  
Holding Centre

Holywell Hospital, Antrim  
Antrim Area Hospital

Macmillan Unit, Antrim Area Hospital

Ulster Hospital, Dundonald

Rev Derek J Johnston  
Mobile: 07919 892477

The Royal Group of Hospitals, Belfast

Rev Mervyn G Ewing

Clifton House, Belfast  
Mater Hospital

Rev Christopher B Skillen  
c/o Rev Derek J Johnston

Northern Ireland Hospice  
Belfast City Hospital

Mrs Carolyn Patterson  
(Protestant Chaplain)  
Mobile: 07704 303620

Belfast Cancer Centre

Mr Michael McMillan  
(Protestant Chaplain)  
Mobile: 07715 231420

Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit, Belfast  
City Hospital  
Beechcroft Adolescent Unit

Mr Michael McMillan  
(Site Chaplain)

Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Belfast

Rev John Auchmuty (Church of  
Ireland), c/o Medical Records  
Tel: (028) 9504 6210

Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Belfast

Mrs Joan Parkinson  
Tel: (028) 2564 3278

Hydebank Wood College and Women's  
Prison

Mrs Brenda Duncan  
Mobile: 07720 663483

Musgrave Park Hospital

Rev Robert Cooper

Ards Hospital

Rev Owen Patterson  
(Protestant Chaplain)  
Mobile: 07552 175156

Downshire Hospital  
Downe Hospital

Rev Kenneth Connor

Lagan Valley Hospital

Rev John Brackenridge  
(Presbyterian Minister)

Thompson House Hospital

# Directory: C

## University Chaplains

\_\_\_\_\_

University College, Dublin

\_\_\_\_\_

Trinity College, Dublin

*If a chaplain's visit is required, please contact Rev Andrew Kingston for information.*

\_\_\_\_\_

Dublin Institute of Technology

Rev Tawanda Sungai

Dublin City University

\_\_\_\_\_

Dublin College of Surgeons

Rev R Andrew Robinson

University College, Cork

Rev Stephen Hancock

University of Limerick

Rev Helen Freeburn  
(Presbyterian Minister)

University College, Galway

\_\_\_\_\_ (tbc)

Church of Ireland, Methodist Chaplaincy  
(COIMC)

COIMC (QUB office)  
Tel: (028) 9066 7754

- for Queen's University, Belfast

Associate Chaplain:

Mr James Diffin

Email: jim@thehubbelfast.org

Centre Manager (inc. accomm.)

Mr Peter Huey

Email: peter@thehubbelfast.org

Ms Gail Mercer

Mobile: 07909 225700

Email: g.mercer@ulster.ac.uk

or

gail.mercer@irishmethodist.org

Ulster University,

Belfast and Jordanstown Campuses

Rev Samuel J Livingstone

Ulster University, Coleraine Campus

Rev Peter K Morris

Ulster University, Magee Campus,  
Londonderry

**Directory: I**  
**Church Departments and Officers**  
Edgehill House, 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast BT9 5BY  
Tel: (028) 9076 7969

**CONFERENCE OFFICE AND TRUSTEES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND**

Edgehill House

Email: [secretary@irishmethodist.org](mailto:secretary@irishmethodist.org)

Secretary of the Conference: Rev Dr Heather M E Morris

Operations Manager: Ms Gillian Skillen

Direct Line: (028) 9076 7942

Email: [gillian.skillen@irishmethodist.org](mailto:gillian.skillen@irishmethodist.org)

Human Resources email: [hr@irishmethodist.org](mailto:hr@irishmethodist.org)

Payroll email: [payroll@irishmethodist.org](mailto:payroll@irishmethodist.org)

Executive Assistant to Secretary of Conference and Operations Manager:

Ms Ruth Campbell Email: [executiveassistant@irishmethodist.org](mailto:executiveassistant@irishmethodist.org)

Admin Support to Southern District Superintendent and Microsoft 365:

Ms Cliodhna Smyth Email: [cliodhna.smyth@irishmethodist.org](mailto:cliodhna.smyth@irishmethodist.org)

Head of Finance: Ms Nicola Robinson

Email: [nicola.robinson@irishmethodist.org](mailto:nicola.robinson@irishmethodist.org)

Accountant: Ms Sharon Brown

Email: [sharon.brown@irishmethodist.org](mailto:sharon.brown@irishmethodist.org)

