

**Notes of Synod Proceedings Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026**  
Synod was held at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

Faith Nyota welcomed everyone to Synod.

Tony Miles welcomed everyone on behalf of Methodist Central Hall.

Opening Worship was led by members of Southwark & Deptford Circuit.

**Dispensations**

Dispensations were given to 13 Presbyters & Deacons.

Apologies were received from 10 supernumeraries and 6 lay representatives.

**Introductory Business**

John Logan (Synod Secretary) introduced the business.

**Appointment of Scrutineers**

The synod appointed the following scrutineers

Ama Ackah-Yensu	Aba Amponsah-Dadzie
Cynthia Bonds	Selina Blay
Norma Downer-Powell	Ruth Imbo
Julie Turner	

**Notices**

Synod was reminded of the E-circuit baskets on the shared link, Stalls, Letters of greeting and new members of staff

**Report from Chairs Nomination Committee**

John Logan updated synod since Faith's appointment as District Chair on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025. Synod was reminded that it was for an initial 2 year period and that In accordance with Standing Order 422, Synod is now required to discern whether it wishes to recommend that this appointment be extended. Standing Order 422 provides that:

“In the Chair's last but one year of appointment (unless the Chair has indicated that they do not wish to remain in the appointment), the nomination committee shall convene to consider whether or not to recommend that the appointment be extended.”

There has been a period of discernment and consultation. The consultation responses demonstrate clear, consistent, and widespread affirmation of the Revd Faith Nyota's ministry as Chair of the London District. In light of the clear evidence of emerging gifts, effective and spiritually grounded leadership, and strong support across the District, it is proposed that the Synod recommend to the Methodist Conference 2026 that the Revd Faith

Nyota be re-invited to serve as Chair of the London District for a further five-year period from 1 September 2027.

**Resolution:**

The District Council recommends to the Synod that the Revd Faith Nyota be invited to serve as a District Chair in the London District for a further five years from 01 September 2027

The following resolution was put to a ballot and approved by 96%

**RESOLUTION:**

The District Council recommends to the Synod that the Revd Faith Nyota be invited to serve as a District Chair in the London District for a further five years from 01 September 2027

**Ministerial Business**

Probationers Committee

3 probationers in the District

Revd Eric Bediako is in his 1<sup>st</sup> year of probation and has been recommended to continue in the probationary period to the second year.

Revd Rachel Read is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> of three years of probation and has been recommended to continue in her probationary period to the third year.

Revd Dr Joyce Popoola is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year and has been recommended to be received into full connexion and ordination

Sabbaticals

The SAG have approved the following Sabbaticals since the last Synod.

2025/26	2026/27
Revd Esther Akam	Revd Graham Claydon-Knights
Revd Chris Haines	Revd Emma Cusack
Revd Charles Ilunga	Revd Kong Ching Hii
Revd Jenny Impey	Revd Paul Wood
Revd Faith Nyota	Revd Ian Worsfold

The SAG have agreed that the following to be deferred.

Deferred until 2027/28	
Revd Audrey Browne	Deacon Dawn Canham *
Revd Karen George	Deacon Theresa Simons-Sam *
Revd Sang Wook Han	

The Synod agreed **Resolution 1**

The Synod to approve the recent decisions made by the District Sabbatical Group.

Ministers Seeking permission to become Supernumeraries

Revd Rita King
Revd Richard Lowson
Revd Elizabeth Osei

Revd David Markat (RR) and Revd Kristin Markay (RR) are also sitting down but don't require this synod or conference's permission

Ministers moving away from the District (subject to Conference)

Deacon Tessa Bennett	North Wiltshire
Revd Chris Haines	Bude & Holsworthy
Revd Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni	Exeter Coast & Country
Revd Dr Karl Rutledge	Central Sussex United Area
Deacon Laura MacBean	Canterbury & East Kent

Ministers moving within the District (subject to Conference)

Revd Alana Lawrence	Kingston upon Thames
Revd Adam Nyawo	Islington & Camden

### **District Council Business**

Priya Rasanayagam (District Council Secretary) introduced the business

District Appointments

Synod agreed the following **resolution 2**

The Synod notes the appointments made on its behalf by the District Council since September 2025.

There has been one appointment. Suzanne Truttero to the District Finance Resource Group

The Synod agreed the following **resolution 3**

The Synod delegates to the District Council any further appointments which need to be made before September 2026.

### **Permission to Discontinue Public Services**

The synod agreed **resolution 4**

The Synod gives permission to discontinue public services in accordance with SO943 (1) at Heston Methodist Church, in the Richmond & Hounslow Circuit.

### **Finance**

Ama Ackah-Yensu introduced the Finance Report which included the Accounts, 25/26 budget and Circuit Assessments.

The District accounts show a surplus on the General Fund with a deficit on the Designated Funds. This is due to the increased DAF grant.

There were no further questions.

Synod agreed **resolution 5**

The Synod notes the District Accounts 2024-2025, which have been approved by the District Council as charitable trustees of the District.

Synod agreed **resolution 6**

The Synod adopts the District Budget for 2026-2027

Synod agreed **resolution 7**

The Synod adopts the allocation of the assessments to the Circuits for 2026-2027.

