

Role Description

JOB TITLE

Member of the Connexional Council

ROLE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Connexional Council came into being on 1 September 2024 following the decisions of the 2022 and 2023 Conferences. It has responsibility for the direction and management of the Connexional Team and all matters relating to or arising out of the employment of persons by or the stationing of ministers to connexional bodies.

The members of the Connexional Council shall (under the authority of the Conference as governing body) be the trustees of the Methodist Church in Great Britain with general control and management of the connexional work. They must therefore be eligible to be trustees of a charity registered in England and Wales.

The Connexional Council shall advise the Conference on connexional policy and strategy and so be part of the spiritual leadership of the Methodist Church in Britain. Its members will play a significant representative role on behalf of the Church.

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

Between meetings of the Conference, the Council will act on behalf of the Conference in particular ways as specified in Standing Orders 200-207.

MEMBERSHIP AND ANTICIPATED VACANCIES:

The Connexional Council is appointed annually by the Conference and shall comprise at least 18 and no more than 22 members. The members of the Council shall all be members of the Methodist Church.

The Connexional Council seeks to appoint three to seven members to start from September 2025.

The Council is looking in its 2025 recruitment to find more members who are not based in England.

EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS

Members of the Connexional Council will be expected:

- To prepare for and attend meetings of the Connexional Council.
- To contribute to discussions in the Council having scrutinised reports presented to it and, as appropriate, to serve on sub-groups of the Council
- To participate in email correspondence and electronic decision-making between meetings of the council
- To uphold the collective responsibility of the Council in reporting to the Conference (some members of the Council will also be members of the Conference) and communicating with other bodies.

As individual trustees the members of the Council will be legally responsible for the general control and management of the connexional administration of the Methodist Church. They will be expected to undertake the necessary training in charity trusteeship.

As a Charity Trustee each member of the Connexional Council will be called to fulfil the six main duties of a Trustee as specified by the Charity Commission. These duties call for the Trustees to:

- Act in the charity's best interest
- Ensure the charity is accountable
- Comply with the charity's governing document and the law
- Ensure the charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
- Manage the charity's resources responsibly
- Act with reasonable care and skill

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE SOUGHT AT THIS TIME:

• Ideally, but not essentially, the committee would look for nominees with relevant experience and skills in risk management, property development and human resources.

FREQUENCY, TIMING AND VENUE OF MEETINGS:

The Council shall normally meet at least six times a year, at appropriate times to enable the full participation of all those appointed to serve. Some, but not all, of these meetings may be held electronically or in hybrid form. Where urgent business requires it, the council shall have the power to make decisions electronically (by email or similar communication) between meetings.

The dates of the meetings are available on the Methodist Church's website:

(<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/the-connexional-council/>).

If you do not directly meet all the criteria of the person specification, but you consider that you have overall suitability for this role based on your skills and experience we would encourage you to apply.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable	Assessment Method
Experience			
Good understanding of the variety of contexts that exist within the Methodist Church.	X		E, I
Previous time served as a Trustee or Committee member in any setting (in or out of the Church)		X	E
Abilities, Knowledge and Skills			
Ability to absorb quickly a wide-range of detailed issues.	X		E, I
Ability to assimilate a wide breadth of financial, legal and people-focused information.	X		E, I
Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing.	X		E, I
A basic working knowledge of the constitutional and organisational arrangements of the Methodist Church.	X		E, I
Ability to think strategically and theologically	X		E
Understanding and experience of exercising spiritual leadership		X	E
Understanding of change management	✗	X	I
Ability to prioritise and work effectively as a team member	X		E, I
Willingness to undertake appropriate induction	X		E
Personal Qualities			
Member in good standing of the Methodist Church in Britain	X		E

Self-aware and willing to engage in ongoing evaluation (including peer and self) of performance as a Trustee.	X		E, I
Accepts personal and collective responsibility	X		E, I
Ability to exercise sound judgement in decision making	X		E, I

Method of Assessment: E – Expression of Interest Form; I – Interview; W – Written exercise; P – Presentation;
G – Group exercise; Q – Proof of qualification (certificates or transcripts)
(We reserve the right to assess any other aspects of the role in a format not previously described.)