Finance Officer: Ms Maureen Crothers

Email: [financetrustees@irishmethodist.org](mailto:financetrustees@irishmethodist.org)

or, for Gift Aid queries: [giftaid@irishmethodist.org](mailto:giftaid@irishmethodist.org)

Finance Officer: Ms Jacky Brown

Email: [jacky.brown@irishmethodist.org](mailto:jacky.brown@irishmethodist.org)

Estates Manager: Mr Simon Kinghan

Email: [simon.kinghan@irishmethodist.org](mailto:simon.kinghan@irishmethodist.org)

Connexional Safeguarding Officer: Mr Nicky Blair

Email: [safeguarding@irishmethodist.org](mailto:safeguarding@irishmethodist.org)

SAFEGUARDING CONTACT NO: 07483 143434

Facilities Manager & IT Co-ordinator: Mr Wayne Mulholland

Email: [wayne.mulholland@irishmethodist.org](mailto:wayne.mulholland@irishmethodist.org)

For room booking at Edgehill House:

Email: [facilities@irishmethodist.org](mailto:facilities@irishmethodist.org)



## **WORLD DEVELOPMENT & RELIEF and WORLD MISSION PARTNERSHIP**

Team Leader for World Development & Relief and World Mission Partnership:  
Mr Tim Dunwoody  
Email: [tim.dunwoody@irishmethodist.org](mailto:tim.dunwoody@irishmethodist.org)

### **World Development & Relief Office: Edgehill House**

Website: [www.irishmethodist.org/world-development](http://www.irishmethodist.org/world-development)  
Email: [worlddevelopment@irishmethodist.org](mailto:worlddevelopment@irishmethodist.org)

Communications & Fundraising Co-ordinator: Ms Laura Kerr  
Email: [laura.kerr@irishmethodist.org](mailto:laura.kerr@irishmethodist.org)

*For matters concerning donations, please email:  
[worlddevelopment@irishmethodist.org](mailto:worlddevelopment@irishmethodist.org)*

### **World Mission Partnership Office: Edgehill House**

Website: [www.irishmethodist.org/world-mission](http://www.irishmethodist.org/world-mission)  
Email: [worldmission@irishmethodist.org](mailto:worldmission@irishmethodist.org)

World Mission Partnership Co-ordinator: Mr David Nesbitt  
Email: [david.nesbitt@irishmethodist.org](mailto:david.nesbitt@irishmethodist.org)

*For the submission of all Circuit financial contributions to World Mission Partnership, please contact the Lay Treasurer: Mr Ian Patterson  
Email: [ian.patterson@irishmethodist.org](mailto:ian.patterson@irishmethodist.org)*

## **YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S TEAM OF MCI (IMYC): Edgehill House**

Direct Line: (028) 9076 7960  
Website: [www.irishmethodist.org/imyc](http://www.irishmethodist.org/imyc)  
Email: [imyc@irishmethodist.org](mailto:imyc@irishmethodist.org)

Team Leader: Ms Gillian Gilmore  
Email: [gillian.gilmore@irishmethodist.org](mailto:gillian.gilmore@irishmethodist.org)

Young Adults and Events Coordinator: Ms Lisa Best  
Email: [lisa.best@irishmethodist.org](mailto:lisa.best@irishmethodist.org)

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Ms Gemma Barclay  
Email: [gemma.barclay@irishmethodist.org](mailto:gemma.barclay@irishmethodist.org)

Children's and Family Ministry Coordinator: tba

Administrator: Ms Dani Lorimer  
Email: [dani.lorimer@irishmethodist.org](mailto:dani.lorimer@irishmethodist.org)

**THE MINISTRIES TEAM:** Edgehill House

Tel: (028) 9076 7950

Website: [www.irishmethodist.org/ministries](http://www.irishmethodist.org/ministries)

Email: [ministries@irishmethodist.org](mailto:ministries@irishmethodist.org)

Director of the Ministries Team: Rev Dr Janet M Unsworth

Email: [janet.unsworth@irishmethodist.org](mailto:janet.unsworth@irishmethodist.org)

Learning and Development Officer: Ms Grace McGurk

Email: [grace.mcgurk@irishmethodist.org](mailto:grace.mcgurk@irishmethodist.org)

Learning Resources Officer: Ms Lindsay McAlinden

Email: [lindsay.mcalinden@irishmethodist.org](mailto:lindsay.mcalinden@irishmethodist.org)