## **Memorials to Conference**

### **Menopause Policy**

The following Memorial was agreed by vote:

For – 114

Against -0

The London District Synod believes that the Methodist Church in Britain requires a menopause policy, guidance and related resources to promote greater awareness and provide appropriate support for those affected.

In recent years there has been an increase in understanding the effects menopause and perimenopause may have on those who experience them. Symptoms can manifest both physically and psychologically, including (but not limited to) mood changes, loss of memory and concentration, headaches, panic attacks, heavy or light periods, anxiety, loss of confidence, sleep difficulties/fatigue, depression, hot flushes, joint and muscle stiffness, and out of character behaviour. Symptoms may last for several years.

Research shows that about 70% of those going through menopause experience a wide range of physical and psychological symptoms, and it has been found that approximately 60% find their working life negatively affected by symptoms.

Each person will be affected in different ways and to varying degrees over long or short periods of time, and menopausal symptoms can often indirectly affect their partner, families and colleagues.

A lack of understanding and support can cause people experiencing menopause to:

- Lose confidence in their skills and abilities.
- Feel like they need to hide their symptoms.
- Reduce their productivity.
- Take more absences and sick days.
- Suffer mental health problems such as stress, anxiety and depression.
- Leave their job.

However, with the right support and awareness, those who experience menopause can continue to work, in a paid or voluntary capacity, with their wealth of experience and skills and continue to be valued members of their local church community.

As part of its commitment to inclusivity, justice for all, dignity of all and solidarity with all, the Methodist Church requires a menopause policy and guidance to help Methodists develop and promote an environment and culture that supports those experiencing the menopause, so they can feel confident about raising issues relating to their symptoms and, for those in roles within the church, ask for reasonable adjustments to be made regarding how they carry out their role and perform their duties without fear of discrimination.

Some national churches have already produced a menopause policy and guidance, including the Church of England and Church of Scotland. However, despite the Signpost for Ministry Women's Health Project in 2022, the Methodist Church has yet to develop a menopause policy, guidance or related resources.

The Synod believes that the Methodist Church requires:

- A menopause policy that will develop and promote an environment and culture which support those experiencing the menopause and allow for working patterns to be adapted as appropriate.
- Resources to raise awareness among Methodists about those experiencing menopausal symptoms so good pastoral care can be provided.
- Resources to signpost the availability of medical/wellbeing support for those experiencing symptoms.
- Guidance and information to debunk some associated myths and assumptions about menopause.

The Synod therefore requests that the Conference direct the Connexional Team to produce a menopause policy, guidance and resources for the Methodist Church as soon as possible, preferably within the next year.

### **Keynote Address**

Emma Richardson (Director of New churches, Connexional Team) addressed the synod. The theme was **Exploring Dual Transformation & Mixed Ecology**, a vision that renews the existing church while cultivating New Places for New People.

Emma shared her own faith journey and experience. Her starting point was at a Mother & Toddler group who met in church owned premises which were separate from the church. Leaders saw her gifts and invited her to use these in the group, through this led to commitment to the group and eventually leading to a faith commitment and new opportunities grew from this developing faith.

Synod was challenged to be intentional about who you are wanting to connect with.

Consider what already exists that can be built upon and where the new opportunities are.

Emma asked synod to reflect on the following:

- how do we understand the power of the resurrection and how do we see this at play in the church and our world now?
- In what ways do you think your church needs to die, to experience resurrection? What things need to go into the ground so a new thing can emerge?
- How might we engage with NPNP or commit to this Mixed Ecology of Church where you are?

Synod members were challenged to think about the next steps

- What posture do you need to adopt to re-orientate towards a mixed ecology of church in your place?
- **Resources-** What do you need? Funding? People?
- **Support-** Contact District NPNP Lead
- **Equipping-** Training, Resources

Andrea Campanale (District NPNP lead) explained what was already happening in the district and what resources are available for. Synod was updated on the progress of the District NPNP at Vauxhall

### Workshops

Synod members had the opportunity to explore “reaching out” further in 4 workshops on the following themes:

- **Church at the Margins** with Emma Richardson
- **Recovery Church** with Trey Hall
- **Digital Front Door** with Dan Forshaw
- **Connecting culture & mission** with Andrea Campanale

### Letters of greeting

Synod was asked to send eight letters of greeting

### Act of Remembrance

Synod held a period of silence for those who have died since the previous synod, both lay and ordained:

### Local Preachers who have died in the last year

Margaret Carr *	Enfield
Lynn Clarke *	Enfield
Clement Cofie	Lambeth
John David Dingley	Widmore
Olayide Fadugba	Lambeth
Ofori Mensah	Southwark & Deptford
Gabriel Parsons	Hackney & Stoke Newington

Terry Reynolds	Lesnes Abbey
John Simmons	Romford
Dora Staples	Wembley

### **Ministers who have died since the Sept Synod**

Revd Gill College
Deacon Dorothy Poingdestre
Deacon Patricia Soule
Revd Tony Windsor

Jonathan Dean & Faith Nyota led synod in closing worship.

### **Next Representative Synod**

Saturday 19 Sept 2026

Saturday 17 April 2027