

## **Notes of Synod Proceedings Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Synod was held at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

Nigel Cowgill welcomed everyone to Synod.

Tony Miles welcomed everyone on behalf of Methodist Central Hall.

Opening Worship was led by members of Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit.

Nigel Cowgill convened synod business.

### **Dispensations**

Dispensations were given to 17 Ministers.

Apologies were received from 3 supernumeraries and 9 lay representatives.

### **Introductory Business**

John Logan (Synod Secretary) introduced the business.

New lay members of synod were welcomed and the following Ministers who are new to the London District:

### **Appointment of Scrutineers**

The synod appointed the following scrutineers

Racheal Dzumbira	Virginia Hopson
Ruth Imbo	George Kulasingham
Adrian Pickett	Sheila Platt
Omotayo Roberts	Elsie Sutherland

### **Ministerial Business**

#### **Probationers Committee**

Steven Cooper gave the report from the probationers committee, thanking Andrew Letby for stepping in while Steven was on Sabbatical.

Deacon Marie Poole was recommended to be received into Full Connexion and Ordained, subject to Conference.

#### **Sabbaticals**

Dawn Downes gave the report from the Sabbaticals Advisory Group.

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

<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge	Revd Roz Hollingsworth
Revd Steven Cooper	Deacon Kathy Johnson

Revd Alana Lawrence	Revd Matt Lunn
	Revd Adam Nyawo
	Revd Rupert Weekes
	Deacon Sally Wheadon

The SAG have agreed that the following to be deferred.

#### Deferred 2024/25

Revd Paul Weary

Revd Jenny Impey

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 Andy Dart
Revd Elaine Joseph
Revd Dong Hwan Kim
Revd Tim Swindell
Revd Dr Mark Wakelin
Revd Allison Waterhouse

Ministers moving away from the District (subject to Conference)

Revd Karen Bell	Brighton & Hove
Revd Rachael Bending	Southampton
Revd Sonia Hicks	Northampton
Revd Asif Karam	Chelmsford
Revd Jonathan Mead	USA
Revd Dr Deji Okegbile	
Revd Shaun Saunders	Wey Valley

Ministers moving within the District (subject to Conference)

Revd Kido Baek	Wembley
Revd Steven Cooper	Connexional Team, City Road
Revd Nigel Cowgill	Connexional Team, Enfield
Revd Steve Day	Ealing Trinity

### **District Council Business**

Priya Rasanayagam (District Council Secretary) introduced the business

District Appointments

#### **Resolution 1 (by Ballot)**

The District Council recommends to Synod that the Revd Dr Jonathan Dean is nominated as Chair of the London District from 01 September 2024 for an initial period of six years.

Revd Dr Jonathan Dean was nominated as District Chair subject to conference.

The Synod agreed the following **resolution 2**

The Synod acknowledges the appointments made since the September 2023. (listed in the Synod papers).

These were:

Chairs' Nomination Committee

Revd Richard Grocott Member

District Council

Revd Dr Mike Long Superintendent Representative

Social Responsibility Commission

Mr Nathan Stanley Member

District Probationers Secretary

Revd Dr Stephen Day

Probationers Committee

Revd Nigel Wright Member

The synod agreed the **resolution 3**

The Synod delegates to the District Council any further appointments which need to be made before September 2024.

The synod agreed **resolution 4**

The District Council recommends to Synod that Mrs Ama Ackah-Yensu is nominated as District Treasurer with immediate effect.

### **Circuit Mergers**

The synod agreed **resolution 5**

The Synod gives permission to the merger of Notting Hill and Harlesden Circuits in accordance to SO501 (3), and commends the new Circuit of Notting Hill and Harlesden to the Methodist Conference.

The synod agreed **resolution 6**

The Synod gives permission to the merger of Bromley and Orpington & Chislehurst Circuits in accordance to SO501 (3), and commends the new Circuit of Widmore to the Methodist Conference.

### **District Report**

George Kulasingham introduced the Finance Report including the Accounts, 24/25 budget and Circuit Assessments.

Synod agreed **resolution 7**

The Synod notes the District Accounts 2022-2023, which have been approved by the District Council as charitable trustees of the District.

Synod agreed **resolution 8**

The Synod adopts the District Budget for 2024–2025.

Synod agreed **resolution 9**

The Synod adopts the allocation of the assessments to the Circuits for 2024–2025.

George reported that 10 Circuits still need to submit their 22/23 accounts and 10 circuits still need to submit their Cash & Investment form.

### **Memorial to Conference**

It was noted that the Westminster Circuit has sent a memorial to conference regarding the Health & wellbeing of those who are subject to our processes of safeguarding, complaints and discipline.

### **Keynote Address**

Revd David Hardman - Methodist Liaison Officer Jerusalem - addressed the synod on the theme **Refusing to be enemies – giving peace a chance**

David shared his experiences and insights or working in the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem.

### **History & Land**

David gave a brief summary of the important historical points & political decisions since early 1900 and the gradual loss of land which Palestinians have suffered.

### **Gaza (before & after 7 Oct 2023)**

David shared statistics showing the effect of this conflict and previous wars on the people of Gaza.

- A 16 year old is said to be 6 wars old
- of 100 people – 47 are children of which 45 children suffer trauma, depression or anxiety (before 7<sup>th</sup> Oct)
- of 100 people, 70 are refugees and 82 live in poverty (before 7<sup>th</sup> Oct)
- prior to Oct 7<sup>th</sup> – 500 trucks of aid per day were entering Gaza when food insecurity was 63 % since then it has reduced to an average of 60 trucks per day.

### **Holy Land & Christianity**

David reflected on the experiences of Christians living in the holy land. Often feeling abandoned by the wider church.

A Palestinian Christian has reflected that “As humans we have no hope...as Christians we live hope”

### **Voices of Peace**

David shared some of the voices from Palestine.

- “Pray not for peace in the Holy Land, call for justice so that peace may root itself deeply and flourish”
- “based on our Christian values, we are a people who believe in justice. We have to find another way; we have to challenge hatred with love, darkness with light, evil with good, we refuse to be enemies.”
- “Do not use our deaths and our pain to cause the death and pain of other people or other families. I demand that we stop the circle of pain, and understand that the only way forward is freedom and equal rights. Peace, brotherhood, and security for all human beings.”
- “I must stop my children growing up to hate Israelis – but when they come into my house in the middle of the night and wake my children up and stand over them with their guns... my children are scared, and I am scared that this fear will grow into hate as they grow.”

### **Letters of greeting**

Synod was asked to send 2 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**

Gordon Handley	Orpington & Chislehurst
Jim Holden	Teddington
Rachel Kamara	Ealing Trinity
Joyce Osho-Williams	Westminster
Phyllis Wilson	Bromley
Olive Wimble	Forest

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

Revd Chrispian Acher

Revd Brian Newbold

Synod closed with a short act of worship led by Nigel Cowgill.

### **Next Representative Synod**

Saturday 21 Sept 2024

Saturday 10 May 2025