Operations Administrator: Mr James McClure

Email: [james.mcclure@irishmethodist.org](mailto:james.mcclure@irishmethodist.org)

**CONNEXIONAL COMMUNICATIONS :** Edgehill House

Methodist Church in Ireland Website: [www.irishmethodist.org](http://www.irishmethodist.org)

*Materials for inclusion to be sent to:*

[website@irishmethodist.org](mailto:website@irishmethodist.org)

*General Communication items to be sent to:*

[communications@irishmethodist.org](mailto:communications@irishmethodist.org)

Communications Team Leader and Website Manager:

Mr Stephen Mayes Email: [stephen.mayes@irishmethodist.org](mailto:stephen.mayes@irishmethodist.org)

Communications Officer: Ms Paula Lough

[paula.lough@irishmethodist.org](mailto:paula.lough@irishmethodist.org)

Press Officer:

Rev Roy Cooper Email: [pressofficer@irishmethodist.org](mailto:pressofficer@irishmethodist.org)

**Connexional Microsoft 365 Administrators**

Edgehill House

Email: [microsoft365support@irishmethodist.org](mailto:microsoft365support@irishmethodist.org)

*for all support or technical enquiries related to Microsoft 365*

**HOME MISSION TEAM:** Edgehill House

Website: [www.irishmethodist.org/home-mission](http://www.irishmethodist.org/home-mission)

Email: [mhm@irishmethodist.org](mailto:mhm@irishmethodist.org)

Team Co-ordinator: Ms Kathryn Harte

Email: [kathryn.harte@irishmethodist.org](mailto:kathryn.harte@irishmethodist.org)

Lay Treasurer & Pioneer Mission: Mr Simon Kilpatrick

Email: [simon.kilpatrick@irishmethodist.org](mailto:simon.kilpatrick@irishmethodist.org)

# INDEX

Addresses	
Church Departments and Officers	160
Ministers	119
Ministers' widows and widowers	141
Allowances	41
Assessment, Comprehensive	39
Authorisations	26
Belfast Central Mission	58
Board of Education	55
British Conference, Representatives to	20
Bureau of Membership	77
Candidates for Ordained Ministry	15
Chaplains	
Hospitals	114
Universities	118
Child Care Society	62
Comprehensive Assessment	39
Conference of 2023, Arrangements for	74
Connexional Calendar	75
Connexional Team	59
Council on Social Responsibility	23
Covenant Council	53
Deeds and Documents	34
Dublin Central Mission	57
East Belfast Mission	58
Eastwell Residential Home	72
Faith and Order Committee	22
Governance Board	25
Gurteen College	71
Home Mission Team	63
Hospital Chaplains	114
Insurance of Trust Property	73
Inter-Church Relations Committee	53
Lay Leader of the Conference	20
Lay Ministry	
Lay Employees, Salary scales	42
Lay Workers of Circuits	144
Lay Officers of Boards, Committees etc	155
Local Preachers	
Local Preachers' Committee	66
Local Preachers, District Co-ordinators	159
Local Preachers, list of Fully Accredited	147
Memorials Committee	73
Methodist College, Belfast	71

Methodist Historical Society of Ireland	72
Methodist Insurance	73
Ministerial Stipends	41
Ministers'	
Children's Fund	49
Disability Fund	47
Medical Fund	51
Retirement Funds	44
Retirement Income Augmentation Fund	48
Ministers:	
Addresses	119
Retirement of	16
Stations of	9
Ministers' Widows and Widowers, addresses	141
Ministries Team	65
Ministries Team, Policies & Procedures	15
Ministry of Healing Committee	54
Mission Partners & Associates	113
MWI	67
MWI, District Office Bearers	158
Newtownabbey Mission	57
North West Methodist Mission	57
Obituaries	6
Pastoral Efficiency	17
President of the Conference	20
President's Advisory Committee	73
Prison and Healthcare Chaplaincy	54
Probationers	4
Probationers and the Lord's Supper	15
Property Board	34
Retired Ministers, Remuneration to	41
Safeguarding	33
Societies, List of	80
Statistics	77
Statutory Trustees	37
Stipends and Allowances	41
Students for Initial Training & Formation	4
University Chaplains	118
Wesley College, Dublin	71
World Development and Relief	68
Office	161
World Mission Partnership	69
Office	161
Youth and Children's Team	60
Office	161