

## **Section E: Nominations Committee**

1. The 2022 Conference directed the establishment of a Nominations Committee, mindful of three concerns. One, in line with the JDS strategy adopted in 2021, was that the diversity of the Methodist Church should appropriately be represented in appointments, recognising that this might demand different methods of recruitment and discernment. The second, following the Faith and Order Committee's report to the 2021 Conference, was the recognition that the processes have to be rigorous and transparent for the Methodist people to have trust in the Connexional Council and other bodies. Finally, in line with the guidance from the Charity Commission included in the 2022 report on Oversight and Trusteeship, the Conference seeks assurance that those on the council have the appropriate skills.
2. Pending establishment of the Nominations Committee, including a Standing Order for it for approval by the 2023 Conference as set out below, the 2022 Conference directed that an Interim Nominations Committee ('INC') be established to bring nominations for its successor to the 2023 Conference, and established a process for the appointment of that interim committee. The OTTG regrets that the process to appoint the INC took far longer than had been hoped and is grateful to those who have served on that body for the work that has been done in a brief compass.
3. The INC began its work following the Methodist Council in March 2023 and will bring, via the Order Paper, nominations to the Conference for its successor body (the Nominations Committee) and for the Chair of the Resourcing Committee. At this stage, it is not possible for further nominations to be brought to the 2023 Conference; if, as is proposed elsewhere in the report, the Conference determines that the Connexional Council should be brought into being from 1 September 2024, nominations would need to be brought to the 2024 Conference for immediate appointment. The OTTG therefore asks the Conference to agree that nominations for the Connexional Council be brought through the Methodist Council and that those whose names are presented to the Council in October 2023 or January 2024 be inducted and permitted to shadow the work of the Council for the remainder of that connexional year.
4. The experience of the INC in making its first nominations suggests that it would be helpful for there to be greater clarity about the process and responsibility of the Nominations Committee. It is therefore proposed that the responsible committee (through its chair) draft the necessary documentation (including a role description and person specification) and submit this to the Nominations Committee for its approval. The Nominations Committee will be responsible for authorising the recruitment process, including the members of the interview panel, which may include a member of the Nominations Committee. Following advertisement, shortlisting and interview, the chair of the interview panel will forward the name of the nominee together with a reasoned statement to the Nominations Committee for approval. The Nominations Committee will present the nomination to the Conference (or Connexional Council) as may be relevant in each case with an assurance that the process has been open, transparent and inclusive. If the Nominations Committee is concerned about any aspect of the nomination process, it will seek clarification as necessary from the interview panel.
5. The OTTG offers the following Standing Order for the Nominations Committee.

### ***Nominations Committee***

**(1) The Conference shall appoint annually a Nominations Committee with the responsibility and functions set out in this Standing Order, and such other functions as from time to time the Conference shall specify.**

**(2) The committee shall consist of a chair and up to six other members. The members shall (subject to the need to ensure appropriate continuity and turnover) normally be appointed to serve for a maximum period of four years. The Secretary of the Conference shall act as its convener.**

**(3) It shall be the responsibility of the committee, acting in accordance with such terms of reference as are approved by the Conference from time to time, to ensure that the nominations which are made to the Conference or, as the case may be, the Connexional Council for appointment to the bodies referred to below are brought as a result of processes which conform to the requirements for the body concerned (as defined in Standing Orders, its terms of reference or elsewhere) and are in accordance with the church's principles for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity as laid down in SO 336(1).**

**(4) The bodies referred to in clause (3) are:**

**the Connexional Council**

**the Ministries Committee**

**the Mission Committee**

**the Resourcing Committee**

**the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee**

**together with any other bodies for whose nominations the Conference may from time to time require the committee to take responsibility.**

**(5) In fulfilling its responsibilities, and acting in accordance with current best practice for recruitment to such appointments, the committee shall:**

**(i) monitor and offer appropriate advice and recommendations to those responsible for the processes of approval of role descriptions for relevant appointments and of recruitment to those appointments;**

**(ii) bring to the Conference or Connexional Council, as required, the resulting nominations for appointment;**

**(iii) work with the chairs of the bodies concerned on a periodic review of those appointed to such bodies in order to ensure that the body continues to function appropriately;**

**(iv) advise the Connexional Council on matters concerned with training and self-evaluation of all those appointed to such bodies.**

**(6) The committee shall report annually to the Conference on its work.**

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**57/9. The Conference receives Section E of the Report.**

**57/10. The Conference:**

**a) adopts the above Standing Order to come into effect (subject to any changes adopted by the Conference of 2024) on 1 September 2024;**

**b) resolves that a Nominations Committee constituted in accordance with its provisions shall meanwhile be appointed to exercise the committee's intended functions during the forthcoming connexional year; c) appoints the members of the Nominations Committee as follows: [names to follow on the Order Paper]**

**57/11. The Conference directs the Nominations Committee to bring nominations for the persons to be appointed to the Connexional Council under clause (1)(a)(vii) (paragraph 27 above) to the Conference of 2024.**